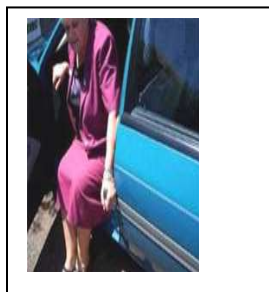


## Transporting People with Special Needs

This fact sheet looks at some of the equipment that may be of assistance when transporting individuals with special needs. It is advised that you consult with an Occupational Therapist for assistance in establishing which aids are most appropriate for specific individuals.



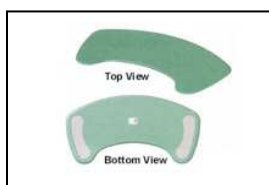
The following equipment may facilitate access to vehicles for people who can stand:

- An **accessory handle or grab bar** can be used as a support bar to push up from a low car seat.
- A **sliding aid** can be used to help the individual to position themselves on the car seat.
- A **swivel car seat** makes accessing the car easier as it eliminates the need for the user to swivel on the seat.



Getting into a car seat using sideways/non-standing transfers:

- A **transfer board** can be used to bridge the gap between a wheelchair seat and car seat. There are a range of transfer boards available with different features that may be suitable for different users.
- A **sliding aid** may also be used **on top of the board** to make the sliding motion easier. If a carer is assisting with the slide, use a **move/transfer belt** to help get a firm grip around the person's waist.
- A vehicle **occupant hoist** may be useful for clients requiring more assistance. The hoist is fitted to the car and used to lift the full weight of the client and pivot them onto the seat.



Transporting a Person in a Wheelchair

- A **Tow bar mounted ramp** assists people who use wheelchairs with easy and fast access into a van. The grade of the ramp must not exceed 1 in 4.
- **Electric, Hydraulic or Chain Drive Wheelchair Loaders** (lifting platforms) are suitable for loading an occupant sitting in their wheelchair or scooter into a van, a bus or modified vehicle (eg 4WD).

*Types of lifting platforms:*

Be aware that space requirements will vary with each type.

- **Under-floor loaders** for front wheel drive vehicles.
- **Internal mounted wheelchair loaders** are mounted inside the vehicle. Choose either rigid platform or split platform for enhanced rear vision.



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Smaller models are available that can be mounted at the side door and fold, or swing to the side.

- **External mounted loaders** are mounted on the outside of the vehicle.



If the person who uses a wheelchair does not transfer to a car seat, the vehicle must be fitted with a wheelchair and occupant restraint system. Choose from **4 point tie down systems** which can be used with most mobility aids (either a ratchet mechanism or auto-retractable style) and fit to tracking on the ground. Also there is the more expensive **single point lock down systems** (pocket style) where brackets often have to be made to suit the particular mobility aid.

### Custom Converted Vehicles & Self Drive Options



Custom Contoured Vehicles are standard sedans, station wagon or MPV (Multi Purpose Vehicles) style vehicles that have had any of the following conversions:

- Folding ramp from the rear or side (chassis is usually modified to allow lower floor level)
- Wheelchair occupant windows and additional air conditioner for the comfort of the Passenger
- 4 point wheelchair restraint system plus occupant lap sash seat belt system
- Additional seating for other occupants, usually able to be folded or deinstalled easily if desired



**Self drive options** can be added to the custom converted vehicles to allow a driver with a disability to enter without help and transfer from their wheelchair to the driver's side seat. Choices include:

- Manual swing out ramp at side door or powered swing out ramp
- Fully automatic wheelchair loader, usually most compact style, either under-floor or swing away floor track to passenger seat space to allow side on transfer to driver's seat and restraint of wheelchair using a belt system or single point lock down system
- Powered swivel seat: seat rotates 90 degrees to allow transfer to driver or passenger side seats.



### NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Telephone, fax or e-mail your enquiry to obtain further information from one of the therapists about products. Alternatively, you can make an appointment to trial the equipment at our display centres or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec for further details.

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