

## Manual Wheelchair Features



### FRAME:

Wheelchair frames may be rigid or folding. Folding frames may be better for transporting and storage, while rigid frames tend to be stronger and more durable.

The frame may be made from different materials which differ in properties and weight, such as steel. Aluminium, titanium or carbon fibre. Some frames include anti-tippers to prevent the wheelchair tipping backwards and tipping levers to assist an attendant to tip the wheelchair to get over kerbs.



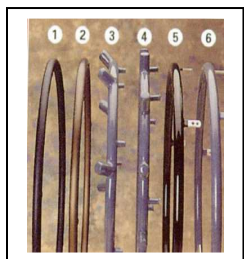
### Wheels:

Wheels are available in different sizes to meet the users requirements. Spoke wheels are generally lighter but require maintenance whereas “mag” wheels, which are made from one piece moulded plastic or metal require less maintenance.

Some wheelchairs have the option of wheel chamber. This brings the top of the wheels closer to the body, which may increase the efficiency in propulsion.

### Push Rims:

Rubber coated push rims increase friction and may assist grip. Additionally larger diameter push rims, or push rims with projections, may be easier to use for people with weak hands.



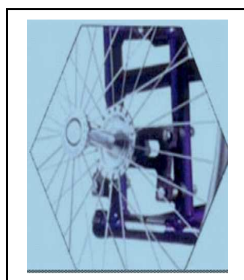
### Tyres:

Pneumatic tyres may help to absorb shock but can be punctured. Solid tyres require less maintenance.

High pressure sport tyres have very little tread and have less resistance to rolling.

### Castors:

Smaller castors are generally more manoeuvrable but may get caught in ruts. Larger castors are generally easier to propel and tend to cope better with uneven ground or rubble.



### Axle:

An Adjustable axle which enables the stability, manoeuvrability and seat height of the wheelchair to be adjusted. A quick release axle allows the wheels to be removed for transport or storage.

#### LifeTec Queensland

BRISBANE  
Level One, Reading Newmarket  
Cnr Newmarket & Enoggera Roads  
(PO Box 3241), Newmarket Qld 4051  
Phone: 07 3552 9000 or 1300 885 886  
Facsimile: 07 3552 9088

Email: [mail@lifetec.org.au](mailto:mail@lifetec.org.au)  
[www.lifetec.org.au](http://www.lifetec.org.au)  
Independent Living Centre  
Association of Queensland  
Incorporated trading as LifeTec  
Queensland ABN 25 773 960 273

TOWNSVILLE  
Shop G-3A, Domain Central  
103 Duckworth Street  
(PO Box 8280), Garbutt, Townsville Qld 4814  
Phone: 07 4759 5600  
Facsimile: 07 4759 5688





**Brakes:**

Push or pull on brakes are available on many chairs. Some can be low mounted to get them out of the way for transfers. Others may be high mounted for ease of reach.



**Leg Rests/Footplates:**

Flip up footplates with swing away or removable leg rests enable the entire leg support to be moved out of the way to accommodate standing transfers. A one piece flip up or removable footplate may be preferred by some people. Elevating leg rests may be required for people with limited knee bending or swelling in their feet.



**Armrests:**

Full length armrests may assist people to stand from the wheelchair. Desk length armrests allow closer access to desks or tables.



**Backrest:**

Some wheelchairs may have height adjustable backrest or a reclining backrest. A fold down backrest is an option which can help with storage or transportation of a rigid frame wheelchair.

**Cloth and Skirt Guards:**

These guards provide protection for the user's thighs and clothing. They may be built into the armrests or may be an optional extra.

**Colour:**

Many chairs have a choice of colours.

**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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Cnr Newmarket & Enoggera Roads  
(PO Box 3241), Newmarket Qld 4051  
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