



Mobility scooters and motorised wheelchairs guidance

Everything you need to know before you purchase a scooter

Introduction

Over the past few years we have seen an increase in the use of mobility scooters and motorised wheelchairs. This has led to limited places to store them therefore all existing and future customers must obtain permission in writing to us before bringing their scooter to the scheme.

Current residents who are thinking of purchasing a scooter must also discuss and agree with us how they can store it, before making a purchase. If customers bring scooters onto their scheme without asking for permission first, they will be asked to remove them.

What is the difference between a mobility scooter and a motorised wheelchair?

Mobility scooters - are vehicles with three or four wheels and steered using a bicycle style handlebar. They are primarily intended for use outside.

Motorised wheelchairs - usually look more like a traditional wheelchair, but with batteries and a motor. They are intended for use inside a building or the immediate vicinity. They are normally stored and recharged within the customer's home.

Which scooters / wheelchairs are covered by this guidance?

The DVLA split scooters and wheelchairs into three categories:

Class 1 - Manual wheelchairs, i.e. self-propelled or attendant propelled, not electrically propelled. These are not required to be registered with DVLA. These are not covered in this policy.

Class 2 - Powered wheelchairs and scooters – intended for footway use only with a maximum speed of 4mph and an unladen weight not exceeding 113.4kgs. These are not required to be registered with DVLA.

Class 3 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters with a maximum speed of 8mph generally intended for use on roads/highways. They must be fitted with a device capable of limiting the maximum speed to 4mph for use when travelling on footways. The unladen weight must not exceed 150kgs. These are required to be registered with DVLA.

This policy covers class 2 and 3 scooters and wheelchairs.

Where can I store my scooter / wheelchair?

Communal store - ideally you should keep your mobility scooter in a communal scooter store on the scheme. However, please remember that these facilities are limited and many schemes do not have them.

Own flat - where a communal store is not available you should keep it in your flat if it is safe to do so.

Other communal areas - if neither of these options are available, we will seek other safe and suitable indoor areas within the scheme's communal facilities.

Customers should not store a scooter or motorised wheelchair against the outside of the property without having discussed and obtained permission with us first. We need to be able to assess the risk of arson and complete a Health & Safety Risk Assessment before we can allow you to do this.

What if none of these options are available to me?

Where the demand for spaces exceeds the available options, we will set up a waiting list. This will ensure that customers are given permission to bring their mobility scooter onto the scheme following a needs based assessment. However, on some schemes it may also be possible to consider alternatives including:

- Storage in a garage. You will be responsible for any arrangements if you choose this option
- Locally agreed outdoor parking. However, please remember that you are responsible for the safety and security of your mobility scooter

Will my mobility scooter / wheelchair cause a potential hazard in the communal areas?

Storing and charging mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs may increase the chances of trips and falls and also fire, especially in communal areas. We are required under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to reduce the risk of fire within the communal areas.

To help us maintain a safe environment the following safeguards must be in place:

- Mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs should not be stored in any part of a corridor or stairwell that might block an escape route, cause an obstruction, trip or fire hazard. However, a corridor recess may be suitable for storage, subject to a risk assessment carried out by ourselves.

- The mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair must be electrically safe. Any charging equipment used in communal parts should be subject to a portable appliance test, as part of the annual scheme electrical testing programme. This may be chargeable to the mobility scooter owner.

Do I need insurance?

Currently, there is no legal requirement for you to have insurance for your mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair. However, you should be aware that you will be liable to pay compensation or third party claims if you have an accident or personal injury to third party or, cause damage to our property e.g. walls, doors, lift car...etc

- If you use or own a mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair you should consider taking out appropriate liability insurance
- If you store your mobility scooter or motorised wheelchair inside your flat, you should tell your insurance company as the premium payable on contents may change

Does Teign Housing have the right to refuse my request?

Yes, we reserve the right to refuse a request made by customers to bring their scooters onto the scheme. All refusals will be based on the outcome of a risk assessment and/or space limitation.

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