



# SCOOTER/POWER CHAIR DO'S and DON'TS

From all of us at Special Needs Group® and Special Needs at Sea® we hope you have an enjoyable and safe vacation! We urge you to take proper care and caution when using your Mobility Device at all times along your journey.



**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING, CAREFULLY.** IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SAFE OPERATION OF YOUR SCOOTER/POWER CHAIR, PLEASE CALL 954-585-0575. FOR EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL 1-800-513-4515

	DO's	DON'TS
<b>BASIC CARE</b>	Operate your scooter/power chair as you would any motor vehicle; safely at all times.	<b>NEVER</b> operate scooter/power chair under the influence of alcohol or mind-altering substances.
<b>YOUR SCOOTER KEY</b>	Have your key accessible as you enter and exit scooter. Stay in possession of your scooter key at all times. Make sure to turn off scooter when you enter and exit scooter.	<b>NEVER</b> leave the key in the ignition unless you are seated in scooter. If you must leave scooter at any time, advise personnel and note the staff member's name and location.
<b>BALANCE</b>	Ask for assistance whenever approaching steep inclines.	<b>NEVER</b> attempt to drive scooter/power chair on steep inclines as scooter/power chair tipping may occur. This can result in serious personal injury and equipment damage!
	Use common sense when carrying cargo like shopping bags or oxygen equipment.	<b>NEVER</b> overload your front basket or carry items on back of scooter/power chair that could cause uneven balance distribution. This results in an increased chance of scooter/power chair tipping.
	Always operate at a safe and controllable speed and always use caution in hallways and in common areas.	<b>NEVER</b> attempt to qualify for the "Scooter Daytona 500!" Don't speed over thresholds/speed bumps as they can 'bump' your scooter/power chair out of gear.
	Always drive with caution as scooter/power chair is a sensitive piece of specialized equipment. Remember that it's not a Jeep®!	<b>DON'T</b> drive your scooter/power chair on sand, wet/rain covered surfaces, oil slicks or attempt to climb curbs higher than two inches in height.
<b>CHARGE AT NIGHT</b>	You should remember to charge your scooter/power chair EVERY EVENING. <u>Be sure to remove ignition key from your scooter when charging.</u>	<b>DON'T FORGET TO CHARGE YOUR SCOOTER/POWER CHAIR AT NIGHT WITH THE KEY REMOVED. NEVER</b> charge your scooter/power chair in the bathroom.

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# MOBILITY SCOOTER/POWER CHAIR ETIQUETTE

## TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



A record number of people are driving around in mobility scooters/power chairs, whether it be on vacation, in a supermarket, at a convention, etc. While those driving scooters/power chairs deserve the respect of others, driving a scooter/power chair is a two-way street. If scooter/power chair drivers are conscious and courteous of those around them, they make it safer and more pleasurable for pedestrians and others.

Surprisingly, even with the large number of scooters/power chairs being used today, there isn't much guidance about how to courteously operate the equipment. Here are a few tips and etiquette suggestions to ensure that trips are safe and enjoyable for everyone:

- Operate your mobility scooter or power chair in a **careful and considerate manner.**
- **Use a footpath or sidewalk** when one is accessible. In most jurisdictions, you are considered a pedestrian and should avoid driving on the road.
- Move off a shared path if you have stopped so others can pass.
- **Travel at a speed that doesn't endanger others.**
- Similar to how you drive a car, **keep right, and pass on the left.**
- **Warn others when you approach them from behind,** around a hidden turn or on a covered driveway. If you have a horn, use it. Some scooters/power chairs are silent and might not be heard by the hearing impaired.
- Always look behind you, including before you overtake someone who is slower than you (you may hit someone on the side.)
- **If you get a call on your cell phone, pull over. Your driving ability becomes five times worse** when your attention is on a phone call, and when you're using one hand instead of two to steer.
- When you are in a dining room or restaurant, if you are physically able to get out of your scooter/power chair, park it to the side in the dining area.

- **IT IS ILLEGAL for you to ride, or let any person ride, in a way that may cause you or the other person injury.**

### WHEN TRAVELING:

- When planning your vacation, know the policy and procedures for bringing equipment onboard all the transport vehicles included in your itinerary, from planes to taxis to cruise ships. Check on the access to public rooms, restaurants, bars, toilets, swimming pools, hot tubs, beach areas and other amenities.
- Check ahead to make sure a suitable vehicle will be available for your travel dates.
- While U.S. regulations mandate that U.S. air carriers cannot refuse transportation on the basis of disability (except in extreme cases), these rules may not cover foreign air carriers serving the U.S. Check with all airlines you will be connecting with.
- On a plane, if you are not able to transfer yourself to your seat, in a lavatory, etc., it is recommended to travel with an attendant.
- Hauling personal special needs equipment across the ocean or around the world is inconvenient and not always trouble-free. It can be easily damaged or even lost in transit, and it's extremely difficult to repair your equipment abroad. A better option is to lease equipment for travel from Special Needs Group, the leading global provider of special needs equipment.

*Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has created significant changes within the travel industry, and there has been deepening respect and higher level of acceptance for all forms of ability differences, there are still more improvements that can be implemented. By practicing proper etiquette and being courteous, scooter/power chair drivers can make life safer and more enjoyable for themselves and those around them.*

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