



Mobility Scooter Guide

**Mobility, Assisted Living, Health
& Rehabilitation Equipment**

WHAT IS A MOBILITY SCOOTER?

Mobility scooters are small vehicles for those that need a little extra help getting around. They are powered by an electric motor and run on batteries. They can be used on footpaths, public spaces like parks and plazas and some indoor spaces.

WHY BUY A MOBILITY SCOOTER?

Mobility scooters help you to take your life back. That might be something as simple as getting out of the house again, or it might be as exciting as international travel. For someone whose mobility is impaired, it's hard to overstate how much of a positive impact a scooter can have on their life.

WHY NOT SOMETHING ELSE, LIKE A WHEELCHAIR?

There are a variety of mobility aids, and all come with their strengths and weaknesses. Mobility scooters are the go-to if you're looking to go outdoors. This is because they do better over hills and bumps, have big batteries and have a more stable base. They are more like a small golf-cart in that sense. Scooters are often a person's first mobility aid, because it's those longer outdoor trips that first present an issue. Ultimately, a lot comes down to personal preference and personal needs. This is why we encourage getting in touch and having a chat.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCOOTERS?

There are three main categories of scooters: portable scooters, medium scooters and large scooters.

Portable Scooters

- Can be folded up or pulled a part into pieces
- Are ideal for taking in the boot and on planes and cruise ships
- Are small enough that many indoor venues don't present a problem - think cafes, shops, museums and so on
- Hopping on and off one feels more natural

Medium Scooters

- A hybrid of the two others
- Can usually be taken in a car, but with more difficulty
- Gets you from A to B, but not quite as smoothly
- Can go in some indoor venues, but not as many

Large Scooters

- Ideal for getting you from point A to B
- Bigger wheels, suspension and motor to tackle bumps and slopes
- Bigger battery range and carry baskets
- Can be equipped with sun and/or rain canopies
- Replaces some of the uses of a car





Choosing a scooter is sometimes love at first sight, but more often than not it involves trial and error and a long conversation. Here are five important things to keep in mind.

Use

Your intended use will tell you which of the three scooter categories you want. If you're looking to use it exclusively on footpaths, pick a large scooter. If you want convenient transportation, pick a portable scooter. If you want a bit of both, pick a medium scooter.

Budget

Mobility scooters range from very cheap (a few hundred dollars for an old, used scooter) to pricey (over \$8,500 for the absolute deluxe builds). Having a rough idea of how much you're looking to spend helps narrow down the choices.

Body Type

Different body sizes, shapes and weight work better with different scooters. Whether it is leg room, the positioning of the controls, or the

power of the motor and sturdiness of the frame, your body type influences your scooter choice.

Distance

Scooters have a travel range from 10km to approximately 40km, depending on the size of the scooter, the terrain, payload and batteries. So make sure you are clear on your travel plans before sizing up your scooter.

Personal Preference

Style, comfort, colour and design are all considerations. People love different things, and that's what makes it all so much fun. You can choose from the snazzy to the unobtrusive, from the vintage to the minimalist. Then have a laugh about it when you turn heads at the shopping centre in your scooter that looks like a Harley.

Buying a scooter is step one, of many. Here are some things to keep in mind for what comes next. Mounties Care technicians and staff are happy to go over these in greater detail either in person or over the phone.

Road Rules

Mobility scooter users are classified as pedestrians. This means you can go anywhere a pedestrian can including footpaths, shopping centres and nature strips. But it also means that you should:

- Use pedestrian crossings or lights where possible
- Try to stay on footpaths
- Only use the road when absolutely necessary
- Be aware of other pedestrians around you

Safe Use

Scooters are mostly intuitive to use, but in case you're having some trouble, we are there to help. Mounties Care offers a comprehensive training session when the scooter is delivered,

and we provide you with a certificate of competency once you have been trained. Some common issues that arise:

- Stopping and starting on hills
- Navigating ramps and gutters
- Maintaining good visibility
- Knowing the limits of the scooter

Maintenance

We recommend you service your scooter, usually once a year, but depending on how often you use it and how gently you treat it. These tune-ups usually take an hour or less and can be done in your home. Our scooters come with a comprehensive owner's manual that gives a good overview on how and when to look after your scooter for maximum performance.

Batteries

Keeping the charge of your batteries topped up means they last longer. Both the charger and batteries come with your scooter. If you get a lot of use out of the scooter, you will need to replace the batteries after 2 years, provided you charge them each time after use. So make sure you factor in a charging point that's convenient and easily accessible. It's always important to make sure the batteries are matched to the scooter and to the charger. Using the wrong batteries or charger will reduce range and life and may damage the electronics.

Theft

While rare, theft of mobility scooters does happen, particularly from the home or shopping centre. A few things to keep in mind:

- Use a chain, u-lock, padlock or immobiliser when the scooter is not in use
- The steering on many scooters can be locked, use this feature if possible
- Always remove the ignition key
- Make sure you know the serial number of the scooter



HOW MUCH DO THEY COST?

Brand new scooters have a price range of around \$1,500 to \$9,000. Second hand ones are cheaper.

DO I NEED A LICENSE?

No, you do not need a license.

DO I NEED TO REGISTER MY SCOOTER?

If you live in Queensland, yes – it’s free. Other states do not require registration.

CAN I DRIVE ON THE ROAD?

Yes, but if there is a good footpath then you have to use it. The law deems a scooter driver to be a pedestrian, so the rules are the same for both.

WHAT ABOUT HILLS?

Some scooters can climb very steep hills, others can’t. It’s important to choose a scooter that fits the terrain.

ARE THERE WEIGHT LIMITS?

Yes, every scooter has its own weight limit. These are typically between 100kg - 160kg, but can be as high as 225kg. Terrain must also be taken into account. Is it hilly or flat, where you want to use it?





OUR RANGE

We have a large range that accommodates whatever you might need. We have a lot of experience with what works and what doesn't. You can check out our products at www.mountiescare.com.au/mobility-and-independence

Showrooms

We have showrooms up and down the country, all with staff ready and eager to help. Ask questions and go for test drives.

Home Demonstrations

We do home demonstrations free of charge. This is a great way to make sure your scooter is the perfect fit for you.

Finance Options

It's possible to get some help paying for your scooter:

- People under 65 with a disability can claim scooters under the NDIS
- Each state government has its own subsidy scheme
- Mounties members may be eligible for discounts





Mobility &
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Get in touch today on
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mountiescare.com.au

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