

SAFE USE OF BATTERIES

New batteries should be fully charged before their first use.

Use your wheelchair in a way that never fully runs down the batteries.

When the charge indicator shows 5 lines (50%), the wheelchair must be recharged. You can charge your wheelchair every night without damaging it, even if the indicator is showing that the battery is more than half charged. Approximately 10 hours are required to charge the batteries.

Unplugging the charger from the wheelchair before it is fully charged shortens the battery life and reduces the wheelchair's ability to cover its maximum possible distance.

Batteries that are completely drained may need more than 16 hours to recharge.

IN CASE OF BREAKDOWN OR MALFUNCTION

Minor breakdown: Make an appointment with the Technical Aids Service as soon as possible. Example: torn armrest trim, twisted foot rest, etc.

Major breakdown: Make an appointment with the Technical Aids Service and specify that it is an emergency repair. You will be seen as soon as possible according to the urgency of the repair. Example: broken control box, battery fluid leakage, etc.

EMERGENCY BREAKDOWN SERVICE

Criteria: the device is stalled, completely immobilized

Have your **health insurance number** and your **wheelchair's model number** on hand. Requests are processed according to priority.

MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIR SAFETY OPERATION GUIDE

**FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT US!**

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Consult our other brochures and guides on motorized wheelchairs:

Relieving Pressure in a Wheelchair

Loading a Wheelchair into a Vehicle

Sources:

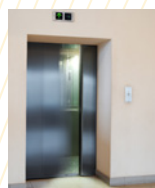
- Milot, Diane, *Évaluation de la conduite sécuritaire en fauteuil roulant motorisé*, May 2005.
- Extracts from the *Highway Safety Code*: wheelchair safety, SAAQ.
- *Guide de la conduite sécuritaire, fauteuil roulant motorisé*, CSSS Jeanne-Mance, Service de police de la ville de Montréal.



ADAPT YOUR DRIVING STYLE TO THE ENVIRONMENT THAT YOU ARE IN



Before leaving home, make sure your wheelchair's batteries are sufficiently charged.



Give priority to people exiting the elevator and leave enough space for them.



Indoors, your speed should be the same as someone who is walking: 4 km/hour.



Use your foot plates and buckle your seatbelt, especially when driving outdoors



When you are in a hallway, keep in the centre to avoid being hit by an opening door.



Always turn off your wheelchair when you are not moving, for example during a meal or when transferring.



Do not use your wheelchair if you feel unwell or are under the influence of any substance.

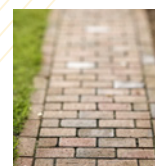


Do not tow another person or any object.

OUTSIDE



Make sure you are visible! Attaching an orange flag is recommended. At night, turn on your lights.



Use sidewalks and slow down when you cross other people. Do not try to slip by them.



If there is no sidewalk, drive on the side of the road on the opposite side of traffic.



Avoid driving alongside cars - a door can open suddenly.



Use pedestrian crosswalks. Wait for the green light before crossing the road.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND MAINTENANCE



Disabling the motor of your wheelchair allows you to push it manually. Make sure that you know the procedure for disabling your wheelchair. To make it easier to push, turn off the wheelchair.



Take care of your wheelchair. Clean the trim and metal parts regularly with a damp cloth and a gentle soap.



To ensure that your wheelchair is safe and in good working order, have it verified by a mechanic in the Technical Aids Service on a regular basis.



Watch out for your wheelchair in public places. It's your responsibility!

This guide aims to inform you about the rules to follow when driving a motorized wheelchair, to ensure your own safety and that of others.

As a driver of a motorized wheelchair, you are required to comply with the same road safety rules that apply to pedestrians.