

# WHEELCHAIR SELECTION GUIDE

**DIRECT  
SUPPLY**



# *The Direct Supply difference*



**Direct Supply® provides the equipment you need and the service to support it.**

Direct Supply offers the widest selection of equipment in the industry. Our expansive portfolio will complete your fleet of wheelchairs, allowing for quick ship solutions or customizable options to fit the needs of all of your residents.

Your own personal account manager can also recommend and advise you on your selections. Their goal is to provide outrageous customer service whenever you need it, and they're skilled at knowing exactly what you need.

When seeking the ideal wheelchairs for your community or for individual residents, Direct Supply gives you access to all the replacement parts and accessories that make your entire wheelchair fleet compatible and convenient. See our [Parts Finder Section](#) on [directsupply.com](http://directsupply.com).

# 4 Key Measurements for Sizing the Appropriate Wheelchair

## 1. WHAT SEAT WIDTH DO YOU NEED? Fig.1

Placing the resident in a seat that's too narrow creates an opportunity for dangerous skin shearing. A seat that's too wide rotates the resident's legs inward and puts strain on the hips.

To ensure a correct fit, measure the resident across the widest point of his or her hips or thighs. Then add an additional inch to accommodate the wheelchair seat upholstery width. And if side cushions are to be used, be sure to add their width as well.



Fig. 1

**Calculate Resident's Seat Width Requirement:**

1. Measure resident's hip width across widest point of hips or thighs = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Add 1" = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Add thickness of side cushions (if cushion is used) = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

## 2. WHAT SEAT DEPTH DO YOU NEED? Fig.2

A seat that's too shallow causes the resident's weight to shift forward for a less stable environment. A seat that's too deep compromises circulation and causes the resident to hunch forward to compensate.

To find the right seat depth, measure your resident (while seated) from the rear of the buttocks to the inner surface of the back of the knee. Be sure to subtract 2½" to accommodate the upholstery depth. And if a back cushion is to be used, add its depth to ensure a more accurate fit.



Fig. 2

**Calculate Resident's Seat Depth Requirement:**

1. Measure resident's rear of buttocks to back of knee = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Subtract 2½" = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Add thickness of back cushion (if cushion is used) = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

## 3. WHAT BACK HEIGHT DO YOU NEED? Fig.3

Back heights that are too low cause poor trunk stability, and those that are too high restrict shoulder movement and cause residents to lean forward.

To determine the proper fit, measure the resident from his or her buttocks to the underside of his or her extended arm. Then add half the thickness of the seat cushion (if one is used). Then subtract 4" for residents with good trunk muscles, or 3" for residents with poor trunk muscles.



Fig. 3

**Calculate Resident's Back Height Requirement:**

1. Measure resident's buttocks to underside of extended arm = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Add half the thickness of seat cushion (if used) = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Subtract 4" for residents with good trunk muscles = \_\_\_\_\_
4. Subtract 3" for residents with poor trunk muscles = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

## 4. WHAT SEAT-TO-FLOOR HEIGHT DO YOU NEED? Fig.4











Seat-to-floor heights that are too high will not allow the resident's feet to touch the ground, which is especially dangerous when exiting a wheelchair. If the seat-to-floor height is too low, the resident's legs could drag on the floor or the knees could bend uncomfortably when using front riggings.











Measuring the overall height of each resident helps you determine an approximate seat-to-floor height. Most residents between 5'5" and 6'2" require a standard adult wheelchair. Residents over 6'2" may require a tall wheelchair, and residents under 5'5" often need hemi wheelchairs.

Fig. 4

Wheelchair Style	Seat-to-Floor Height	Resident Height
Hemi	17½"	under 5'5"
Adult	19½" to 20½"	5'5" to 6'2"
Tall	21½"	over 6'2"













# Standard Wheelchair Comparison Chart

	Standard						Lightweight			
	Panacea®	Invacare®	Drive	Graham Field			Panacea®		Invacare®	
	Standard	EX2	Silver Sport II	Advantage	Advantage LX	Traveler SE®	Panacea Lightweight	Panacea Lightweight XLT	Invacare SX5	InvacareSL
										
Seat Width	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	14***, 16", 18", or 20**, 22**	16", 18", or 20**
Seat Depth	16"	16" or 18"	16"	16"	16"	16" or 18" (18" depth comes with 20" width option)	16" - 18"	16"	16" or 18"	16" or 18**
Seat Height	17½" and 19½" adjustable	16" or 18"	17½" and 19½" adjustable	19½"	19½"	17½" and 19½" adjustable	17½" and 19½" adjustable	17½" and 19½" adjustable	17½" and 19½" adjustable	17½" and 19½" adjustable; 15½", 16½", or 18½"
Back Height	16"	16"	16"	16½"	16½"	15½"	16"	16" - 18"	16" or 18"	Adjustable in 1" increments: 15" to 17" or 17" to 19"
Axle	Dual	Dual	Dual	Single	Single	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual
Anti-tippers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight Capacity	250 lbs. on 16 & 18" frames 300 lbs. on 20" frames*	250 lbs.	250 lbs. on 16 & 18" frames 300 lbs. on 20" frames	250 lbs.	300 LBS	250 lbs. on 16", 18" & 20" x 16" frames 300 lbs. on 20" x 18" frames	16" and 18" are 300 lbs. 20" is 350 lbs.	300 lbs.	250 lbs. on 16 & 18" frames 300 lbs. on 20" & 22" frames	250 lbs.
Front Riggings	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, Articulating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, Articulating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, Articulating Legrests*
Armrest Style	Removable or permanent full or desk-length fixed height	Removable full or desk length fixed height; removable full or desk length adjustable height; permanent full length fixed height	Removable or permanent full or desk-length fixed height	Removable full or desk length; permanent full length fixed height	Removable full or desk length; permanent full length fixed height	Removable full or desk length; permanent full length fixed height	Desk or full length flip back and removable fixed height	Desk or full length flip back and removable fixed adjustable height	Permanent full or desk length fixed height flipback; permanent full length adjustable height flipback	Permanent full or desk length fixed height flipback; permanent full length adjustable height flipback*
Upholstery Color	Black	Midnight Blue, Black, or Ruby	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black Nylon or Midnight Blue, Black, or Ruby Vinyl	Black
Warranty	3 year limited warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 5 years; Remaining Components: Limited 13 months	3 year limited warranty	1 year limited warranty	1 year limited warranty	1 year limited warranty	Limited lifetime warranty	Limited lifetime warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 5 years; Remaining Components: Limited 13 months	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 5 years; Remaining Components: Limited 13 months

						Reclining				
	Invacare®	Drive		Graham Field		Panacea®	Invacare®		Drive	Graham Field
	Invacare 9000 XT	Cruiser III	Cirrus IV	Traveler L3	Traveler L4	Recliner	Tracer SX5	9000 XT Full Recliner	Silver Sport Full Recliner	Advantage Recliner
										
	14", 15** 16", 17**, 18", 20** or 22**	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", or 20"	16", 18", 20" seat widths. Also 18" and 20" widths with 18" seat depth	16", 18" or 20"	"16" or 18" 14**, 20** & 22**	"18", 14**, 16**, 20** & 22**	16", 18" or 20"	16", 18" and 20" (22" seat width with 19" seat depth available)
	16", 17** or 18**	16" - 18"	16"	16" (2" built-in extension)	16" or 18" (18" depth option for 18" and 20" width)	16"	16", 18**	17, 16**, or 18**	16"	17" (19" with 22" width)
	17½" and 19½" adjustable; 13½**, 14½** 15½**, 16½** or 18½**	17½" and 19½" adjustable	17½" and 19½" adjustable	18" and 20" adjustable	17½" and 19½" adjustable	19½"	19½"	17½", 18½" or 19½"	19½"	19½"
	Adjustable in 1" increments: 15" to 19"	16"	16" - 18"	17¼"	Adjustable 16½" -18½"	30"	34"	34"	30"	34"
	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
	-	-	-	-	-	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
	250 lbs.	16" and 18" are 300 lbs. 20" is 350 lbs.	300 lbs.	300 lbs.	250 lb (300 lb on models with 18" seat depth)	300 lbs	250 lbs. on 14**, 16" & 18" frames 300 lbs. on 20" & 22" frames	250 lbs. on 14**, 16" & 18" frames 300 lbs. on 20" & 22" frames	300 lbs	300 lbs (450 lbs with 22" width)
	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, Articulating Legrests*	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, or Articulating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, or Articulating Legrests	Elevating Legrests	Elevating Legrests
	Removable or permanent, full or desk length flipback fixed height; removable full or desk length adjustable height*; removable full or desk length fixed height.	Desk or full length flip back and removable fixed height	Desk or full length flip back and removable fixed adjustable height	Flip-back desk, adjustable height and full arm	Flip-back desk, adjustable height and full arm	Desk length removable fixed height	Removable full or desk length fixed height	Removable full or desk length fixed height	Desk length removable fixed height	Removable full or desk length fixed height
	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Midnight Blue or Black	Midnight Blue or Black	Black	Black
	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 5 years; Remaining Components: Limited 13 months	Limited lifetime warranty	Limited lifetime warranty	5 year limited warranty	5 year limited warranty	Limited lifetime warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 5 years; Remaining Components: Limited 13 months	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 5 years; Remaining Components: Limited 13 months	Limited lifetime warranty	5 year limited warranty

# Heavy Duty Wheelchair Comparison Chart

**KEY BLUE:** Options available (call your account manager)

	Heavy Duty						Bariatric					
	Panacea®	Invacare®		Drive	Graham Field		Gendron	Panacea®	Invacare®	Drive	Graham Field	Gendron
	Heavy Duty	Tracer IV	9000 XDT	Sentra EC	Traveler® HDC	Traveler® HD	Regency XL Heavy Duty	Bariatric	9000 Topaz Bariatric	Sentra Heavy Duty	Paramount XD	Regency XL 2000 Bariatric
												
Seat Width	20", 22" or 24"	18", 20", 22" or 24"	16", 17**, 18", 19**, 20" or 22"	20", 22" or 24"	20", 22", 24"	20", 22", 24"	20", 22", 24", 26" or 28"	26", 28" or 30"	20", 22", 24", 26", 28", & 30"	26", 28" or 30"	26" or 30"	20", 22", 24", 26", 28", 30", or 32**
Seat Depth	18"	18" or 20"	16" on hemi and adjust models, 18" on tall models, 17**, 19** or 20**	18"	18"	18"	18"	20"	18" or 20**	20"	19½"	20", 18**, or 22**
Seat Height	17½" and 19½"	17½" and 19½"	17½" on hemi, 19½" on adult, or 21½" on tall	17½" and 19½"	20"	18"-20"	19½"	17½" or 19½"	15½", 17½", and 19½" adjustable	17½" or 19½"	18"-20"	16", 17", and 18" adjustable (triple axel); 15", 16", 17" or 18" (single axel)
Back Height	16"	16"	Adjustable 1" increments 15" to 19" or 14" to 18"	16"	16½"	16½"	16"	16", 18"	16", 17", and 18" adjustable	16", 18"	18½"	16", 17", and 18" adjustable
Axle	Dual	Dual	Triple	Dual	Single	Dual	Single	Single or Dual	Dual	Single or Dual	Dual	Single or Triple
Anti-tippers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight Capacity	450 lbs.	350 or 450 lbs.	350 lbs.	450 lbs.	500 lbs	500 lbs	450 or 600	700 lbs.	700 or 1000 lbs.	700 lbs.	650 lbs	700 or 750 lbs.; 850* lbs.
Front Riggings	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, Articulating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests, Elevating Legrests, Articulating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Elevating Footrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Elevating Footrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests	Swingaway Footrests or Elevating Legrests
Armrest Style	Removable full or desk length arms	Removable full or desk length fixed height; removable full or desk adjustable height	Removable full or desk length fixed height; removable full or desk adjustable height*; removable full or desk length adjustable height*; removable full or desk length fixed height*	Removable full or desk length arms	Fixed desk arms	Removable full or desk length arms, fixed full arms	Removable full or desk length arms	Removable full or desk length fixed height arms	Removable full or desk length fixed height* removable full or desk length adjustable height*	Removable full or desk length fixed height arms	Removable desk length arms	Removable full fixed height
Upholstery Color	Black	Black Nylon or Midnight blue, Black, Camel, Dove Gray, Marina Blue, or Ruby	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black Vinyl, Midnight Blue Vinyl or Black Nylon	Black	Black	Black
Warranty	Limited Lifetime Warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited lifetime; Remaining Components: Limited 1 year	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited lifetime; Remaining Components: Limited 1 year	Limited Lifetime Warranty	5 year limited warranty	5 year limited warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited lifetime; Remaining Components: Limited 1 year	Limited Lifetime Warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited 3 years; 13 mo. Remaining	Limited Lifetime Warranty	5 year limited warranty	Side frames & crossbraces: Limited lifetime; Upholstery: 1 year; Remaining Components: Limited 1 year



## Drive proper positioning and better clinical outcomes **with individualized seating solutions**

A one-size-fits-all approach to wheelchair seating and positioning may lead to insufficient postural support, resulting in:

- Excessive energy expenditure for upright sitting
- Slouching/leaning
- Sliding out of the chair
- Falls from the chair
- Increased pressure on the bony prominences
- Decreased social interaction

Help your residents maintain a good seated position with minimal effort by customizing a complete seating solution to their unique size, shape and need.

**The Right Wheelchair + The Right Cushion + The Right Back = Better Outcomes**

**Call your account manager at 1-800-634-7328  
for help selecting positioning solutions.**



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