

THE DEFINITIVE MOBILITY SCOOTER SHOPPING GUIDE

A Note from the Author

Here at Classic Mobility we understand how hard life can be when you struggle to walk. You can often feel as though you have lost your independence as you need to rely on others to get around. As a result you may be less inclined to go and socialise with your friends and family.

That's why a mobility scooter is sometimes the best option. However, before you rush out and buy the latest model, you need to do some research to determine the most suitable, and safest, scooter to suit you and your lifestyle.

That's why we created this comprehensive guide to mobility scooter shopping.

Within it you will find lots of helpful, independent advice from our experts so that you can make an informed decision about your needs no matter your budget. The team here at Classic Mobility have over 40 years experience helping the community with their mobility needs. We are a family run firm and love finding solutions for our clients so that they can maintain their independence and carry on enjoying life.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with one of our experts then you can call us on: 01992 552224, email us: office@classicmobility.org.uk or visit us at: 15 Church Street, Hertford, SG14 1EJ

Kind regards,

Lauren

Lauren Bromfield, Director of Classic Mobility



Will a Mobility Scooter Suit My Needs?

Mobility scooters are ideal if you can sit upright comfortably, can manage stepping up or down and have good eyesight and memory.

Scooters are not suitable for people suffering with dementia or any other condition which affects their mental ability.

Unfortunately, the NHS and social services do not provide mobility scooters. However you can hire from a trusted local retailer (such as ourselves) to test suitability. You can also rent them via a local shopmobility scheme.

Choosing a Scooter

There are a few key considerations when deciding which mobility scooter to buy.

Firstly, look at your lifestyle and what you need the scooter to do. For example, assess the kind of journeys you plan to make, paying particular attention to pavements, kerbs, hills and distances.

Next, do you have somewhere to store your scooter?

Smaller models can fit in your home, but make sure they can get over doorsteps or fit through doorways. If you plan to keep your scooter outside, ensure you have a dry and secure place, such as a garage or secure shed. Don't forget that you will need to charge up the battery overnight, so access to a mains plug is essential.

Make sure your scooter matches your body size. It can be dangerous if you are too heavy for the scooter, as it could become unstable and topple over when mounting the pavement.





Which Type of Scooter

The most popular mobility scooters are called Class 2, which allow you to travel up to 4mph on pavements and in shopping centres. Generally smaller and lighter, many Class 2 models can be folded or dismantled for transporting in the back of a car, or even a plane.

Portable models, known as boot scooters, are less powerful than road scooters, which makes them better suited to short journeys (less than 10 miles). Light and manoeuvrable, they are smaller and are not as comfortable as larger models. Their small wheels may also have trouble mounting kerbs.

Class 3 mobility scooters have a maximum speed of 8mph and are designed for roads, but are not allowed on motorways, bus lanes or cycle lanes. To comply with road regulations, Class 3 scooters have front and rear lights, indicators, a rear-view mirror, brakes and a horn. They must be registered with the DVLA.

More powerful, with bigger batteries, Class 3 scooters can travel up to 25 miles. As the largest and heaviest scooters available on the market, they offer the most comfortable ride.



How can I transport my scooter?



Please be aware that, due to the weight of the battery and motor, all scooters are heavy. If you do not have someone at home to help you, you may need to purchase a hoist to get the scooter in and out of your car.

Folding scooters, such as the TGA Minimo, are compact and lightweight models, due to having lithium batteries. However they are lifted complete and weigh around 28kg so require a

minimum of 2 people when lifting into a vehicle. Micro travel scooters, such as the Invacare Colibri, can be dismantled, which allows for each component to be lifted separately, making it lighter and easier to lift into your vehicle. The heaviest part is around 10kg.

Can I buy a second-hand scooter?

Due to the price of new machines, there is a growing market for second-hand scooters.

Find an established and respected retailer who can service scooters, as these will have reconditioned machines available with a short warranty.



Need help?

For honest, practical advice on wheelchairs and other mobility aids, contact us, the friendly experts at Classic Mobility in Hertford.

As members of the British Healthcare Trade Association (BHTA) we comply with the Code of Practice which is approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute. This ensures you are dealing with a company that will give you good advice, guide you in your discussion making and will not cold call you or use pressure selling techniques.



By working with a local retailer it ensures you have an after sales and servicing contact which is important for your own piece of mind, and should you have any issues you have somewhere local to talk to and visit.

We work with leading manufacturers such as Pride, TGA, Invacare and Shoprider and stock a variety of scooters in the showroom for you to view. We also offer home demonstrations, if required.



Call: 01992 552224, visit: www.classicmobility.org.uk or email: office@classicmobility.org.uk. Alternatively, pop in to visit our shop at: 15 Church Street, Hertford, SG14 1EJ.

