

MOBILITY SCOOTER HANDBOOK

**A GUIDE FOR POTENTIAL, NEW AND
CURRENT MOBILITY SCOOTER USERS**



**University
of Manitoba**

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WHERE CAN I GET A SCOOTER AND HOW CAN I PAY FOR IT?

PLACES



CONSIDER

How convenient is the process?

Are product trials or rentals offered?

Is training and education offered?

How knowledgeable are the service providers?

Do they accept various payment options?

WAYS TO PAY



PAY YOURSELF



INSURANCE



VETERAN AFFAIRS

WHAT DO I NEED TO SAFELY USE A SCOOTER?

Thinking

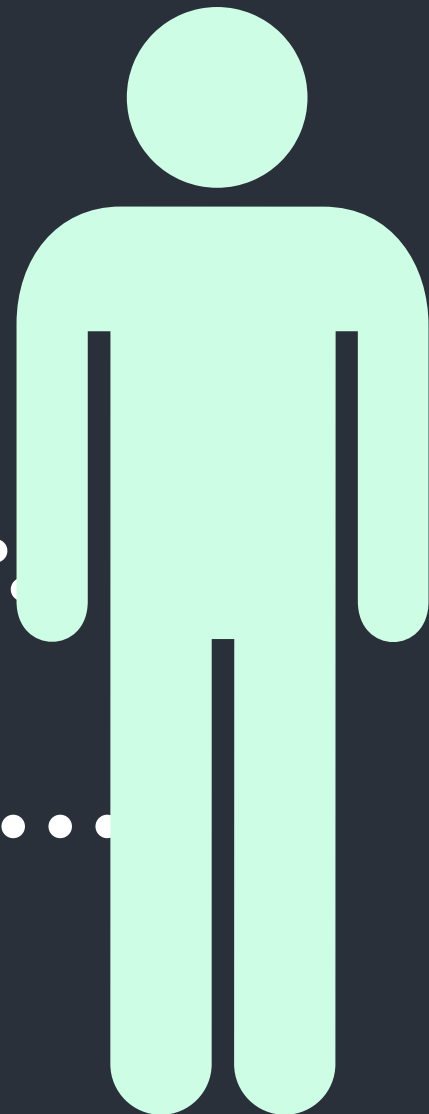
- Making **quick and safe decisions**
- Maintaining **focus to stay alert** when driving
- **Recognizing** potentially **dangerous situations**
- **Reading** and **recognizing** traffic signs

Senses

- **Vision** to see obstacles
- **Hearing** to respond to your surroundings
- **Touch sensation** to use controls and steer

Physical

- **Balance** for sitting
- **Endurance** for long trips
- **Strength** and **coordination** for steering
- **Some mobility** to transfer on and off



WHICH SCOOTER IS THE BEST FIT FOR ME?

Feature	Compact/travel	Mid-sized	Heavy duty/Outdoor
Wheelbase length Seating area Turning space required	Short wheelbase Small to average seating Smallest	Medium wheelbase Average seating space Moderate	Long wheelbase Spacious seating Large
Wheel size (diameter)	Small wheels More maneuverable but lower speed and ability to climb obstacles	Medium wheels Moderate maneuverability, speed, and ability to climb obstacles	Large wheels Higher speed and ability to climb obstacles but less maneuverable
Indoor use	★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆
Outdoor use	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Maneuverability of scooter	★★★★ Least space required	★★★☆☆ Moderate space required	★★☆☆☆ Most space required
Durability and hardiness	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Stability	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Speed of scooter (maximum)	★★★☆☆ Average 8 km/h	★★★☆☆ Average 8 km/h	★★★★★ Average 12 km/h
Ease of transport	★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆
Diversity of functions and controls	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Battery size and driving range	★★☆☆☆ Average 8-24 km/charge	★★★☆☆ Average 16-32 km/charge	★★★★★ 32+ km/charge
Weight capacity (user)	★★☆☆☆ Can be 250-350 lbs	★★★☆☆ Can be 350-400 lbs	★★★★★ Can be up to 400-500 lbs
Weight of the scooter	★★★★ Lightest	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆ Heaviest



3 Wheels: more maneuverable,
better indoors

4 Wheels: more stable,
better outdoors



DRIVING SKILLS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS



Scooter Safety tips

- Be visible! Wear reflective gear at night
- Perform safety checks before leaving
- Turn scooter off before stepping down
- Consider adding anti-tippers to your device.

AVOIDING TIPS AND COLLISIONS

- Approach uneven surfaces like curbs straight on to avoid tipping
- Do not take sharp turns with speed to avoid tipping
- Slow down when turning corners to avoid collisions
- Do not assume vehicles and pedestrians will yield you the right of way
- Avoid climbing curbs higher than the axle of your wheel
- Lean forward when going up a slope
- Lean back when going down a slope

ADDITIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Easy Street at Misericordia Health Center (204-788-8158)
- Visit Wheelchair Skills Program website for mobility scooter skills <https://wheelchairskillsprogram.ca/en/>

WHAT ARE THE SAFETY RULES OF THE ROAD?

Scooter users are considered PEDESTRIANS

- Scooters ride on sidewalks, not on the road
- If there's no sidewalk or it is not passable:
 - Travel on left edge of the road or shoulder, facing traffic
 - Return to the sidewalk at the earliest opportunity
 - Use turn signals, or hand signals if your MS is not equipped
- Scooters cannot carry passengers.
- Maximum outdoor speed is 10 kph in Manitoba
- Always use a crosswalk if available, and obey the signal
- Don't use your cell phone or headphones while driving



RULES OF THE ROAD

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Scooters are NOT covered under automobile insurance

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Scooters CAN be insured through home insurance policy

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Policies can cover fire, theft and accidental damage; a replacement may NOT be covered



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- CAA Manitoba has a variety of emergency road service memberships for Scooters including dead batteries, towing, and transporting you and your scooter home
- Some Scooter vendors offer warranty and repair services, including mobile repair services

HOW DO I TRANSPORT MY SCOOTER?

TRANSPORT OPTIONS



PERSONAL VEHICLE

- User must transfer into vehicle seat
- Some Scooters fold or disassemble
- Manual and powered carriers available



WINNIPEG PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Restraint belt used to secure Scooter frame to prevent movement
- Use seats located behind front wheel well
- Kneeling buses have a ramp



WINNIPEG TRANSIT PLUS (HANDI-TRANSIT)

- Must drive Scooter onto the bus or van, turn power off, and move unassisted from Scooter to a vehicle seat



TRAIN

- No extra charge to transport Scooter
- Notify the carrier you are traveling with a Scooter
- Scooter stored on the same train as user
- Scooter returned to user upon arrival



AIRPLANE

- No extra charge to transport Scooter
- Some Scooter batteries can be an issue for transportation
- Notify the carrier you are traveling with a Scooter

HOW DO I MAINTAIN MY SCOOTER?

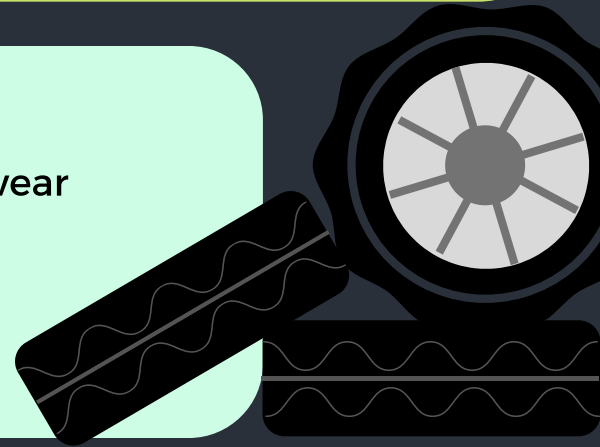
BATTERY CARE

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for charging batteries
- If used daily, charge your batteries overnight, every night
- Don't let batteries become fully depleted, especially if in storage
- Always store your Scooter with batteries fully charged
- Make sure your batteries are fully charged before using your scooter
- For daily users, batteries may need to be replaced every 2-3 years;
- Hot and cold weather, extra weight, rough terrain and poor driving habits (speeding & quick acceleration) decrease battery performance



TIRE MAINTENANCE

- Check tire treads for wear and tear; shouldn't wear down to less than 1/32"
- Perform monthly safety checks on your tires
- Make sure wheel bearings are in good quality
- Ensure tire pressure is maintained regularly



GENERAL MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Store in a clean, dry place to prevent rust
- Avoid driving in water and rain to protect electrical components
- Perform a weekly surface clean with a wet cloth
- Perform a monthly deep clean underneath to prevent damage from dirt and grime.
- Check weekly for oil leakage underneath
- Bring your scooter for an annual full maintenance check

