

1. Safe choices begin with your choice of scooter

When purchasing a scooter, it is important to check with an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist to ensure that the scooter you choose best meets your individual needs.

There are various models and sizes of scooters on the market and these professionals can assist you to make an informed purchase.

2. Considerations when purchasing your scooter

Consider the following:

Size – Consider ease of operation, turning ability, suitability of the wheel size for the terrain you will be traveling on (ie. Indoors, outdoors, or both), and the size of elevators, doors, the width of hallways and doorways at the places you travel frequently.

Power – How far can you travel before your battery needs to be recharged?

Braking System – How long does it take to stop the scooter?

Parking/Storage – Where will the scooter be stored? Is there an electrical outlet available in the storage area for charging your scooter?

Comfort – Consider the seating, backrest.



3. Think safe! Obey the rules for pedestrians

As stated in the Saskatchewan Driver's Handbook, "the rules of the road that apply to pedestrians also apply to persons using a wheel chair, motorized wheelchair or medical scooter for medical reasons."

Therefore, when you are operating your scooter, you must obey all rules for pedestrians such as:

- Using sidewalks whenever possible. If there are no sidewalks or if the sidewalks do not have scooter accessible curb cuts, you should:
 1. Cross at pedestrian crosswalks.
 2. Check for traffic before crossing.
- If there is no crosswalk available, stop, look both ways, and proceed only when all approaching vehicles have come to a full stop.
- Make "eye contact" with motorists or pedestrians before crossing their path to confirm their intention to stop.
- Obey all traffic control signs and devices.
- **Important: travel on the left side of the road facing traffic.**

4. Be visible

As scooters are smaller than other vehicles on the road, use the following devices to ensure motorists are aware of you:



- reflective strips on sides, front and back of scooter,
- a light on the front of scooter,
- a fluorescent orange bike flag attached to the rear of the scooter,
- a light on the back of the scooter,
- wear bright coloured clothing.

5. Safe manoeuvring of Curbs

Take curbs, driveways and ramps "head on." Always drive on the most level area of the curb, even if it means moving outside of the crosswalk lines. If you drive sideways on a curb, you could tip over.

6. Be a courteous pedestrian

- Slow down when traveling with other pedestrians. Ensure that you do not follow too closely to others or prevent them from passing you when sharing the sidewalk
- Stay to the right on sidewalks. Ask people to let you by and avoid using your horn unless necessary.
- Do not block sidewalks and paths. Pull to the side when visiting with friends to allow others to pass.
- When travelling in front of stores, be careful that you do not collide with people leaving these buildings.

7. Learn to use your scooter.

It is essential that you know how to operate your scooter properly before venturing out into the public. When you first purchase your scooter, find a quiet parking lot and practice there.

Once you feel comfortable that you can safely operate your scooter, find a friend who will travel with you, either on foot or scooter, for your first few trips.

In addition, make sure you read the manual and any other safety information that may be supplied with your scooter.

8. Know your area

Become familiar with the most navigable routes in your neighbourhood.

Be aware of the locations of curbs that do not have curb cuts or streets that do not have sidewalks so you can avoid these routes if possible by planning ahead.

Allow yourself plenty of time as you may need to take an alternative route if unforeseeable circumstances arise, such as construction. You may need to cross the street, take another route, or even back track.

9. Prepare for unexpected circumstances

Carry a cellular phone or enough change to make a phone call from a pay phone. Carry phone numbers in case you encounter unexpected circumstances and need assistance. You may want to tape emergency phone numbers onto your scooter.

In an emergency situation, attract attention of a passerby and ask them to phone for help. In the Saskatchewan, you can call "911" for emergency assistance.

10. Transporting your scooter

When choosing a scooter, it is important to choose one that can easily be carried by car, van, or transit. Ask the vendor the following:

- Can it be transported by car or van?
- Does it require disassembling in order to be transported in the trunk of a vehicle?
- Is it transportable by transit buses or Caravan? Most scooters longer than 45 inches cannot be accommodated by bus.

Who to contact for further information:

Paula Ealey BSW RSW
Sun Country Health Region
Acquired Brain Injury Coordinator
(306) 842 - 8315.



Medical Scooter Awareness Program

Program Supported by:

