



**Independent Living Centre**  
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## **CHOOSING A SCOOTER**

Points to consider before you buy:

- When do you want to use your scooter? For instance, if you use it a lot, it will need to be extremely comfortable and durable.
- Will you want to use it indoors at all? If so, it will need to go through doorways and probably up a step. Don't forget shops, pubs, restaurants etc.
- If you leave the scooter outside at home or when visiting, will it be safe and can you immobilise it?
- Will you want to go over rough ground or grass? You may need a good tread on the wheel.
- Do you need to climb kerbs? Always avoid these where you can, but be prepared if you can't. The bigger the wheel the bigger the kerb that can be tried. However kerb climbing is never very comfortable. Try before you buy.
- What will you do if it rains or is cold? Will a cape or warm clothing be adequate and will you need a waterproof seat?
- Do I want a three or four wheeled scooter?
- Try Shopmobility (available in most areas) – Hire one for a short period to give you an idea on the type of scooter you would like to purchase.

- Does the scooter feel safe, sturdy and comfortable? Try for 30 minutes minimum before you buy. Can you reach and work the controls comfortably?
- Will you want to take the scooter in a car? Who will lift it in or will you need ramps or a hoist?
- Would you want the scooter to fold or take to pieces? If so who will do this and put it back together again? Try before you buy
- Would you be willing to buy a hoist to lift the scooter into your car?
- Would you consider buy a car with a low sill on an estate car to ease travelling with you scooter?
- Where will you keep your scooter when you are not using it? Can you access this area yourself?
- Can you charge the scooter yourself and how easy will maintenance be?
- How near and willing to help is the shop where you purchased your scooter, when you need their assistance?
- How far do you want to travel each day? Your weight, hill surfaces, kerbs and cold weather can all affect the range of your scooter, so be wary of the range stated on the literature.
- Do you want to travel at 4mph or 8mph? 4mph vehicles can only travel on the pavement – 8mph vehicles can also travel on the road.
- How much will it cost? Prices start around £1,600 for a new scooter. Would you be satisfied with a second hand or reconditioned one?
- Do you think it would be worth buying insurance?
- Would it be worth joining a breakdown service?

For further information please contact us on **01343 559461**  
 email: [info.ilc@moray.gov.uk](mailto:info.ilc@moray.gov.uk) OR look on [www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk) and search for Independent Living Centre