



Power wheelchairs vs. scooters.

The terms “power wheelchair” (also referred to as an electric wheelchair) and “scooter” are often used interchangeably. However, these products have distinct features for patients with different mobility needs. Power wheelchairs are more appropriate for people with significant mobility impairments and need assistance with their MRADLs (Mobility Related Activities of Daily Living). Here is a brief product comparison between the two types of power mobility equipment.

Power wheelchairs and scooters features

Features

Maneuverability: Essential for patients to perform vital MRADLs

Configuration: Essential for patient to perform vital MRADLs, and to address diminishing upper body strength

Stability: Essential to avoid any unnecessary injury related to tilting or tipping

Performance: Essential to climb ramps and cope with various outdoor terrain

Positioning: Essential for patient to perform vital MRADLs and directly addresses patient comfort

Options: Essential products options

Power wheelchairs

Ideally suited for essential in-home use

With a joystick controller, it’s easy to operate, has no front tiller obstruction, and it’s more appropriate for a patient with upper body weakness

Has up to 6 tires with variable sizes and configuration for maximum stability and functionality

Has up to 2 motors for maximum functionality

Allows for different seats, which offers the user more options for customization. Can be adjusted over time to support ongoing needs

Can accommodate Elevating Leg Rests (ELRs) for patients with poor circulation

Scooters

Turning radius is **not** as well suited for In-home use

Patient may **not** be able to safely operate with a loss in upper body strength, and the front tiller obstruction can interfere with vital MRADLs such as eating at a table

Has up to 4 tires only with a standard size and configuration

Has 1 motor only

Cannot be adapted to fit individual patients needs

Cannot accommodate ELRs