



Safer for **Mobility Scooters**

For information on road safety please visit:
www.SussexSaferRoads.gov.uk

Sussex Safer Roads

P A R T N E R S H I P

Road **safety is everyone's responsibility**, whichever way you choose to get around

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Introduction

Mobility scooters can offer a great deal of independence but there are so many different types available it is important to consider which is best for you. Make sure that the mobility scooter is comfortable, easy to use and suitable for your needs. You should always get professional advice before buying one. This could mean getting an assessment and advice from your occupational therapist or a reputable dealer. Make sure you know what all the switches and levers on your scooter are for and that you can control it properly before you go out on it. Also, it is important to keep the scooter properly maintained and have it thoroughly checked at the intervals set out in the manufacturer's handbook.

Keep the battery fully charged and get to know how far your scooter can go before it needs recharging. Remember the distance you can travel will depend on the condition of the battery, the weight you have on the scooter and the nature of your route. Cold weather, driving on rough ground and going uphill uses more power, reducing the distance you can travel.

Legal Definitions

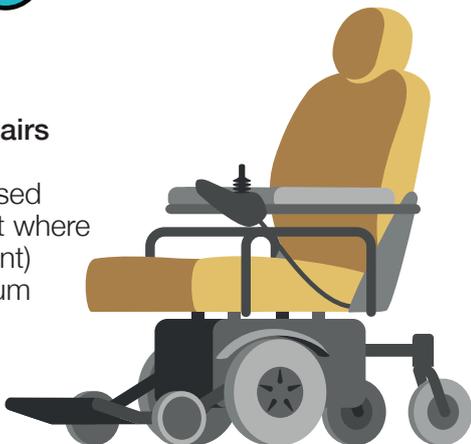
There are three types of invalid carriage defined in 'The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988'.



Class 1
Manual wheelchairs.
You use your arms to move them, or you are pushed.

Class 2 **Powered wheelchairs and scooters.**

These cannot be used on the road (except where there is no pavement) and have a maximum speed of 4mph.



Class 3

Powered wheelchairs and other outdoor powered vehicles, including scooters.

These can be used on the road. They have a maximum speed of 4mph on pavements and 8mph on the road.



A Class 3 vehicle must have the following features:

- a maximum unladen weight of 150kg.
- a maximum width of 0.85m.
- a device (or switch) to limit its speed to 4mph.
- a maximum speed of 8mph.
- an efficient braking system.
- front and rear lights and reflectors.
- direction indicators able to operate as a hazard warning signal.
- an audible horn.
- a rear view mirror.
- an amber flashing light if it is used on a dual carriageway.

You could be stopped by the police if your Class 3 mobility scooter does not have these features.

A Class 3 vehicle can only be used by a disabled person aged 14 and over.

You must not drive on bus lanes, 'cycle only' lanes or motorways. You should avoid using dual carriageways with a speed limit of over 50mph.

You must follow the Highway Code if you drive your mobility scooter on the road. This includes eyesight requirements.



Eyesight

Although there is no legal eyesight requirement to drive mobility scooters you should be able to read a car registration number plate from a distance of 12.3m (40ft). You must check regularly that you can still do this.

Parking

All normal parking restrictions apply to mobility scooters. Your vehicle should not be left on a footpath or pedestrian area on its own if it gets in the way of other pedestrians, including wheelchair users and people with prams or pushchairs.



Vehicle Tax and Registration

You do not have to pay vehicle tax for any mobility scooter but you must register Class 3 invalid carriages. To do this you need to complete a **V55/4 form for new vehicles or a V55/5 form for used vehicles.**

You can get the forms from DVLA's online ordering service:

www.gov.uk/dvlaforms

Send the completed forms to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BE.

Insurance

Although you do not have to be insured by law, it is recommended that you have at least third-party cover or public liability insurance. It is also a good idea to insure your mobility scooter for fire, theft and damage. Some policies also include breakdown recovery. You can often add mobility scooters to your home contents policy.

Use by Non-Disabled People

If you are not disabled you may only drive a mobility scooter if you are:

- demonstrating the vehicle before it is sold;
- training a disabled user;
- taking the vehicle to or from maintenance or repair.



Always Plan Your Journey

The most direct or shortest route will not always be the best one to take on a scooter. Steep hills, high kerbs or other obstructions may make it impossible to access some places.

Out and About

- Do not use your scooter if you have been drinking alcohol, taking drugs or may be impaired by prescribed medication.
- Check the patient information on any medication your doctor prescribes or which you buy over the counter. If the information says the medication could cause drowsiness, do not use your scooter.
- Have fluorescent and/or reflective materials or markings on your scooter and put your lights on to help other road users see you.
- Make sure loose-fitting materials such as belts or scarves are tucked away so they don't catch in the wheels.
- Under no circumstances carry anyone else with you on a scooter.
- Do not carry or lead a pet. Even a trained, well-behaved animal can become unpredictable and cause you to lose control of your scooter.
- Do not overload your scooter with shopping or other items as this may make the scooter unstable.
- Mobile phones can be a distraction: pull over and stop before using one.

On The Move

- Always be aware of pedestrians and other road users. Pedestrians cannot always see or hear you approaching them, especially from behind. Look carefully before you move off or change direction.
- Wherever possible use a dropped kerb when crossing the road.



- If you are riding a Class 3 vehicle you must switch over to the 4mph setting when you are using it on a pavement or footpath.
- The top speed allowed on pavements or footpaths is 4mph, but even this is too fast when there are pedestrians about.
- Pedestrians always have right of way.
- Obey traffic lights and all other road signals and instructions, including stop signs, give-way signs, and signs for one-way streets.
- When travelling at night you must have the headlights and rear lights on.
- Do not park your vehicle where it could cause an obstruction, making it difficult for others to use the pavement or footpath.

Some Useful Contact Details

Atlas Mobility

01403 263 553

www.atlasmobility.co.uk

Churchers Mobility

01273 775123

www.churchersmobility.co.uk

Clearwell Mobility

01444 253300

www.clearwellmobility.co.uk

East Sussex Disability Association

01323 514500

1 Faraday Close

Eastbourne

East Sussex

BN22 9BH



Equality Advisory and Support Services

Phone: 0808 800 0082

Textphone: 0808 800 0084

FREEPOST

EASS HELPLINE

FPN6521

www.equalityadvisoryservice.com

My Health Mobility

01323 444861

www.myhealthmobility.co.uk

Orange Badge Mobility Solutions

03442 161616

[www.orangebadge.co.uk/sussex/
mobility-scooters](http://www.orangebadge.co.uk/sussex/mobility-scooters)

Possability People

01273 89 40 40

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