

Wheelchair costs

WCB-Alberta provides wheelchairs to workers with the following compensable (accepted work-related) conditions:

- quadriplegia
- paraplegia
- lower limb amputations
- stroke
- heart condition
- brain injuries
- combination of conditions which severely limit a worker's ability to walk

If this is the first time you are claiming for a wheelchair, WCB-Alberta must be provided with a medical recommendation or a prescription from a physician. The case manager must pre-approve all wheelchair purchases.

Type of wheelchair

An authorized occupational or physical therapist will do an assessment to determine your wheelchair needs. This person then gives recommendations to WCB-Alberta on the following:

- a WCB-Alberta approved trial of the wheelchair (to match your medical and physical needs)
- consideration of home and vehicle adaptations
- wheelchair type and options (for example, manual or electric)

You may request some optional accessories (cushions, trays etc) which may be provided with prior WCB-Alberta approval.

Modifying and replacing wheelchairs

WCB-Alberta will fix your wheelchair if repairs are required as a result of normal wear and tear. A wheelchair can also be replaced or modified when factors such as weight gain/loss affect your ability to use the present wheelchair. WCB-Alberta may supply you with up to two wheelchairs, one indoor and one outdoor chair. If you have an electric wheelchair, the other will be a manual wheelchair.

When your chair is replaced, WCB-Alberta assesses the chair for recycling, prior to storage. To have your old or unused wheelchair picked up, contact WCB-Alberta Medical Aid Unit.

For questions about your wheelchair and modifying or replacing it, contact WCB-Alberta Medical Aid Unit at :

Medical Aid Unit - Wheelchair Purchasing
Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta
P.O. Box 2415
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2S5
Telephone: 780-498-4296
Fax: 780-498-7852

Maintenance and repair

Repairs must be pre-authorized by WCB-Alberta Medical Aid Unit. However, WCB-Alberta will cover regular maintenance, such as:

- yearly maintenance
- replacement of tires
- re-upholstery
- batteries

All repairs require a cost breakdown from the vendor. Because most frames have a lifetime warranty, the manufacturer should handle replacement of frames. WCB-Alberta will not normally authorize welding of frames.

If you experience problems with your wheelchair, discuss this with your vendor and WCB-Alberta Special Needs Coordinator at 780-498-4296.

If you are dissatisfied with the purchase, discuss this with your vendor and your case manager. If necessary, another assessment will be arranged with an Occupational or Physical Therapist. It is extremely important to test the chair before every purchase (even the same model), as wheelchair designs change yearly.