

Stairlifts

A stairlift is used to transport a person between two or more levels over a staircase. A stairlift has a fixed track that follows the line of the stairs and can be a straight or curved track depending on the stair type. Stairlifts are generally quite slow but this is to ensure a safe, comfortable ride.

We cannot recommend stairlift companies. We would recommend you choose a company with positive customer reviews and a history of a reliable service. To view or try a stairlift, contact the Lothian Disabled Living Centre at the SMART centre. This is based at Astley Ainslie Hospital, Grange Loan, Edinburgh, EH9 2HL.

Call – 0131 537 9177 (select option 5)

www.smart.scot.nhs.uk/service/disabled-living-centre/

We recommend the stairlift is serviced annually and consideration given to on-going cost of maintenance and charges.

For advice contact our Duty Occupational Therapist on 0131 271 3900.

Design considerations

- Consider options of connecting the arm rest or seat to the footplate if the footplate may be an obstruction to how you safely get on or off the stairlift. Consider having a powered option to lower the footplate.
- Consider the size of the footplate and seat. Ensure these are comfortable and that you can comfortably place your feet onto this.
- Consider if you will require a seat that turns at the top of the stair or runs over the top. Should you have a seat that turns at the top of the stair, consider if you will manage a manual turn or if you require a powered option.
- Consider how close your front or back door is to your stairs. A hinged track which folds may be required if the space is tight.
- Consider what controls you require, especially if you have reduced hand function. You can get options for button or lever controls, and you can choose which side you would want the controls.
- Consider an option of a remote control to call the stairlift down should there be multiple users of the stairlift within the property.
- Consider if a handrail requires to be removed for the stairlift to be installed and if this will impact on other users of the stairs.
- You may need to reposition or remove a radiator to fit the stairlift.

Safety

- Fire safety – please consider if a stairlift would obstruct access to the property. You can refer yourself for a fire safety visit.
www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/360/community_safety_and_crime/54/fire_safety
- Consider options for a safety switch, that can turn off the stairlift.
- Consider who is in the property such as pets or young children and if they would be safe with a stairlift.
- Consider the weight of the person using the stairlift and check the weight limit of the stairlift.
- We recommend that the stairlift covers the full flight of the stairs for your safety when getting on and off.
- Consider the type of lap belt - a standard lap belt or full harness.
- You may be required to re-hang the front or back door outwards to increase space. Consider your safety if the door is to open outwards such as when answering the door. We also recommend that you check with building standards to ensure you comply with regulations.
- The person using the stairlift must be able to safely manage the controls or have someone to assist if you have difficulties understanding the instructions and controls of the stairlift.