

Top Wheelchair and Mobility Scooter Fixes for Spring



It's time to spruce up your wheelchair or mobility scooter for spring. Warmer weather is on the way and as a wheelchair or mobility scooter user you need to make sure your device is running at its best for the season. Get out your tool kit and start doing the following quick fixes for your power wheelchair or mobility scooter before spring time.

Remove the Dirt

Winter is difficult on mobility devices. Navigating through the snow, dirt, debris and more can take a toll on a wheelchair or mobility scooter. Begin your DIY repairs by cleaning your device. Use a damp soft cotton cloth to remove dirt, grime, and debris from your device. Pay close attention to the wheels and surrounding area. You need to remove small twigs and other debris trapped near the wheels.

Check the Batteries

Mobility scooters and power wheelchairs have batteries. As a mobility device user, you already know you need to charge the batteries. Problems arise when the batteries don't stay charged for the same length of time as in the past. Sometimes this can be due to a faulty battery charger. Check the battery charger to assure the lights are working properly. Also, try to use the charger in a different outlet to assure the issue is with the charger. Repair or replacement of the battery charger and batteries could be necessary.

Upholstery Maintenance

If you have a manual wheelchair chances are a time will come that the upholstery will become overused. The weather during the winter season is especially harsh on upholstery. Check your wheelchair for wear and tear. Using a patch kit to fix small issues is recommended. However, if the upholstery is ruined or torn you should consider replacing it.

Brakes

Mobility device users will agree the brakes are one of the most important components for safety. Your wheelchair or mobility scooter just went through a lot of harsh weather during the winter season. Snow, rain and other conditions put the brakes through a workout. If you notice the brakes on your mobility device are hesitating to stop it is most likely time for new brakes. The owner's manual will provide more details on how to replace the brakes for your specific wheelchair or mobility scooter model.

Joystick

If the controller or joystick on your wheelchair or mobility scooter does not work correctly you will notice immediately. A common issue includes hesitation to obey the joystick command. This is a serious issue that needs to be addressed quickly.

Tires

As you know, harsh winter weather and obstacles hidden under the surfaces outdoors can cause wear and damage to the tires of your mobility device. Inspect the tires closely for punctures, damage and excessive wear. If you find any issues you should replace the damaged tires immediately.

Armrests

Many mobility device users often find the armrests have been worn or damaged during winter. Once the spring season arrives it reveals torn, damaged and overused armrests. This damage usually goes unnoticed since the skin of users wearing bulky sweaters and coats during winter don't come into direct contact with the armrests. However, once the weather becomes warmer wearing short sleeve clothing causes their skin to touch the damaged or worn armrest directly. Replacing the armrest will also provide comfort and stability during transfer for the user.

Loose Parts

Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are exposed to a variety of surfaces and environments. If you spent winter navigating through uneven surfaces, chances are some parts might have become loose. Carefully inspect the mobility device for loose parts. Tighten any loose bolts or parts immediately.

Leg Rests

This spring repair suggestion is specifically for wheelchair users. Leg rests often take plenty of abuse throughout the day. They support the legs but also bump into doorways and other obstacles day and night. Constant wear and tear can cause leg rests to become damaged and not fit properly on the wheelchair. This may cause discomfort to the user. If the leg rests on your wheelchair have seen better days, it is essential to replace them immediately.

Motors

Power wheelchair and mobility scooter users generally drive their device through harsh conditions during winter. Sometimes water can reach the motor and cause technical issues. If your power wheelchair or mobility scooter seems sluggish or hesitates to function properly you should have a professional inspect the motor.

DIY Challenges

Some mobility device users are familiar with the wheelchair or scooter model and feel comfortable doing small repairs. Always read the owner's manual for the specific model of your mobility device to assure you are completing the repair properly. The owner's manual will also guide you towards ordering the correct parts for the model.

If you are not familiar with repairs or parts for your specific mobility device model it is best to leave it to the professionals. Attempting to repair or replace parts can lead to further damage and expenses if you don't do it properly. Contacting a professional is recommended for safety reasons. Whether you are familiar with DIY fixes for your

mobility device or not, you should never attempt to fix the motor. A professional is recommended for the complex issues a motor replacement involves. Following the wheelchair and mobility scooter repairs listed above will help you be prepared for spring. Warm weather means spending more time outdoors navigating through parks and other obstacles. It's important that your mobility device is in the best condition possible. If you are not familiar with DIY wheelchair repair contact a professional.