

Guidelines for the Storage of Mobility Scooters



It is becoming increasingly common for students, staff, conference delegates and guests staying overnight with fatigue or mobility problems to use mobility scooters for getting around all of the different buildings that they will need to access while they are staying in Oxford.

These can be hired locally and can make individuals' lives much easier.

If anyone at your College or Department needs to use a mobility scooter, these guidelines for storage will assist them in doing so successfully and will be instrumental in removing barriers under the Disability Discrimination Act.

1) The scooter must be stored at all buildings that the individual will be using, either indoors or safely under cover. Scooters cannot be left out in the rain, as this can cause them to stop working.

2) Scooters should be stored at a reasonable distance from where the individual will need to access the building. If it is not possible to leave the scooter inside the building or immediately outside the front door, an area must be found that does not mean the individual walking any distance, or up an inaccessible pathway (eg up a steep slope) before they reach the building.

3) The scooter will need to be charged overnight. Any area where this is required (generally at the College) must have a power point and be large enough. Scooters use very little electricity while charging. They vary in size, but the average scooter will need storage space of around 5 feet in length, 3 feet in width and 4 feet in height. Access to the storage area must be over a rise of not more than the height of a dropped kerb. Some scooters do have a greater clearance, but this will vary.

4) Storage areas should always be easily independently accessible by the individual. If the doorway to the storage area is to be locked at any time, the scooter user will need to be given a key to the area. You must ensure that cars are not parked in front of the doorway, that the storage area is close to where the individual will be residing and that it is fully accessible (eg, not at the top of a steep slope or across very soft ground).

5) The storage area should not be at the top of a very steep slope. Different scooters will have different angles that they can cope with. Any more than the specified slope, and the scooter will stop working. For example, some lightweight scooters can operate at an 8° (1 in 7) incline with a maximum weight of 130kg/300lb. Other larger scooters may be able to cope with a 15° (1 in 4) incline.

6) The storage area must be well lit and free of clutter.

7) Doors to the storage area should be easy to open and not too heavy.

8) A turning space must be available, either inside the storage area or immediately outside.

For further information about the hire of mobility scooters, a factsheet on wheelchair and scooter hire is available on the Disability Advisory Service website at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/factsheets/>

Disability Advisory Service

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