



### ***A Consumer's Guide to Selecting the Right Scooter***

Selecting the right scooter can be a daunting task. There are nearly as many models of scooters available today as there are models of cars. As with most medical devices, it is important to consider how and where a scooter will be used when selecting the scooter that is right for you or a loved one. There are many things to consider when you are purchasing a scooter.

Scooters are generally classified into four different categories: transport/travel, three-wheel, four-wheel and heavy-duty. Each category of scooter offers different features and benefits that match a certain lifestyle and type of use. It is very important to test drive the different models of scooters that would fit your weight to make sure you can comfortably and easily maneuver them indoors and outdoors as appropriate for that model.

The transport/travel scooters are typically the smaller sized scooter with a lower weight capacity, usually ranging from 250 to 300 lbs. When a scooter lists a weight capacity, it is important to remember that this is the weight of the entire load riding on the scooter, including the person and their belongings. A travel/transport scooter is generally not used as a full-time method of transportation, but used for trips to the mall or grocery store, or on vacation where a lot of walking would normally occur. These scooters can be easily disassembled to transport in cars or minivans, with the heaviest piece typically weighing less than 40 lbs. These scooters tend to have a smaller turning radius, meaning less space is required to turn the scooter completely around. They typically have better maneuverability in smaller indoor spaces. They are generally not recommended for outdoor use, unless on a smooth, paved or concrete surface. Traveling on rough or uneven terrain is generally not recommended.

Three-wheel scooters are larger than the transport/travel category, and offer more features to the end user. The weight capacities are usually at 300 to 350 lbs., but come standard with a larger, more comfortable seat, as well as other amenities such as a larger front or under-seat storage basket; head light and tail light packages and offer more leg room for longer periods of use. While these models can be used indoors at public places such as malls, restaurants, libraries, etc., they can be more difficult to maneuver in tight areas and in someone's home. They are designed to be used outdoors on smooth and paved surfaces, as well as grassy surfaces and moderately uneven terrain.

Four-wheel scooters are usually the more luxurious scooters in a manufacturer's line of products and typically have a 350 lb. weight capacity. They offer more legroom, larger seats and many of the same amenities of the three-wheel version. They are typically not recommended for indoor home use due to their larger turning radius and can be more challenging to navigate in public places. They are ideally suited for outdoor use on smooth and paved surfaces, as well as grassy surfaces and moderately uneven terrain.

Heavy duty scooters are designed for the bariatric patient with weight capacities up to 500 lbs. Because these are much larger scooters for a larger patient, they have an even bigger seat and need more room to maneuver indoors. These scooters, because of the larger wheels and frame to accommodate the higher weight capacity, are the better scooters to use outdoors in most terrains.

Some specifications to consider and discuss with your dealer include the operating range of the scooter (the maximum mileage range you would get from a complete battery charge), type of battery, disassembly features and process, and warranties and service offered by the manufacturer and the provider.