



Extending backrest for a wheelchair

General guide and safety information

Your mobility aids service

The British Red Cross are part of a global humanitarian network, responding to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies, helping people in times of crisis, providing a range of services in your local community. All our services are delivered by skilled volunteers and staff.

Having the right medical equipment at the right time can make a great deal of difference.

Who is the service for?

The British Red Cross mobility aids loan service aims to help people who require medical equipment on a short term loan basis, typically for a six to eight week period. This service is provided free of charge, although we would ask for a donation towards our running costs.

Equipment available to loan

- Wheelchairs and ancillary equipment
- Toileting Aids

A small range of Independent Living Products are available to purchase in our local facilities, Disability Living Centres and from our online shop at **redcross.org.uk**.

Contact us

For more information, visit **redcross.org.uk/wheelchairs** or call us on **0300 456 1914**.

Using an extending backrest for a wheelchair

The following provides guidance on the use of a detachable back rest for a standard wheelchair loaned to you from the British Red Cross. The guidance provided should be used to complement, but not supersede information provided by a health or social care professional.

Suitability

Back extensions can be fitted to a wheelchair to provide support to a user whilst being transported in a moving vehicle.

Fitting

Backrests are available in a variety of sizes to suit the width of a wheelchair. The backrest is fitted to the wheelchair by attaching four pins to the handle bars of the chair, the screws that hold the seat's canvas in place should be removed using a screw driver. Place each pin over the hole in the handle bar and reinsert the screw, using the screwdriver to tighten. Repeat this step until all four pins have been secured tightly to the wheelchair's handle bars.

To use

Back extensions can be fitted to a wheelchair to provide support to a user whilst being transported in a moving vehicle.

- Ensure the back rest canvas is the same size as the wheelchair you have been loaned.
- Ensure that all four pins are secured tightly in place before fixing the backrest in place.
- Slide the back rest onto the pins all the way down until they lock into position.

Safety note:

Take care to avoid trapping fingers when sliding back rest into place.

Cleaning

The back rest should be cleaned with detergent in hot water then dried thoroughly with disposable paper towels.

Quality assurance

Back rests are quality checked and fitted prior to each loan. However, it is important that the user checks the item before each use for signs of damage; any damage should be reported to the Red Cross immediately and should not be used on the wheelchair.

Return

The Red Cross asks that the item you have loaned from us is cleaned prior to return. Please bear in mind that our stock is limited, if you no longer require the loan of the equipment before its date due for return please bring it back early so that we can continue to assist the needs of others requiring the same equipment.

Would you like to volunteer for the British Red Cross?

Do you have free time? Are you able to support our Mobility Aids Service?

We offer the chance for you to work with people to make a real difference to their lives. There is comprehensive free training so you can represent the Red Cross with confidence and it's a great opportunity to develop your existing skills and to gain new ones.

You will enjoy the company of a warm and friendly team and we reimburse any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses when on duty.

Our volunteer tasks include:

- Demonstrating how to use and look after our wheelchairs and other items of equipment
- Dealing with telephone queries, completing paperwork and adding orders to our online stock management system
- Receiving and recording donations
- Being a home delivery driver.

If you would like to become a volunteer for the mobility aids service or you would like to know more, please contact your local office identified on the front of this booklet, or search for volunteering opportunities at redcross.org.uk/volunteering.



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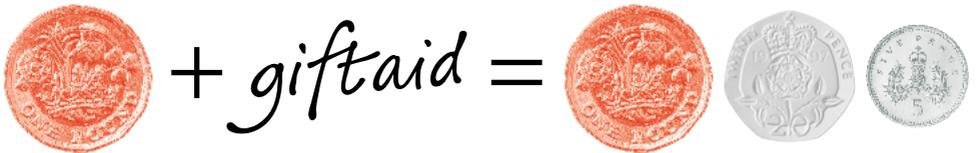
Support our service and help others

This service would not be here without your support.

Donate today to help others who need to borrow equipment

If you are able to, any donation is very much appreciated and helps us to continue to support others who may need a wheelchair or other equipment. It costs on average £10 per week to make a wheelchair available through our service.

If you are a UK taxpayer please don't forget to add gift aid to your donation.



Last year, if everyone had added gift aid to their donation we could have provided another 1,000 new wheelchairs.

Card payments accepted.