



Fitting an oxygen bottle carrier to 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**.

Fitting an oxygen bottle carrier to a wheelchair

Prepare the chair for fitting

To be fitted on the rear of the wheelchair frame. You may need to remove the plastic foot cover (these can sometimes be difficult to remove), so use pliers to assist getting this off with ease. There are times these need to be ripped off due to being glued on.

If the plastic cover comes off in one piece please store safely in order that it can be refitted back to the chair for future use. If it gets damaged just dispose of the cover. Below are the before (**Figure 1**) and after (**Figure 2**) pictures of what you should have now achieved.

Figure 1 – Before

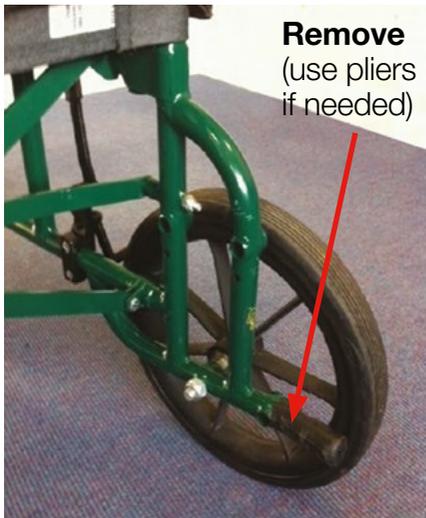


Figure 2 – After



Please note:

If you have any difficulty with undertaking this, please return the wheelchair to the office you loaned it from for the bottle carrier to be fitted for you.

How to fit the oxygen (o2) bottle carrier

Step 1

Remove the fittings from the oxygen holder; these are circled in red on the picture (**Figure 3**), both clamp bolts from 'A' and the nut and bolt from 'B'. The bolt from 'B' can sometimes be missing, as long as you tighten the clamp 'A' nice and tight, it should not move around, even with the bolt 'B' missing. The o2 holder will still safely serve its purpose.

Step 2

Place the oxygen carrier onto the frame of the wheelchair (as shown below), a bit of push and pull may be required to get the oxygen carrier to fit correctly.

Place the clamp from section 'A' around the frame, hand tighten the Allen head bolts into position. Next slip the nut and bolt from section 'B' into position, again hand tighten.

Use the Allen keys to tighten the bolts in position 'A' to a point where there is no movement from the oxygen carrier and the frame of the chair. Now use a spanner to tighten the nut and bolt in position 'B' if fitted.

With the carrier now firmly fitted and with no movement, make sure the wheel of the side it is

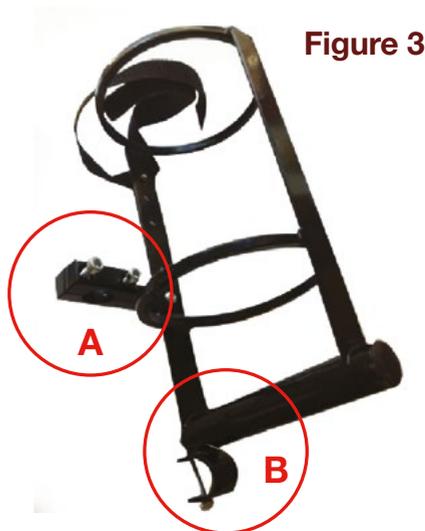


Figure 3

fitted to runs freely. If the wheel does not run freely, then loosen off the carrier and re adjust, but normally this does not happen.

Figure 4



Please note:

The oxygen carrier has been shown here fitted to the right hand side of the wheelchair; it is the same operation for left hand fitting.

Return:

The Red Cross ask that the oxygen carrier is returned at the end of the loan period. Please bear in mind that our stock is limited, if you no longer require the loan of the equipment before its return date 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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Photo © Matthew Percival.



Photo © John Eccles.

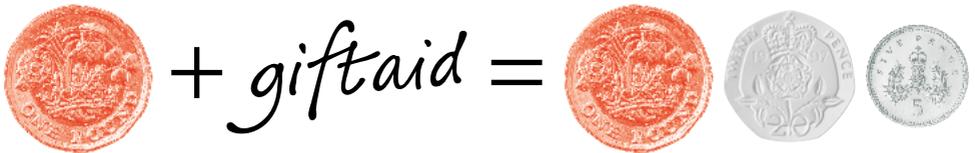
Support our service and help others

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.