## Stair lifts information and advice

We hope to answer your concerns, but if you have any more questions please ask a member of staff

## How do stair lifts work?

Stair lifts carry you up and down stairs by you sitting on a small seat with arm rests and a lap belt. If you are finding climbing the stairs increasingly difficult or very tiring, you may wish to consider a stair lift as an alternative. Stair lifts run on a battery and are operated by controls on the armrests or a remote-controlled unit operated by the client or carer. They have battery backup so will continue to work in the event of a power cut. Stair lifts are fixed to the stairs rather than the wall, battery charges top and bottom at its docking station.

## Types of stair lift

There are two main types of stair lift:

- Straight stair lift
- Curved stair lift

Curved stair lifts are suitable for stairs with a bend or curve at the top or bottom. Having a curved staircase does not necessarily mean you need a curved stair lift. Stair lift companies are able to assess your stairs and advise you on the best option and any potential additions. When considering a stair lift, it is wise to get more than one quote as prices can vary enormously.

## **Funding your stair lift**

## Social Services

Social Services can assess your needs and may recommend a stair lift funded by a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). This is a means tested grant and it can only be accessed through a Social Services occupational therapist. You can refer yourself to Social Services by telephoning your local Social Services department.

#### Self-funded

Stair lifts can be bought or hired privately and this may be the preferred option if a stair lift is needed quickly. Many companies offer a rental service (mostly for straight stair lifts) and this is considerably cheaper than buying.



Usually, companies charge a one-off rental fee (which may include maintenance and removal charges) and an amount per month for rental. It is worth checking with the company if there is a minimum or maximum rental period. Stair lifts may also be sold as 'reconditioned' or 'reallocated' (second hand). If a stair lift is purchased for your own use, you should not be charged VAT.

## Charitable funding

It may be worth talking to your occupational therapist or community nurse specialist for advice.

## Help and advice

## **Disabled Living Foundation**

www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk lme-enquiries@shaw-trust.org.uk

0300 123 3084

Monday 10am-4pm

Helpline operators available for impartial advice about mobility products or other types of daily living equipment (see website)

#### **Disabled Facilities Grant:**

https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants/how-to-claim

Safety: It is essential the stair lift user has the cognitive ability to safely use a stair lift as per manufacturer's instructions and understand how to use the stair lift, lap belt and controls to keep them safe. Memory impairment can put an individual at risk

Some useful stair lift company addresses straight and curved stair lifts are available to purchase.

#### **Direct stair lifts Ltd**

(Rental of curved and straight stair lifts) Unit 5, Jubilee Business Park, Stores Road Derby, DE21 4BJ Tel: 0800 530 0025

www.directstairlifts.co.uk

# Advice from Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL)

Charity no. 1072345 West End Neighborhood Centre Andrews Street, Leicester LE3 5PA Tel: 0116 222 5005

#### **Associated stair lifts**

(Rental or purchase of new and reconditioned curved and straight stair lifts) 41 Kenilworth Drive, Oadby, Leicestershire, LE2 5LT Tel: 0800 015 0249 associatedstairlifts.co.uk

## Easy step stair lifts Ltd

(Rental of straight and curved stair lifts and reconditioned straight and curved) Unit 14, Hill Lane Close, Markfield Leicestershire LE67 9PY Tel: 01530 245441 info@easystepstairlifts.co.uk

This leaflet is updated regularly. For the most up to date information please visit https://loros.co.uk/our-care.

In cases of comments or complaints, please contact: Chief Executive, or Director of Care Services, LOROS, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QE or, Care Quality Commission, East Midlands Office, Citygate, Gallowgate, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 4PA

If you would like this information in another language or format, please telephone 0116 231 8435 or email info@loros.co.uk

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Jeśli chcesz uzyskać te informacje w innym języku lub formacie, np. Easy Read lub Braille'a, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 231 8435 lub wyślij e-mail na adres info@loros.co.uk

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Being there for *you* and *your family* 

**LOROS** Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QE

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