

Wheelchair Maintenance Checklist

Read the owner's manual to learn about your wheelchair's systems and components and follow the recommended service schedules. Depending on how much you demand of your wheelchair will determine how often your maintenance routine should be performed. Regular maintenance can help extend the life of your chair and reduce the number and cost of repairs.

If you are unsure of performing a procedure or you encounter a problem, contact your service provider. Here are **suggested maintenance tasks** that every wheelchair owner should follow:

Prior to Each Use	Date Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check the tire pressure - Inflation guidelines are on the outside of the tire (usually 100 psi). A quick check method is to pinch the outer alls of the tire – it should be firm. There are 2 different types of valves (schraeder and presta). The presta valve requires the use of an adapter screwed onto the high pressure valve. <input type="checkbox"/> Check nuts and bolts and tighten as needed. Use of allen keys or simple crescent wrench will be required. Only replace bolts with those of the same grade or strength rating. 	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
Weekly	Date Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Insect wheels - Ensure spokes from the axle to the rim are intact and tight, that rims are not bent, and that your wheels are parallel to one another. <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect front casters for wobbling, excessive play and alignment. Make sure both casters touch the ground at the same time. Make sure you check this problem on a flat surface. If caster nut is too tight it will flutter from side to side; if it is too loose, it will make the chair difficult to steer. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean axle housings of any debris – Remove wheels and wipe off the axles with a clean cloth that contains just a few drops of oil on it. Also, try and clean the axle housings and around the bearings. 	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
Monthly	Date Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check your wheel alignment – toe in / toe out. If your wheelchair tends to veer to one side while coasting, it could very well be that your wheels are out of alignment or that your spokes have become loose or damaged. <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect the chair frame and all critical components for cracks – these should be reported to dealer as they may require welding or the entire frame may need to be replaced. 	<p>_____</p>
Annually	Date Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lubricate all pivot points - use an all-purpose silicone lube spray to lubricate the flex points on your chair. <input type="checkbox"/> Lubricate ball bearings <input type="checkbox"/> Check your casters for cracks in the spokes that may eventually cause the caster to collapse 	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
Other – as needed	Date Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wipe down your seat cushion or if the cover is removable wash separately. <input type="checkbox"/> Check your upholstery for cracks or tears where the fabric holds or where there are screws in the fabric. <input type="checkbox"/> Flat tire - Tires with pneumatic rubber tubes as opposed to airless foam or solid inserts require more maintenance. A patch kit is an economical alternative to buying a new tube all the time. <input type="checkbox"/> Replace tires when the tread becomes worn, cracked, loose or when the side walls begin to bulge out when pumped with air. 	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Tools are a worthwhile investment that can save a lot of money in the long run. **A few must haves include: Allen wrench set (metric and imperial), adjustable wrench, multi-bit screwdriver, spoke wrench, tire irons, tape measure, adapter, and a tire repair kit.** Spare parts such as tubes, bearings, spokes, and bolts are important to keep in your tool kit for emergency repairs. A spare wheel is a must for higher level athletes.