

# Wheelchair Maintenance Checklist

Read the owner's manual provided 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 local service provider. Here are **suggested maintenance tasks** that everyone should follow:

<b>Prior to Each Use</b>	
<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 walls of the tire – it should be firm. There are 2 different types of valves (schrader 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. If you notice a bolt that always seems to work itself loose, have it replaced right away.
<b>Weekly</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspect 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 loose it will flutter from side to side; if it is too tight, it will make the chair difficult to steer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check your wheelchair axle and axle plate to ensure all connections are tight. A loose axle has the potential to break and put you in harm's way.
<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.
<b>Monthly</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check the front and rear wheels of a manual wheelchair to ensure they spin freely and that the bearings do not make any noises. Push your manual wheelchair across a smooth, even floor to see whether it goes in a straight line. If not, the wheels are likely out of alignment or the bearings may need to be replaced.
<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. It is best to consult someone for help to adjust your wheel alignment.
<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.
<b>Annually</b>	
<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
<b>Other – as needed</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wipe down your seat cushion or if the cover is removable wash separately.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean your chair on a regular basis to prevent dirt and grime to build-up that can impair functionality and, in some cases, lead to rust.
<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.

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. Check out the Let's Play website for more tips!