

Be a courteous pedestrian

- Keep to the right on sidewalks; travel at the same speed as pedestrians. In passing others, avoid using your horn – just ask them to let you pass
- Avoid travelling too closely behind other pedestrians. If you meet a friend, pull to the side to let others pass.
- Use caution when passing store fronts. Be aware of pedestrians who could walk into you as they leave the building.

Safe manoeuvring of curb cuts

Take curb cuts, driveways and ramps “head on” and always drive on the most level area of the curb cut, even if it means moving outside of the crosswalk lines. Driving sideways on a curb cut puts you at risk of tipping. Avoid broken or slanted pavement.

Always err on the side of caution.

Know your area

Get familiar with the easy to travel routes in your neighbourhood. Be aware of the locations of curbs that do not have curb cuts or streets that do not have sidewalks so you can avoid these routes.

Plan ahead and allow yourself plenty of time. You may need to take an alternative route if unforeseen circumstances arise, such as closed sidewalks or construction.

Be visible

Drive with your headlights on, and be aware that when you are travelling by scooter you are at a height disadvantage to the other users of the road and sidewalk. Make sure you and your scooter have the following safety features:

- brightly coloured clothing or reflective safety vest;
- reflective strips on front, sides and back of scooter;
- lights on front and back of scooter; and
- a fluorescent orange bike flag attached to the back seat of the scooter.

Be prepared for unexpected circumstances

Carry personal ID, a cell phone and phone numbers. Tape emergency phone numbers to your scooter. In an emergency situation, attract the attention of passers-by and ask them to phone for help. You can also dial “911” for emergency assistance.

Accessible transit services in Halton

Conventional buses and para-transit vehicles in Halton’s four municipalities are equipped with ramps for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and other mobility devices. To ensure that your scooter will fit and for more information, contact your local service.

City of Burlington

Burlington Transit: 905-639-0550
Burlington Handi-Van: 905-639-5158
Information: www.burlingtontransit.ca

Town of Halton Hills

ActiVan Transit: 905-702-6435
Information: www.haltonhills.ca/transit

Town of Milton

Milton Transit: 905-864-4141
Milton Access: 905-875-5417
Information: www.milton.ca/transit

Town of Oakville

Oakville Transit: 905-815-2020 or transit@oakville.ca
Information: www.oakvilletransit.ca
Oakville care-A-van: 905-337-9222

For more information, visit www.halton.ca/oaac or call 311.



SCS-2224502



halton.ca 311

Mobility Scooter Safety Tips



2022

Fast Facts

Older Adult Advisory Committee
(OAAC)



Safe choices begin with your choice of mobility scooter

Before buying a scooter, check with an occupational therapist or physiotherapist to ensure that the model you select best meets your needs for independence. Most suppliers will let you try different mobility scooters before making your purchase.

Three-wheel scooters are designed for turning in tight spaces and are mainly used indoors. Four-wheel, rear-wheel drive models are more stable, and recommended for outdoor use, where you are likely to encounter uneven terrain. Pneumatic (air-filled) tires offer a smoother, more comfortable ride than solid tires, but will need to be maintained and replaced.

Newer scooter models tend to be more powerful than older models. Ensure that your choice is well-matched to your maneuvering abilities. For multi-speed scooters, the lower speeds should be used on sidewalks.

Considerations when purchasing your scooter

Before you purchase a scooter, consider these factors:

- **Licensing/insurance:** Mobility scooters do not require registration, licence plates, a driver's licence or vehicle insurance in Ontario. Contact your insurance provider about liability insurance.
- **Size:** Consider ease of operation, turning ability, suitability of the wheel size for the terrain (indoor/outdoor/both) you will travel on most frequently.
- **Power:** how far can you travel before the battery needs re-charging?
- **Braking system:** How long does it take to stop the scooter?
- **Parking/storage:** Do you have a secure location for parking and storing your scooter? Is there an electrical outlet for charging the battery?

Transporting your scooter

Before you buy, ensure that your supplier provides clear, accurate specifications on your scooter.

- Is it easy to transport by car, van or taxi? How is it securely anchored?
- Will it fit on conventional transit buses and specialized para-transit vehicles in your area? Oversized scooters may be harder to use on public transit due to their wider turning radius. (See overleaf for links to municipal transit services in Halton).

Learn to use your scooter

Make sure you read the manual and any other safety information that may be supplied with your scooter. You need to know how to operate your scooter before venturing out. Begin by practicing in a quiet, safe area. Once you feel comfortable in operating it safely, find a friend who will travel with you on foot or scooter for your first few trips.

Before getting on or off your mobility scooter, ensure that it is turned off and the brake is properly set. If your scooter has a swivel seat, lock it into place before you stand up. These steps can prevent both the scooter and the seat from moving when you dismount.

Be safe! Obey traffic rules for pedestrians

By law in Ontario, a person using a motorized scooter is classified as a pedestrian. When operating your scooter on a roadway, you must obey all the rules for pedestrians. For example:

- Use sidewalks wherever possible. If there are no sidewalks or if sidewalks do not have scooter accessible curb cuts, travel on the far-left side of the road, facing traffic.
- Cross at pedestrian crosswalks. Come to a full stop and check for traffic before crossing.
- If no crosswalk is available, stop, look both ways and proceed only when all approaching vehicles have come to a full stop.
- Make "eye contact" with motorists and pedestrians and confirm their intention to stop before crossing their path.
- Obey all traffic control lights, crossing guards, signs and speed by-laws (for example, Burlington has a 10 km/hour speed limit).

Acknowledgment:

We are grateful to the City of Richmond, B.C. for permission to use parts of their brochure Important Road Safety Tips for Mobility Scooter Users in preparing this information.