

## Be a courteous pedestrian

- Keep to the right on sidewalks and avoid following too closely. Travel at the same speed as pedestrians. To pass others, tap your horn and ask them to let you pass.
- If you meet a friend, move 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 maneuvering over curb cuts

Driving sideways on a curb cut puts you at risk of tipping. 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.

## Know your area

Get familiar with the easy to travel routes in your neighbourhood. Avoid routes that do not have curb cuts or streets that do not have sidewalks.

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

- Remember that you are at a height disadvantage to the other users of the road and sidewalk.
- Drive with your headlights on.
- Wear brightly coloured clothing or reflective safety vest.
- Put reflective strips on the front, sides and back of your scooter.
- Use 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. For emergency assistance call “911”.

### Secure Your Scooter

Use a strong lock and hidden GPS tracker to discourage theft. Always remove the key when leaving your scooter unattended.

## 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](http://www.burlingtontransit.ca)

### Town of Halton Hills

ActiVan Transit: 905-702-6435  
Information: [www.haltonhills.ca/transit](http://www.haltonhills.ca/transit)

### Town of Milton

Milton Transit: 905-864-4141  
Milton Access: 905-875-5417  
Information: [www.milton.ca/transit](http://www.milton.ca/transit)

### Town of Oakville

Oakville Transit: 905-815-2020 or [transit@oakville.ca](mailto:transit@oakville.ca)  
Information: [www.oakvilletransit.ca](http://www.oakvilletransit.ca)  
Oakville care-A-van: 905-337-9222

For more information, visit [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca) or call 311.

# Mobility Scooter Safety Tips



2025

## Fast Facts

Older Adult Advisory Committee  
(OAAC)

## Your Safety begins 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.

Three-wheel scooters are designed for turning in tight spaces and are designed for indoor use. Four-wheel, rear-wheel drive models are more stable, and recommended for outdoor use on 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.

Home medical equipment suppliers will often offer test drives of various models and provide after sale and warranty service.

## Considerations before purchasing your scooter

Before you purchase a scooter, consider these factors:

- **Insurance:** Contact your insurance provider regarding liability and loss 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.
- **Seating:** Consider options (captain seat with headrest, armrest, etc.)
- **Portability:** Will the scooter be loaded into a vehicle or carried up stairs?
- **Power:** How far can you travel before the battery needs re-charging?
- **Braking:** How easily does the scooter stop?
- **Parking/storage:** Do you have a secure location to store your scooter?
- **Recharging:** Is there an electrical outlet for charging the battery?

### 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.

## Transporting your scooter

Before you buy, ensure that your supplier provides clear information on transporting your scooter.

- Is it easy to transport by car, van or taxi?
- How is it securely anchored? Does it have factory installed anchor points?
- 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 mobility scooter is classified as a pedestrian. Consequently, mobility scooters should only be operated on sidewalks and multi-use pathways.

- 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).

If sidewalks are not available, travel on the left side of the roadway facing traffic.

Mobility scooters should NOT be operated in roadway bike lanes.