Guidelines to assist you when Choosing a Hoist for the Home

Hoists are used to lift and carry a person between two points. When choosing a hoist the needs of both the person being lifted and the hoist operator should be considered.

The operator must undergo training in the correct use of the hoist and sling, to reduce the risk of injury to the user and themselves. The user needs to feel confident with the operator and the equipment.

- Hoist and sling load capacities vary. Use a hoist and sling capable of lifting and adequately supporting the user’s weight and size.
- Hoist lift ranges vary. Ensure the hoist can lift the user off the floor or out of a high bed if required.
- Larger diameter castors may make the hoist easier to manoeuvre but require greater clearance under or around furniture.
- Sufficient space is needed to manoeuvre the hoist. Check that the hoist can move between rooms, considering doorways, passageways and turning circles.
- Some hoists fold or dismantle for transportation or storage.
- It is important to ensure repair and maintenance facilities are available.

Mobile Hoist
A battery powered or hydraulic hoist used to lift and carry people who are unable to stand. It can raise and lower the user between the bed, chairs, toilet and the floor.

Multipurpose Hoist
Multipurpose hoists have interchangeable spreader bars that allow a variety of lifts. This includes lifts from a seated or lying position, to and from the floor, sitting to standing, walking training and lifting from motor vehicles.
Stand Up Mobile Hoist
These battery powered hoists lift a person up to a semi-standing position. It is useful for toileting and dressing tasks as it provides full access for attending to lower body garments. The person must be able to put some weight through both their legs.

Overhead Hoists

Single Track or XY Track
An electrically or battery powered hoist that runs on permanently installed ceiling or wall mounted tracks. It can either be fixed or portable, allowing it to be attached to different sections of track. Horizontal movement can be manually or electronically operated by the person in the sling.
- Can reduce physical strain on the hoist operator
- More expensive
- Structural alteration to the home may be required

Gantry
An electrically or battery powered free standing, transportable track. It is a temporary option when installation of a fixed track system is not possible.

Pool Hoist
A battery, hydraulic or water powered hoist that lifts a person using a sling, a seat or a standing platform in and out of a swimming pool.

For more information, please contact

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