

Twice a year

Check the frame for rust and cracks.

Take the chair to a trained wheelchair mechanic for a routine check-up.

After Sales Service and Maintenance

Consider the availability of a qualified technician and waiting times to service and repair.

Check availability of parts and service.

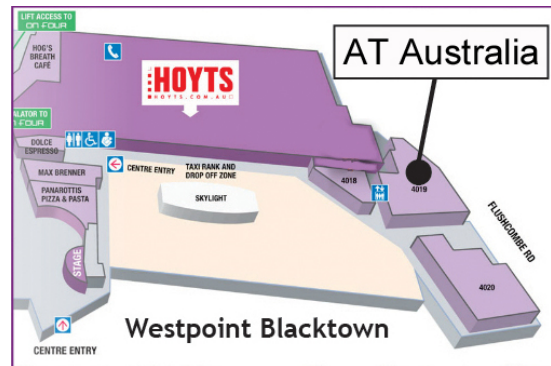
If living in a country area, consider whether the wheelchair will have to be serviced in the city (can a replacement wheelchair be obtained).

Many bicycle shops are able to replace tyres and check wheel spokes.

Disclaimer: The provision of this information does not constitute a recommendation. Responsibility for final selection of items rests with the individual.

Assistive Technology Australia
Shop 4019, Level 4
Westpoint Shopping Centre
17 Patrick Street
Blacktown NSW 2148

(previously known as Independent Living Centre NSW)



Info-Line: 1300 452 679
Reception: (02) 9912 5800
Fax: (02) 8814 9656
Email: help@at-aust.org
Web: www.at-aust.org

Supported by



Australian Government
Department of Health



Communities
& Justice

A brief guide to Manual Wheelchair Maintenance



Why should we do regular maintenance?

- Extend the lifespan
- Maintain the reliability
- Help ensure user safety
- Better performance
- Be more comfortable
- Look better
- Keep the user mobile

Maintenance Programme

- Store owner's manual in a safe place for future reference.
- Tools are worth investing in.
- A few must haves include: Allen key set, adjustable wrench, flat and Phillips head screw drivers and a tyre repair kit.
- Purchase a hand-pump to inflate tyres and carry it with you for air filled tyres.

Remember to deal with small problems as they arise or they will end up as large expensive repair jobs

Daily Maintenance

- Wipe chair down with clean damp rag.

Weekly Maintenance

- Check that wheel lock/brakes are secured tightly to the frame and are easily activated.
- Check tyre pressure.
- Clean and check front castors for wobbling, excessive play and alignment.
- Inspect wheels to ensure spokes from the axle to the rim are intact and that hand rims are not bent.
- Remove and wipe axles with a clean rag that has a few drops of oil on it.
- Clean upholstery with mild cleaning solution.

If you have any concerns contact your wheelchair supplier for advice

Monthly Maintenance

- Clean metal parts of the chair thoroughly. Use a car polish to make the next cleaning easier.
 - Check for wear and tear of upholstery (sag, tear, splits). Nourish vinyl covers to prevent deterioration.
 - Check for loose nuts and bolts. Tighten all screws on the wheelchair frame including ones on the upholstery, armrests, and footplates.
 - Check wheel alignment.
 - Check tread on tyres and if smooth, replace.
 - Check that all spokes on wheel are tight and evenly tensioned.
 - Do the wheels and castors rotate smoothly?
 - Check the easy release and replacement mechanism of removable leg rests, footrests, armrests and backrests.
 - Check that quick-release axles on wheels remove easily.
-