Know and Maintain Your Rigid Manual Wheelchair

Wheelchair maintenance can reduce wheelchair breakdowns, injury and related consequences, as well as costs for repairs and replacement.

Visit the Wheelchair Maintenance Guide on MSKTC.org for more resources about wheelchair inspection and maintenance: https://msktc.org/sci-topics/wheelchair-information

Note: The diagram shows common wheelchair parts. Your wheelchair may not have all the parts shown here. Refer to your wheelchair’s manual for guidance.

WEEKLY
- Inspect cushion and cover
- Inspect tire pressure (pneumatic ONLY)

MONTHLY
- Casters
  - Clean and inspect caster bearings
  - Inspect anti-tip
- Cushion
  - Wipe down cushion and cover
- Frame
  - Inspect cross-brace, suspension, and welds
  - Wipe down frame
- Rear Wheels
  - Inspect alignment, bearings, hand rim, brake, quick-release axle, spokes, and tires
  - Wipe down and lubricate rear wheel axle
- Supports
  - Inspect arm, back, and foot supports
  - Inspect clothing guard
  - Inspect upholstery (including stitching & rivets)
  - Wipe down upholstery and supports

Click for Maintenance and Inspection Details.

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Source: The content in this infographic is based on research evidence and/or professional consensus and has been reviewed and approved by experts from the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

Disclaimer: This information is not meant to replace the advice of a medical professional. You should consult your health care provider regarding specific medical concerns or treatment. The contents of this infographic were developed under grants from NIDILRR (grant numbers: 90DP0082, 90DP0078 and 90S153014). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this infographic do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, or HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

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