

Looking after your mobile shower chair or transfer bench

After you have received your mobile shower chair or transfer bench, it is important to monitor its maintenance requirements.

Regular care and maintenance: THE SEAT

Ensuring the seat remains in good condition helps prevent pressure injuries.

What do I need to look for?

- Is the seat cover (e.g. vinyl, dartex) in good condition, or has it become brittle?
- Is the foam still soft and spongy or has it hardened?
- Are there any cracks in the cover? Cracks can let in water, resulting in the foam becoming water-logged and harder. Cracks can also allow bacteria and fungus to build up in the seat.
- Can you feel the plywood base board through the seat cover? The foam should wrap around the plywood board at the aperture (hole). If you have persistent marking where your skin contacts the aperture rim, the foam may have moved, increasing the risk of pressure injuries occurring.



Checking the padding around the aperture

Tip: To check on the softness of the cover and foam, compare the rear or side edge of the seat with the part you sit on. If your seat is deteriorating, you are likely to feel a significant difference. This can happen gradually, so it may go unnoticed unless you check regularly.

How often should I check the seat?

- It is a good idea to get into the habit of checking the seat every month. Note it on your calendar so you don't forget.

What should I do if the seat has deteriorated?

- Contact your local occupational therapist (OT) or Spinal Outreach Team (SPOT) OTs with the following information - make/model of your showering aid, when it was supplied, who scripted it and funded it.
- It can take some months to get a new seat, so it is best to contact your OT well before the seat becomes unsafe for your skin.

SPINAL INJURIES UNIT

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OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT

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Regular care and maintenance: THE FRAME

What do I need to look for?

- Check for rust, loose screws, missing washers and other signs of wear and tear.
- For transfer benches, check the rubber feet for wear and tear. If badly worn, the bench is likely to slip during transfers.
- For mobile shower chairs, check the wheels and castors. Clean soap scum and hairs from the castors, and check all brakes are aligned and in working order.

How often should I check the frame?

- It is a good idea to get into the habit of checking and cleaning the frame every month when you check the seat.

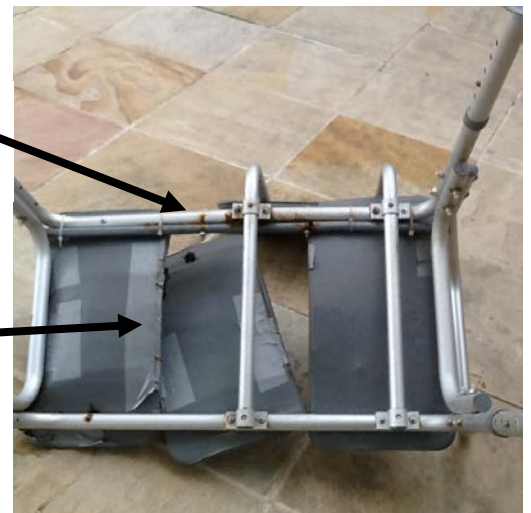
What should I do if the frame has deteriorated?

- You may be able to organise running repairs yourself, such as tightening screws, replacing washers and rubber feet on the legs.
- Contact the funding body immediately you notice problems that may make the mobile shower chair, or transfer bench unsafe to use.
- Contact the supplier if the item was privately purchased.

Tip: Often the funding body will send you a letter at the time of funding approval, which notes details about the item, including its plaque number (if MASS funded), the item description and the supplier details. Keep this in a safe, easily accessible place so you can refer to this when organising repairs or replacement.

These rusted screws are no longer holding the seat in place, making this bench unsafe to use.

Unsuccessful use of tape on seat to cover rough edges and prevent water getting in.



Useful contacts for MASS repairs:

- Phone: 3136 3524
- Email: MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au

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