

Choosing the right Power Wheelchair

The information below is meant to provide a general overview of the most common power wheelchairs on the market. Please contact us with any questions 800-854-9303.

Power base with removable seating system

Pros: Come in a wide variety to suit almost any user

Cons: Expensive and more difficult to transport

There are two different types of seats



Captain's Chair



"Rehab" Seat

- Both pictures show the same Jazzy 1122 power base. Both the captain's chair and the rehab seat (Jazzy branded their rehab top the Synergy Seat) can be ordered in various in sizes.
- Bases vary in a number of ways which may be important to note. Weight limit, dimensions, turning radius, maximum allowable seat size, maximum speed, standard with or having the ability to add upgraded electronics may be important to some customers.
- "Rehab" tops are designed to accept most specialty backs and high end cushions. This type of seating system is best for anyone with seating issues or progressive disorders which may require supportive systems at a later date.
- Bases are also known by the type of drive system utilized ex. rear wheel drive, center wheel drive and mid wheel drive models. The benefits of these systems are touted by each manufacturer. To really know if the differences are meaningful to you it is best to actually try one.
- Many bases break down further after the tops are removed for easier transporting.
- Some bases will not accept rehab tops
- Don't forget to order the tires with flat free inserts!

Folding Chairs

Pros: Inexpensive and lighter weight than other types of power chairs

Cons: Not as durable as non-folding chairs.



Once the batteries are removed the chair can be folded much like a manual chair. The whole process can be completed in less than a minute. Upholstery seating, the same as manual wheelchair seats, are used but not recommended for consistently sitting for long periods.

- Most have a weight limit of 250 lbs
- Seat sizes from 16" x 16" to 20" x 16"
- Comes with standard electronics and cannot be upgraded.

Other Options



Other common options include power tilt systems and seat lift options. The seat lift allows the user to raise the seat up several inches to provide greater access. Tilt systems are important for those with pressure issues or a Drastic drops in blood pressure a common complication in spinal cord injuries.