

Buying a stair lift



This easy read tells you about buying a stair lift if using the stairs at home is difficult.

Types of stair lifts



The stair lift must be right for the type of stairs that you have.



There must be enough room to travel upstairs without catching your arms and legs.



Stair lifts must be able to go around curved stairs.



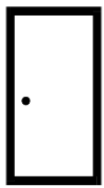
They must be able to swivel so the chair faces away from the stairs to let you get off.



There are manual or powered swivels depending on if you can twist by yourself.



Stair lifts must be able to go beyond the stairs to let you get off away from the stairs.



If there is a doorway near the end of the track, the track can be hinged or moved to so it doesn't block the doorway.



There are different types of controls. This includes joy sticks, buttons, and switches. You need to think about which hand would be better to use them.

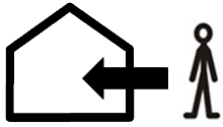


Stair lifts have a maximum weight limit, and you should know what this is before you buy your stair lift.

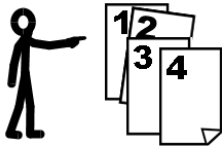
Try before you buy



Make sure you can use the type of strap with the stair lift before you buy it.



You can visit an Equipment Demonstration Centre who can give you **impartial** advice to help you choose the right stair lift for you.



Impartial means they don't want you to pick one stair lift or another.



Look on [the Disabled Living Foundation's web page](#) to see if there is a centre nearby.



You can see information about the [Disabled Living Foundation on the NHS directory](#).



Many stair lift companies have showrooms where you can try different types of lifts.



When buying a stair lift, you should think about servicing and warranty options, including an extended warranty, what the

warranty covers and the company's out of hours service.



If you need help understanding servicing and warranties, ask someone who supports you.

Buying a second-hand stair lift



If you are buying a second-hand stair lift, you should buy it from a company that makes stair lifts or an authorised company that sells reconditioned stair lifts.



This is because the stair lifts will have been checked to make sure they are safe.



The company may also be able to give you a guarantee and a warranty.

Thinking about your long-term needs



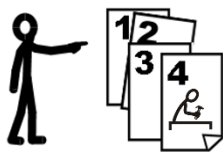
Having a stair lift put in your home can cost a lot of money.

- A straight stair lift can cost around £2,000.
- A curved stair lift can cost £6,000.
- Second-hand stair lifts can cost around £1,500.



You should make sure your stair lift meets your needs now, and needs you may have in the future.

Choosing a contractor



When choosing a contractor, it is useful to get quotes from at least 2 companies so that you have a choice.



Nottinghamshire County Council works in partnership with [Checkatrade](#) to help people choose a trader they can trust.

Are you entitled to VAT relief?



Find out if you are entitled to VAT relief on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

More support



If you need an Occupational Therapy assessment, please get in touch with Nottinghamshire County Council's Customer Service Centre.

Customer Service Centre



Our Customer Service Centre can answer most of your questions and help with information and form filling.

There are several ways to contact them, including:



Web: [Use our online contact form](#)



Telephone: 0300 500 80 80



Text Relay: 18001 0115 977 4050

People who have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to communicate via text can use the Text Relay service through the [Relay UK app](#).



Sign Video

People who use British Sign Language to communicate can use [the SignVideo app](#) to speak with us.

Links in this document

Disabled Living Foundation website (Living Made Easy)

livingmadeeasy.org.uk/

Disabled Living Foundation- NHS Directory

nhs.uk/services/service-directory/disabled-living-foundation/N10502051

Checktrade

checktrade.com/

VAT relief

gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief

Relay UK app

relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html

SignVideo app

signvideo.co.uk/download

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Buying a stair lift | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/adult-social-care/social-care-publications/buying-a-stair-lift>

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