



REMINDER

Wheelchairs: Cleaning

Description of Issue and Importance

People depend on their wheelchairs. They should work well and fit comfortably, which helps keep the individual in the wheelchair safe. A wheelchair that does not work well is more likely to function incorrectly, break, or wear out. A dirty wheelchair shows a lack of appropriate care and respect for the individual using the wheelchair.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

- A wheelchair needs to be kept clean at all times.
- Following routine and on-the-spot cleaning, check for the safe and correct function of the parts that have been cleaned.
- The user manual for the equipment explains how to clean and dry the equipment and what cleaning supplies should be used. If you do not have access to the user manual for the wheelchair you are cleaning, ask that a copy be made available for you.
- All staff who assist an individual are also responsible for the correct use and care of the equipment the individual uses.
- Know who to call or what to do if you need cleaning supplies or cleaning instructions for the equipment that you assist individuals to use.
- Know who to call or what to do if you find something broken or missing during wheelchair cleaning.

Related Resources

Wheelchairs series Reminders: "Safety & Maintenance", "Seating & Mobility Evaluation", "Staff Training". Wheelchair series Checklists: "Manual Wheelchair Maintenance and Safety Checklist", "Tilt in Space Wheelchair Maintenance and Safety Checklist", "Power Wheelchair Maintenance and Safety Checklist"

References

Cooper R. A. (2013). *The basics of manual wheelchair maintenance*. PN Online. Retrieved 10/23/2015 from: http://pvamag.com/pn/article/5810/the_basics_of_manual_wheelchair_maintenance

Monro, A. & Mulley, G. (2004). *Examine a Wheelchair*. *Practical Neurology*, 4, 36-43. Retrieved 10/23/2015 from: <http://pn.bmj.com/content/4/1/36.full.pdf+html>