

Mobility Scooters

At PCHA we recognise that use of mobility scooters can reduce social isolation and significantly enhance independence and quality of life. Although PCHA does not have an obligation to provide scooter storage, we will work with and support our residents to use and store their mobility scooters safely and considerately wherever possible.

What is a Mobility Scooter?

For the purposes of our policy, a mobility scooter is defined as an electric scooter or electric wheelchair designed specifically for outdoor use; this does not apply to lightweight wheelchairs suitable for indoor use. Our Mobility Scooter policy applies to any resident who requires or owns a mobility scooter.

Our Objectives

PCHA will, wherever possible, support residents who require a mobility scooter. However, there are a number of aspects about the storage, parking and charging of such scooters which must be taken into account.

Permission

Whilst we recognise the value of a mobility scooter for some of our residents, you must seek permission for a mobility scooter from PCHA prior to its purchase in order to ensure that there is sufficient space to store it and therefore not cause a health, safety or fire risk in our neighbourhoods or schemes.

Permission for a mobility scooter is likely to be refused where:

- There is no safe storage in your home and no alternative storage and charging space can be provided
- A major physical alteration to the property/scheme is required which we believe to be unreasonable in terms of cost and/or disruption to other residents
- You have failed to take out the necessary insurance cover or provide the relevant documentation

Proof of any necessary registration with the DVLA is not provided.

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PCHA will undertake a risk assessment when a request for permission for a scooter is received. As part of the permission residents are required to sign a commitment to comply with a schedule of safety and responsible use requirements.

If a scooter is being stored or charged on PCHA property without the appropriate permission, PCHA reserves the right to seek its removal.

We also reserve the right to withdraw permission for an area to be used for mobility scooter storage should it be required for an alternative use in the future or as a result of a subsequent risk assessment.

PCHA may withdraw permission for a mobility scooter if it has not been used for six months and the storage space is needed by another resident or if proof of insurance is not provided if required.

Storage of Mobility Scooters

Mobility scooters must be stored and charged in your home where possible. Scooters must not be stored in communal areas where they may be a trip or fire hazard and PCHA reserves the right to remove any scooters which are causing a hazard.

We appreciate that it is often not possible for residents to store mobility scooters in their own home and therefore we will work with you to explore alternative means of safe storage wherever possible. Storage options may include a garage, outside with a suitable waterproof cover, within a purpose-built store or in a converted existing storage space.

If ramps or other adjustments are required to ensure safe use of a mobility scooter, this must be discussed and agreed with PCHA prior to installation and specialist advice from an Occupational Therapist may be required.

Where an additional electricity socket is required to allow a resident to store and charge a mobility scooter in their own home, this will be dealt with in line with our Aids and Adaptations Policy.

In the event that permission is given for a mobility scooter battery to be charged via a communal electricity supply, the resident will be required to pay a reimbursement fee to PCHA.



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Mobility scooters must be kept in a state of good repair and good working order to minimise fire risks associated with poor maintenance.

Mobility scooters must not be left unused or abandoned within PCHA's properties. Any mobility scooter believed to have been abandoned or not used for six months will be stickered with a "warning" notice and removed if not claimed. Costs of removal will be recharged to the resident.

Insurance

Whilst there is no legal requirement for insurance for Class 1 and Class 2 mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs, residents should be aware that they will be liable to pay compensation or for third party claims if their mobility scooter is involved in an accident, if personal injury is caused to a third party, or if damage is caused to any PCHA property, e.g., walls, doors or lifts.

PCHA accepts no liability for the theft of, or damage caused to, any mobility scooter on PCHA's premises.

Proof of insurance will be required before permission is given for a mobility scooter and will be required annually thereafter.

Registration with the DVLA

Residents who acquire a mobility scooter must ensure that it is registered with the DVLA if required. Registration requirements are currently:

Class 1 – Manual wheelchairs – not required

Class 2 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters intended for footway use only, maximum speed 4mph, maximum unladen weight of 113.4 kg – not required

Class 3 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters – intended for use on roads and highways, maximum speed 8mph, and maximum unladen weight of 150kg – registration with DVLA required.

Advice on current registration requirements can be obtained from:

Vehicle Customer Services at DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1AR,

Telephone: 870 240 0010, Email: vehicles.dvla@gtnet.gov.uk

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Responsible Use

We expect residents who own mobility scooters to use them considerately and be mindful of other residents, members of staff, guests and members of the public. If a resident is seen to be using their mobility scooter irresponsibly or not adhering to PCHA's requirements, we reserve the right to withdraw our permission and seek the removal of the scooter.

Residents are encouraged to purchase mobility scooters from reputable specialist suppliers who will provide advice and training on their safe use.

If a resident causes any damage to PCHA property when using a mobility scooter, the resident will be recharged for any costs in line with our Recharge Policy.

Further Information?

If you have any queries or comments about this policy or are considering acquiring a mobility scooter, please contact us on **020 8659 3055** or via housing@pcha.co.uk