

WHEELCHAIRS: CLEANING

Description of Issue and Importance

People depend on their wheelchairs. It has to “look good, smell good, work well and fit well”. A wheelchair that doesn’t “look good or smell good” is more likely to function incorrectly, break or wear out. A dirty wheelchair shows a lack of appropriate care and respect for the person 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 a person are also responsible for the correct use and care of the equipment the person uses.
- Know who to call or what to do if you need cleaning supplies or cleaning instructions for the equipment that you assist persons 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”
Outreach Training Calendar and Event Schedule <https://ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/Events>

Outreach Services

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For related reminders and resources, please visit DDRSOutreach.IN.gov.



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