



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Housing Services

A guide to mobility vehicles in your home





We recognise that mobility vehicles are valuable in helping people of all ages maintain their independence in the face of mobility problems.

If you use a mobility vehicle, it's important to think about how best to store it. This will keep your vehicle safe - and more importantly, it will keep you and your neighbours safe. There are only certain mobility vehicles that can be safely stored in your home, the majority should be stored and charged away from your home to reduce fire risks.

Inappropriate storage and charging of mobility vehicles can increase the chances of trips and falls, increase fire risks, and could hamper escape routes.

Please remember that mobility vehicles can be dangerous to other members of the public if they are not operated properly and carefully so you should always use them and store them safely.

What should I think about before buying a mobility vehicle?

It's a good idea to consider a number of factors before buying a mobility vehicle. Things to think about include:

- Can you store it safely?
- How will you charge it?
- If you had to leave your home quickly in an emergency, would it cause an obstruction?
- How big is it?
- Is your garden large enough to take a storage unit?
- If your building has a storage area is there space?
- How much would your insurance be, and can you afford it?

- How will you get it tested each year?
- How much are replacement parts (charging cables etc)?

Where should I store my mobility vehicle?

You must make sure it is not stored somewhere that would block an exit route from a building. You must not store your vehicle in your property as it can be a fire risk to you and others, unless it is suitable for both internal and external use.

Fire and rescue services in the UK warn that they, if involved in a fire, can release large amounts of toxic smoke or gases. This can be dangerous both to residents and to the emergency services. For this reason, they must not be stored, charged or parked in communal areas including corridors and stairwells or in your property.

If you're buying a store for use in your garden, make sure it's purpose-built - it will need to be fire resistant.

In some buildings, such as sheltered housing there may be a designated storage area. This will have been designed and set aside for this purpose, and so they may safely be stored and charged there. There may be a waiting list to have a space in these, you should talk to your Scheme Manager before

purchasing a mobility vehicle. Please note these storage areas are for tenants only, we are unable to allow visitors to store their mobility vehicles in these areas.

If you have a mobility vehicle, you should not store it inside your home unless it is suitable for internal and external use, such as a motorised wheelchair. You must ensure it doesn't block any exits, cause a tripping hazard or cause damage from your home. You also must not charge them in the communal area such as a hallway, corridor or stairwell.

If your home has a private garden, you could store your mobility vehicle outside. Fire safety experts recommend that they should be parked at least six metres away from buildings.

You must request permission from us to install an external storage area and we would need copies of the electrical certificates for the charging points for our records.

Will you adapt my home to allow for a mobility vehicle?

It is not always possible for us to adapt a current or prospective tenants' home for a mobility vehicle, we will work closely with you to find suitable, alternative accommodation when this occurs, and we will do everything to support tenants through the moving process.

To find out more information about adaptations and aids to your home please see our webpages or our leaflet "Adaptations in your home - A guide for Council Tenants".

Do I need insurance?

If you've got a mobility vehicle, you'll need to insure it.

Your insurance should cover theft, as well as injury to yourself and other people. If your mobility vehicle damages our property, we'll claim for the cost through your insurance company. If you don't have insurance, you'll be charged by us for the costs involved in fixing the damage.

If you live in one of our sheltered, or extra care

facilities you'll be required to provide us with a copy of your insurance certificate.

Our insurance provider RSA covers home contents including mobility vehicles, to find out more about this scheme please go to www.darlington.gov.uk/housing/manage-your-home/your-home/home-contents-insurance/.

What advice can you give me about charging it?

When charging your mobility vehicle follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If your home has a designated communal area for mobility vehicle storage and charging, your vehicle will need to undergo a Portable Appliance Test (often known as a PAT test) to make sure it's safe.

If you live in a sheltered or extra care facility and use the storage area, we will carry out this PAT test for you. We do not recharge tenants for the costs associated with testing.

Your Scheme Manager will inform you of the date for the test, you must ensure the charging equipment is available on the day. If you miss the testing it will

be your responsibility to get the charging equipment tested before it can be used again within the scheme's storage area.

We would also recommend you carry out regular visual inspections on the electrical equipment to look for any faults.

We recommend your vehicle is suitably maintained and tested on a yearly basis. Any spare parts such as charging cables should be purchased from your vehicle provider to ensure that approved parts are used which will help to reduce the fire risk.

What about visitors with mobility vehicles?

As a tenant you are responsible for ensuring any guests to your home use their mobility vehicle safely and responsibly. They should not cause damage, obstructions or put anyone's safety at risk when visiting you.

Visiting guests are not permitted to use dedicated storage areas, or any other communal area for charging their motorised vehicle or storing.

You will be recharged if your visitor damages any Council owned property.

How do I apply for a space in a dedicated mobility vehicle storage area in my scheme?

You should talk with your Scheme Manager before buying a mobility vehicle to make sure there is space in the storage area. We cannot guarantee that there will be a vacancy.

Allocation of storage space for mobility vehicles will take place on a first come, first served basis. If there is adequate space in the storage areas, you may be authorised to store multiple vehicles but when demand exceeds space you would be asked to reduce this to one.

If you would like to request permission to store and charge your mobility vehicle within the scheme's storage area, you should complete a permission form which your Scheme Manager will provide.

If you are found to be mis-using the storage area for any reason you will be given a 30-day period to rectify the issue/s, or you may be asked to remove the mobility vehicle from the scheme.

Housing Services reserves the right to withdraw permission for using the mobility vehicle storage area at any time if any of the conditions are not met.










Which sheltered or extra care schemes have dedicated mobility vehicle storage?

The following schemes have a mobility vehicle store facility:

- Dalkeith House
- Rockwell House
- Ted Fletcher Court
- Windsor Court
- Branksome Hall
- Oban Court
- Linden Court
- Dinsdale Court
- Rosemary Court
- Roxby Court



Useful contacts

Organisation	Type	Contact details	Website/email
Darlington Borough Council	Housing Services	Town Hall Feethams Darlington DL1 5QT Tel: 01325 405333	 www.darlington.gov.uk/housing
			 housing@darlington.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	Complaints, compliment and comments	Town Hall Feethams Darlington DL1 5QT Tel: 01325 406777	 www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/complaints-compliments-and-comments/
			 complaints@darlington.gov.uk
Darlington Association on Disability	Services, support and information	20 - 22 Horsemarket Darlington DL1 5PT Tel: 01325 489999	 darlingtondisability.org/
			 mail@darlingtondisability.org
AgeUK Darlington	Support for older people	Bradbury House Beaumont Street West Darlington DL1 5SX Tel: 01325 362832	 www.ageuknyd.org.uk
			 enquiries@ageuknyd.org.uk
Darlington Borough Council	Adult Social Care	Town Hall Feethams Darlington DL1 5QT Tel: 01325 406111	 www.darlington.gov.uk/adult-social-care/

Housing Services contact details



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www.darlington.gov.uk/housing



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