



When possible, have an occupational therapist or physiotherapist assist you in selecting a scooter that best meets your needs.

Factors to consider when selecting a scooter include the following:

- **Size** – turning ability, wheel size for terrain you will be traveling on (indoor, outdoor, both), the size and width of hallways and entranceways.
- **3 or 4 wheels** – 3 wheeled scooters are designed for maximum maneuverability and are mainly used indoors. 4 wheeled models are recommended for outdoor travel.
- **Power** – how fast will it go (could be dangerous for the operator if the device travels faster than the conditions warrant), how far will it travel between re-charging, braking system (how long will it take to stop).
- **Parking and Storage** – where will the scooter be stored, is there an electrical outlet available in the storage area.
- **Comfort** – consider the seating, backrest, etc.
- **Anti-tip protection** – some models have anti-tip protection wheels in the back that keep them from tipping over when maneuvering.

This informational brochure has been prepared for general information only.

If you have any questions about the content of this brochure, please contact:

The By-Law Enforcement Branch
at the:

Town of Bracebridge
1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

telephone: (705) 645-5264
administration fax: (705) 645-1262

For information regarding the Bracebridge Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), please contact the Development Services Department at the Town of Bracebridge or visit the Town's website:
www.bracebridge.ca and look under "Residents - Accessibility."

Personal Mobility Devices (Scooters) In Bracebridge Safe Operating Guidelines



Safe Operation Considerations:

Learn To Use Your Scooter

Under Ontario law, scooters are classified as “pedestrians” and operators of the devices must follow the same rules as other pedestrians. This means that operators must:

- Travel on a sidewalk wherever a sidewalk is provided. Where sidewalks are not provided, operators must travel on the far left side of the roadway facing traffic.
- Cross a roadway at a pedestrian crosswalk and only when safe to do so.
- When no crosswalk is available, operators must stop, look both ways and proceed only when all approaching vehicles have come to a full stop.
- Make eye contact with motorists or pedestrians before crossing their path to confirm their intention to stop.
- Obey all traffic control signs and devices.
- Avoid operation of scooters on any designated “bicycle only” lane.

Be a Courteous Pedestrian:

Those using scooters should:

- Slow down when traveling around pedestrians and avoid traveling too closely behind or obstructing them.
- Be aware that some scooters have the ability to travel much faster than pedestrians and may therefore startle unsuspecting pedestrians when passing them.
- Keep to the right on sidewalk and avoid honking your horn when passing pedestrians – ask people to let you pass instead.
- Use caution when traveling close to store fronts. If you are too close to a building, someone could walk into you as they are leaving the building.

Transporting Your Scooter:

- When choosing a scooter, consider whether the device can be easily transported in a car, truck, van or using public transit (where provided).
- Choosing the wrong scooter may require ongoing disassembly/reassembly in order to transport it.

Prepare To Operate:

- It is essential that you know how to safely operate your scooter before venturing out into the public. Read the user's guide thoroughly and practice in a quiet parking lot or other area with a level and stable surface.
- After reading the user's guide and practicing, have somebody accompany you on foot or scooter for the first few trips in case you require assistance.
- When possible, have the occupational therapist, physiotherapist or other health care practitioner or equipment supplier spend some time with you prior to or after the purchase to show you how to safely use your scooter.

Be Prepared

Carry a cellular phone and contact telephone numbers with you in case you encounter unexpected situations.

Safe Maneuvering of Curb Cuts

Take curb cuts, driveways and ramps “head on” and always drive on the most level area of the curb cut, even if it means moving outside of the crosswalk lines. If you drive sideways on a curb cut, you could topple over.

Know Your Area

Become familiar with the safest and most navigable routes in your neighbourhood. Be aware of the locations of curbs that do not have curb cuts or streets that do not have sidewalks so you can avoid these routes when possible.

Be Visible

To promote visibility while using your scooter you should:

- Wear brightly coloured clothing.
- Secure a blaze orange bicycle flag on the back of the scooter.
- Install lights on the front and rear of the scooter.
- Place reflective striping on the front, rear and sides of the scooter.
- Secure a safety vest onto the seat.