
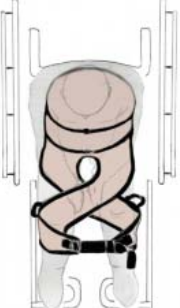





## Evacuating someone Unable to Walk or Injured with the Comfort Carrier

*From a Seated Position*

	<p><b>1. Slide Comfort Carrier Down behind Tailbone</b></p> <p>Lean person forward while seated in wheelchair (or any other seat). Slide Comfort Carrier down behind person's back until the top-most part of the curve between leg flaps touches the seat cushion behind and beneath person's tailbone.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Pull leg flaps straight along outside of person's legs. Avoid pulling excessively to cause the person's butt to slide forward out of wheelchair seat.</p>
	<p><b>3. Crisscross Leg Flaps under Thighs</b></p> <p>Cross one flap underneath both thighs to exit near the knee on the opposite side. Grasp the loop handle and give it a firm tug causing the flap to straighten and pull tight against the person's opposite hip. The flap should now be lying flat without folds or wrinkles underneath the person.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Repeat step #3, crossing the second flap under both thighs and the first flap. The two flaps should now be forming an "X" under the person.</p>
	<p><b>5. Fasten Buckles</b></p> <p>Buckle two flaps together in front of and below person's knees. Buckle the waist belt around hips. Buckle chest strap below person's armpits or optionally around the outside of their shoulders/upper arms. Tighten all three straps to desired comfort.</p>
	<p><b>6. Front &amp; Back Lifting Method</b></p> <p>This transfer method has one lifter positioned in the front facing the person being transferred. They grasp both loop handles alongside the knees. The second lifter (or two people if available) is/are positioned behind the chair and lift on the hip or shoulder loop handles. This method works especially well for navigating narrow stairways (knees pointing down the stairs) or when moving from the chair sideways to another location such as an aircraft seat, another wheelchair, hand cycle, or from the wheelchair to a hotel bed or air mattress when camping and back again.</p>
	<p><b>6b. Side Lifting Method</b></p> <p>This transfer method has a lifter positioned on either side, with one hand grasping the loop handle beside the knee and the second hand grasping the loop handle either beside the hip or shoulder blades/armpit. This method works especially well on wide stairs (person's back facing top of stairs) and where the person is being carried a distance to the destination such as swimming: from wheelchair, across beach and into the water.</p> <p>With larger individuals, lifting can also be performed by 4 people positioned one on each corner. Someone physically unable to assist with lifting can be very helpful by simply monitoring position of feet.</p>

### **Using the Comfort Carrier with someone in a Prone Position**

The process is essentially the same for an individual lying on their back in a prone position as one seated in a chair. Fold the Comfort Carrier in half lengthwise. Roll the person on one side and tuck the Comfort Carrier underneath them so that the fold is aligned with the spine and the top edge with the armpits or shoulder blades. Allow them to roll flat on their back and reach under from the opposite side pulling the Comfort Carrier through so it is positioned evenly on both sides with them lying on top of the Comfort Carrier.

Crisscross the leg flaps underneath the thighs bringing the flaps up around the outsides of the knees and buckle over the top of the knees. Buckle the waist and chest straps adjusting for comfort. If the person is on an elevated surface such as a bed or dressing table, one may use the loop handles to slide the person towards the edge so their legs below the knees are hanging over the edge. Use the loop handles under the armpits to pull the person up into a sitting position, supporting them as necessary. Lift and carry using the Side Lifting Method described above. If the person is on the ground, lift and carry using either preferred method described above.

### **Post Evacuation Transportation and Positioning**

Once all are safe, if at all possible to do safely, retrieve the individual's wheelchair as it could take weeks/months to replace.

*Ground Transportation:* The Comfort Carrier will make it much easier to place the individual in any available automobile for transportation to a safer location, or to the nearest hospital if the person is injured and an ambulance is unavailable. The hip loops can be used for positioning the person side to side. If individual is in a slouched position or unable to sit upright, be sure the leg flaps are buckled just below and in front of the knees then simply lift on the loop handles behind the shoulders to slide the butt back in the seat and put them in a more upright sitting position. If the person lacks torso stability and is likely to tip sideways going around a corner, use a rope, strap, or even spare article of clothing to loop through the Comfort Carrier handles behind the shoulders and up around the seat's headrest. This will allow the Comfort Carrier to help support the person.

*Shelters, Hospitals, & Temporary Residence:* After rescue and evacuation, the Comfort Carrier can be utilized in place of many other specialty devices that may not be available to make otherwise inaccessible hospitals, shelters, or other places of temporary residence usable. It can assist in moving injured and disabled individuals up and down stairs, to a bed, cot, air mattress, or even the ground to and back to a wheelchair.

### **Usage Precautions**

The Comfort Carrier is manufactured in the USA of high quality, durable, 100% synthetic fabrics. It is capable of bearing a 400 lb. weight load, *but the ultimate limitation lies in the physical capabilities of those lifting.* Never attempt to lift more than you are able! The Comfort Carrier has been individually inspected before shipping to identify any obvious manufacturing errors. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, salt water, and other environmental conditions, water washing temperature, detergents and disinfectants, end user incontinence, frequency of use, types and weights of users, etc., all can have an impact on its life expectancy. Because of these factors, the integrity of the product is NOT guaranteed. The institution or private user must and is completely responsible to therefore examine the product to ensure its integrity before each use. The PURCHASER and USER implicitly through use accept full responsibility for confirming condition of Comfort Carrier before each use.

### **Warranty and Recommended Replacement**

Broadened Horizons offers a 1 year manufacturer's warranty on the Comfort Carrier and recommends replacement after 2-3 years depending on use and environment, or if any portion, especially stitching, shows any sign of damage or wear.

### **Cleaning and Laundering Instructions**

*The Comfort Carrier's canvas is treated to resist soiling but may still require periodic cleaning. Often it can be wiped down and allowed to dry with any properly diluted EPA approved germicidal cleaning solution or quaternaries (i.e. 70% isopropyl of Ethyl alcohol). If badly soiled, the Comfort Carrier can be laundered following these instructions for the longest product life:*

- *Do not bleach! Do not iron.*
- *To prevent stains from setting, rinse 5 min. in body temperature water (80°-100° F).*
- *Air-drying is recommended, but may be tumble dried on lowest setting (140°-180°F max).*
- *To machine wash and dry, snap plastic buckles together to prevent damage and use a laundry bag whenever possible.*
- *Washing temperature 160° F. max. Afterwards, RINSE THOROUGHLY in 100° F water.*
- *If high alkaline detergent is used (with pH greater than 11.0), rinse twice.*