
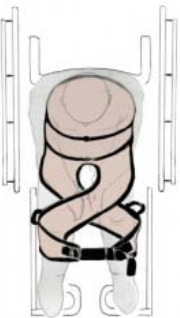





Using the Broadened Horizons' Comfort Carrier

From a Seated Position (i.e. Wheelchair User)

	<p>1. Slide Comfort Carrier Down behind Tailbone</p> <p>Lean person forward while seated in wheelchair (or any other seat). Slide Comfort Carrier down behind persons back until the top-most part of the curve between like flaps touches the seat cushion behind and beneath person's tailbone.</p> <p>2. 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>3. Crisscross Leg Flaps under Thighs</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>4. Repeat step #3, crossing the second flap under both thighs and the first flap. The two flaps should now be forming an "X" underneath the person.</p>
	<p>5. Fasten Buckles</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>6. Front & Back Lifting Method</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>6b. Side Lifting Method</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 on each corner. Someone physically unable to assist with lifting can be very helpful by simply monitoring position of feet.</p>

From a Prone Position

The process is essentially the same for an individual lying on their back in a prone position. 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 it.

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.

Assisted Sliding Board Transfer

When the person assisting with personal cares is unable to perform a manual sliding board type transfer safely, this method can create and simplified travel opportunities. Always practice before traveling with a therapist's guidance and clarify special needs and requests before making hotel reservations. Hotel staff may only be available during certain times. With a courteous, properly described request many hotels are willing to provide limited assistance. It should be explained the staff person will only be asked to come to the room for a minute to simply pull a loop handle to help slide the person across from bed into their wheelchair. If concern is expressed, explain the staff does not need to touch or lift the person in any way.

Be sure the wheelchair is positioned close alongside the bed. Position the sliding board as appropriate from the wheelchair seat cushion to under the hip of the person to be transferred. The primary assistant typically supports the person to be transferred in a sitting position on the side of the bed by putting the assistant's head along the side and underneath the arm of the person to be transferred, allowing them to lean forward on the assistant's shoulder while essentially hugging them. Have the second person grasp the Comfort Carrier hip handle closest to the wheelchair and pull the person across the sliding board into the wheelchair.

Transportation and Positioning

After transferring into a seat such as in a commercial airliner, be sure the leg flaps are buckled just below and in front of the knees. Then simply lift on the loop handles behind the back to sit the person upright in the seat. The hip loops can be used for positioning the person side to side. As long as there are no wrinkles or twists under the person which the treated canvas helps minimize, the Comfort Carrier can be worn in position during the flight, etc. depending on the individual's susceptibility to pressure sores, the length of the flight, and comfort. Loosen or open the three buckles for comfort. Re-buckle for transfer at the destination. With the Comfort Carrier in position, if there were an emergency and the airplane, train, bus, etc. needed to be evacuated, anyone nearby can simply grab the handles and help evacuate the disabled individual to safety.

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 thereby upon use accept full responsibility for checking the condition of the Comfort Carrier before each and every 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.*

Suggestions for Wheelchair Users Flying Commercially

- Confirm cargo door size on smaller regional planes before booking as power wheelchairs don't always fit!
- Notify the boarding agent as early as possible that you will require an aisle chair and transfer assistance from 3 individuals. Describe very clearly how long you expect it will take to get boarded. Don't let them rush you, because they will. The boarding staff always seem to believe it's just a five-minute matter of grabbing you and tossing you into the seat but experience has taught it often takes upwards of 15 minutes
- Remove everything possible from the wheelchair including cushion, backrest, footrests and have the stewardesses put the parts in the overhead bins or first-class closet. Tape up anything that is loose such as wires. US law requires them to accommodate any adaptive equipment that fits in the overhead bins. If you use a folding wheelchair they are also required by law to accommodate one such wheelchair in the first-class closet on request if it fits.
- Stay with your wheelchair once they transfer you to the aisle chair and explain any remaining steps necessary to prepare it for flight in the cargo hold. If you don't want them driving it, explain how to deactivate the motors so it can be pushed (and be sure to attach instructions for the person in the cargo hold of the airplane to be able to relock the wheels so it doesn't roll and the person at the destination that will be unloading it). Although sometimes it's better to just let them drive it as you know it won't be rolling around in the cargo hold since they won't forget to relock the wheels!
- Depending your height and susceptibility to pressure sores you may want to sit on your wheelchair seat cushion by just placing it on top of the airplane seat.
- Also refer to "Transportation and Positioning" section

A brochure on Accessible Air Travel is available from United Spinal:

http://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/accessible_air_travel.pdf

Flying with the Disability is another good information resource. <http://www.flying-with-disability.org>



Personal Emergency Evacuation and Rescue

The Comfort Carrier is a life-saving safety device for emergency evacuation and rescue during fire, flood, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. Keep it stored where it is easily accessible in an emergency. Brochure on wheelchair fire safety from the United Spinal Association: <http://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/WheelchairFireSafety.pdf>

Emergency Evacuation & Rescue for Institutions & Organizations

Very few nursing homes, managed care facilities, group homes, or even public buildings have emergency preparedness or evacuation plans to accommodate the mobility impaired. This has been demonstrated repeatedly by Hurricane Katrina, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers, and countless fires where mobility impaired individuals have unnecessarily lost their lives! In a fire and other disasters, wheelchair users especially are trapped by deactivated elevators. Mobility impaired individuals must wait behind while everyone else evacuates to safety for overwhelmed firefighters to arrive and evacuate them typically with stretchers. This unnecessarily risks the lives of these rescuers. All too often these trapped individuals are overcome by, and die of smoke inhalation, not able to even get down and crawl along the floor below the smoke. This is all completely preventable! A brochure on wheelchair fire safety is available from the United Spinal Association: <http://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/WheelchairFireSafety.pdf>

The patent pending Comfort Carrier is an easy to use, compact, cost effective, secure, rugged life-saving safety device for emergency evacuation and rescue during fire, flood, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, terrorist attack, and other disasters of anyone who is injured or mobility impaired. Keep it stored where it is easily accessible in an emergency.

- Packs down to approximately 10"x 11"x 3", making it very easy to carry and store in emergency supplies
- American-made from the most rugged, treated materials and virtually indestructible
- Allows two people without any special training to safely and securely move someone who is unable to walk with significantly less risk to hurting themselves
- Quickly and easily slipped around a person while they are seated in a wheelchair, laying on the ground, or any multitude of other positions
- Quickly removed from around the person after they have been transported to safety and immediately reused for someone else
- Adapts and adjusts quickly and easily to people of many different shapes and sizes.
- When no other alternatives existed, its 4 handles could be clipped onto a rope using carabineers for evacuation from a building, mountainside, or even by helicopter

After the initial rescue and evacuation operations are complete, the Comfort Carrier can then be utilized in shelters or other places of temporary residence to transfer injured and disabled individuals from a cot, air mattress, or even the ground to a wheelchair and vice versa.