



## Choosing the Right Wheelchair Cushion

Selecting a correct wheelchair cushion can be difficult with so many available. Each user has specific requirements that need to be catered for. Not every cushion will be appropriate. For example some cushions may be too heavy, may not provide the stability needed, or require too much maintenance.

Cushion selection starts with a list of the features necessary for you or your client. This list should be the result of a thorough mat evaluation and needs assessment. By clearly identifying the client's physical, medical, psycho-social and environmental needs, the range of cushion choices becomes more manageable.

Better Mobility is a wonderful resource when it comes to cushion selection. We are familiar with multiple manufacturers and can make educated suggestions. We work with a national network of independent therapists that can do an assessment at your home or their clinic for a small charge (Approx £95. If you would like some one to visit please email us at [sales@bettermobility.co.uk](mailto:sales@bettermobility.co.uk))

When looking at a seating system, there are certain features to consider, such as:

1. Is the system comfortable both physically and psycho-socially?
2. Can the user operate the system independently?
3. How stable is the cushion, particularly if sitting balance is compromised?
4. What kinds of materials are used?
5. Could the materials irritate the skin?
6. Does the system require regular maintenance such as kneading or pumping to work properly?
7. Given the environment, will follow-through occur?
8. How heavy is the system?
9. Will the weight be a burden to the user during self-propulsion or when removing the system?
10. Can the system accommodate or conform to the user to meet their individual needs?
11. What are the thermal characteristics of the system?
12. Do the materials warm or cool according to the external temperature?
13. What kind of effect does this have on the user?
14. What kind of warranty does the manufacturer offer?