



Leasing a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle



To explore our choice of WAVs,
visit [motability.co.uk/wavs](https://www.motability.co.uk/wavs)

We are Motability Operations Ltd, a company authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
All Motability Scheme vehicles are leased to customers by Motability Operations Limited.

Welcome to the Motability Scheme

This guide is designed to help you decide if a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) is right for you.

What is a WAV?

A WAV is a vehicle converted so wheelchair users can travel either as a passenger or driver while remaining in their wheelchair.

The size, shape and design of a WAV varies depending on the original vehicle used and the company that converted it, but all have easy access and provide safe travel for wheelchair users.

If you are not able to transfer from your wheelchair to a standard car seat, or if your carer is no longer able to lift you, a WAV could be the answer. We have over 30,000 customers who value the independence a WAV gives them.

Simple all-inclusive leasing

Every lease is all-inclusive, so everything listed on the right is included in the price you pay. So your only day to day running cost is fuel.

Over 800,000 customers

In total over 800,000 customers across the country put their trust in the Motability Scheme and enjoy the options and independence the Scheme brings.



An all-inclusive lease package

All of the essentials below are included in the price.



Insurance for three drivers



Servicing, maintenance and MOTs



Full RAC breakdown assistance



Tyre and windscreen repair or replacement



Motability Scheme online account to flexibly manage your lease

Plus additional benefits for WAV customers

- A dedicated WAV supplier
- Familiarisation check a month after delivery
- Annual WAV check
- Critical repairs within 72 hours
- Home repairs where possible
- Converted alternative if vehicle is out of action for more than 48 hours

How the Scheme works

Our standard WAV lease is for five years and comes with our all-inclusive lease package, providing all the help and support you need.

Affordable lease packages

The Motability Scheme work with WAV suppliers to keep prices as low as possible. We arrange for your allowance provider to transfer your qualifying mobility allowance to us to pay the weekly rental.

You'll need to pay an Advance Payment at the start of your lease to make up any difference between your allowance payments and the overall cost of the lease.

Financial help

The Motability Foundation is a national charity which oversees the Motability Scheme. They may be able to provide charitable grants towards Advance Payments, adaptations or driving lessons to support disabled people who would otherwise be unable to afford them. Visit [motabilityfoundation.org.uk/charitable-grants](https://www.motabilityfoundation.org.uk/charitable-grants) or call **0800 500 3186** to find out more.

Set price options

There are set prices for some of the most popular conversion options. Items such as heavy duty tie-downs for heavier powered wheelchairs and privacy glass, can now be fitted to any appropriate WAV, from any supplier, at a set price.

Nearly New WAVs

The Scheme also offers Nearly New WAVs, which are available on a three-year lease. These cost much less than new WAVs and in some cases are available to lease straight away.

You'll need to check with your supplier if they have a WAV that suits your particular needs. It may mean compromising on some less important aspects, such as colour or trim.

Alternatives to a WAV

Before we explore WAVs in more detail, it's worth noting that if you can transfer out of your wheelchair, a standard car fitted with adaptations may be a better option.

Transfer plates, swivel seats, person hoists and a range of adaptations that help you to stow your wheelchair or scooter, may provide the support you need.

Find out more at [motability.co.uk/adaptations](https://www.motability.co.uk/adaptations)

Joining the Scheme

You need to receive one of these qualifying mobility allowances, with at least 12 months left, to be eligible to join the Motability Scheme.

- Higher rate mobility part of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Higher rate mobility part of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Enhanced rate mobility part of Adult Disability Payment (Scotland)
- Higher rate mobility component of Child Disability Payment (Scotland)
- War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)

Please note that Attendance Allowance cannot be used to lease through the Motability Scheme.

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a white short-sleeved top with a green floral pattern and brown trousers, is seated in a wheelchair. She is positioned in the driver's seat of a car, smiling towards a man standing next to her. The man is wearing a dark grey jacket and is looking at the woman. The car's interior, including the steering wheel and dashboard, is visible. The background shows a blue wall with some white floral patterns.

Drive from Wheelchair WAVs

If you want to drive a WAV from your wheelchair, a number of vehicle types can be converted. These often require additional driving adaptations to suit individual needs. Drive from Wheelchair WAVs cost significantly more than a standard WAV and have longer delivery times due to the bespoke nature of the changes needed. For more information visit our website at motability.co.uk/dfw

Choosing the right vehicle

The three steps on the opposite page will help you start your search for the right vehicle that suits your needs now and for the next few years.





One: Consider your needs

The following pages outline the main features of a WAV, to help you understand how the different options can improve your motoring experience. Some come with the conversion, others may be options you need to pay for. Customers tell us they could have avoided problems if they'd spent more time researching, so it's worth looking around, even if you already think you know what type of WAV you want.

WAVs come in a range of sizes and there are a few key factors that you need to think about when considering which size WAV will be the most appropriate for your needs.

- Size and weight of your wheelchair
- Number of people you regularly travel with
- Your seated height in your wheelchair
- Amount of equipment you take on journeys



Two: Speak to a supplier

Through the Motability Scheme you can choose from a number of dedicated WAV suppliers. All offer a nationwide service and no obligation home demonstrations. As trained specialists they can discuss your needs in detail and recommend potential solutions.

Speak to a number of suppliers and test drive a few vehicles before making your mind up. It's important to understand what each supplier includes as standard as it may differ.



Three: Home demonstrations

Trying out a WAV is the only way to check it meets all your needs, both as a wheelchair user and for the person driving it. Contact the WAV suppliers you think might be suitable and book a home demonstration. There's no cost involved, no obligation to order and you can have as many demonstrations from as many suppliers as you like.

Before the supplier visits you at home, they'll build up a picture of your needs over the phone to ensure they bring the most appropriate vehicle for you to try.

Browse our latest list of WAVs and find a WAV supplier at [motability.co.uk/wavs](https://www.motability.co.uk/wavs), or call **0800 093 1000**.

Types of access

All WAVs are fitted with either a ramp or a lift. Access for the wheelchair user is from the back or the side depending on the conversion.

Ramps

A ramp is usually operated by the carer manually unfolding it. There are also automatic versions where the ramp folds and unfolds at the touch of a button.

Some manual ramps are spring-loaded to raise or lower more easily. It's important to test the angle and length of the ramp. Consider whether your carer will physically be able to operate the ramp and push you into the WAV. Some suppliers offer powered winches at no extra cost, so ask your supplier if you think this might help.

Lifts

Some larger WAVs can be fitted with a lift which can help if your carer has trouble pushing your wheelchair up a ramp into the WAV. However, WAVs fitted with a lift are generally more expensive than those fitted with ramps so your Advance Payment is likely to be higher.



Lowered floors

Most WAVs will have had their floor specially lowered to allow enough headroom for the wheelchair user. A lowered floor also means the ramp will either be shorter, or the angle less steep for easier access.

Helpful to know:

- Powered winches are sometimes supplied at no extra cost.
- Lifts are usually operated by a remote control.
- There are a few WAVs which have access from the side of the vehicle.
- As most floors are lowered, you'll need to make sure the WAV allows for enough ground clearance on your regular routes.
- When the supplier lowers the floor of a WAV, the fuel tank may need to be modified or replaced, reducing its size.
- If you find it difficult to secure a wheelchair using manual straps, automatic tie-down systems are available at additional cost.



Travelling in comfort and safety

Travelling in a wheelchair in a WAV will feel different to a standard car seat. Most people get used to this in time but you may find this difficult at first.

Seating arrangements

The space inside a WAV is vitally important for passengers and the things you travel with regularly, such as shopping or mobility aids.

Most WAVs position the wheelchair passenger behind the front seats or towards the back of the vehicle. Some WAVs allow the wheelchair passenger to sit beside the driver.

There are lots of seating layouts available depending on the size of vehicle and your specific requirements.

Your WAV supplier will be able to talk you through the seating options available for any WAVs you are considering.

Safety and space

Most WAVs have four restraint belts that attach to the front and rear of the wheelchair. The front restraints are adjustable and usually self-locking and can be attached to the wheelchair to lock it in place. Everyone that will be helping you use the system should test this out during your demonstration. There's also a three-point seatbelt for the wheelchair passenger to use.

If your wheelchair weighs over 140kg not all restraint systems will be suitable. Your WAV supplier will explain the options.

Helpful to know:

- Check that your position within the WAV does not cause difficulties seeing out of the windows or hearing passengers.
- Does the layout allow access to the wheelchair user during journeys?
- You can request extra seats on some models. These can be smaller than a standard seat and might not be suitable for long journeys or for baby or child seats.
- Air conditioning is standard on all WAVs. If the wheelchair user is sensitive to temperature, additional heating may be required.
- If your carer has limited hand mobility or dexterity some tie-downs may be easier to operate than others.



WAV Experience

If you're thinking of ordering a WAV but not sure if this is the right option for you, you might be eligible for our 'WAV Experience' to help you decide. Find out more at [motability.co.uk/wavexperience](https://www.motability.co.uk/wavexperience) or call us on **0300 456 4566**

Demonstration checklist

Here's an overview of important things to consider to make sure you get the most out of a WAV demonstration and test drive.





Try more than one type of WAV

Comparing and trying different vehicles is important. Your WAV supplier will happily arrange demonstrations of different models until you find the one that's right for you.

Involve the people you travel with regularly

Your carer must be happy helping you into the WAV, securing your wheelchair and driving the vehicle, so it's essential they attend demonstrations.

Test the WAV where you'll use it most

Visit places and roads you would use regularly. WAVs are bigger than standard cars, so it's important that you practise parking to make sure your vehicle suits your day-to-day life.

Try luggage and equipment

If you travel with luggage or extra equipment, make sure you try stowing it in the WAV during the test drive to check there's storage space.

Practise loading and getting in and out

To identify if you need extra features, such as a winch, you and your carer should practise getting in and out and loading a couple of times.

Take as long as you need

We suggest allowing 2 hours minimum to test a WAV thoroughly and make sure you're completely comfortable with it.

Ask about travel costs

Your WAV supplier will be able to advise how your travel may impact fuel costs and whether petrol, diesel or electric would be a better option.

Consider if your needs may change during your lease

For example, are you likely to change your wheelchair in the next five years? Will you need additional seating for passengers who travel with you now and in the future?

Do not feel obliged to order

WAV suppliers understand this is an important decision that cannot be rushed. They'll expect that more than one demonstration may be needed. Only place an order once you're sure the vehicle meets all of your needs.

Ordering your vehicle

Once you've found the WAV that best suits your needs it's time to place your order with your supplier.

How to order

When you're ready to join the Scheme, you can save time by starting your application from home in your Motability Scheme online account. Learn more and create an account at [motability.co.uk/account](https://www.motability.co.uk/account)

You'll then need a few documents to place your order with your WAV supplier.

If you start your application online, you'll only need to have:

- A UK passport or driving licence for the appointee or customer applying.
- The National Insurance number (NINO) or Customer Reference Number (CRN) of the person receiving the allowance.

If you do not start your application online, you'll also need:

- Driving licences for all drivers and details of any claims history.
- Your driver declaration (if the driver is not there).
- Your grant award letter (if applicable).

Your WAV supplier will finalise the order for you and include any set price options that you choose. If you choose any other optional extras the cost of these will need to be paid directly to the supplier. Make sure your supplier has explained how the Advance Payment works and when you'll need to pay this.

You'll be asked to sign a Statement of Responsibilities and Suitability form that confirms you understand and agree to the Scheme rules.

Motability Scheme online account

While you're waiting for your WAV to be delivered, you can use your online account to:

- Track the progress of your order
- Access your PIN ready for delivery day
- Add your bank details to get payments faster by bank transfer rather than cheque.

Find out more at [motability.co.uk/account](https://www.motability.co.uk/account)

Taking delivery of your WAV

Your WAV supplier will give you an idea of the delivery date when you order your WAV. If you've ordered a Nearly New WAV it should only take a few weeks.

When your WAV is ready your supplier will deliver it to your home. They'll then show you around your new WAV and remind you how each of the conversion features work.

Your WAV supplier will support you throughout your lease, and is the first point of contact for any issues with your WAV.

Ready to get started?

Useful contacts

The Motability Scheme

Browse our latest list of WAVs and find a WAV supplier at [motability.co.uk/wavs](https://www.motability.co.uk/wavs)

Or call one of our team on **0800 093 1000**

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) / Questions about your allowance

Department for Work and Pensions:

Disability Living Allowance: **0800 121 4600**

Personal Independence Payment: **0800 121 4433**

[dwp.gov.uk](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Department for Communities (NI)

Disability Living Allowance: **0800 587 0912**

Personal Independence Payment: **0800 587 0932**

[nidirect.gov.uk](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Child Disability Payment or Adult Disability Payment

Social Security Scotland

0800 182 2222 [mygov.scot/benefits](https://www.mygov.scot/benefits)

War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)

Veterans UK

0808 191 4218 [veterans-uk.info](https://www.veterans-uk.info)

For independent information and advice

Driving Mobility

Telephone: **0800 559 3636**

[drivingmobility.org.uk](https://www.drivingmobility.org.uk)

Research Institute for Disabled Consumers (RiDC)

Telephone: **0207 427 2460**

[ridc.org.uk](https://www.ridc.org.uk)



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