ergomobility

THE VEHICLE ADAPTATION SPECIALISTS

Your essential guide to vehicle adaptations

ergomobility
THE VEHICLE ADAPTATION SPECIALISTS

Who We Are 3

Transfer & Seating 4

Lifting Mobility Equipment 8

Driving Controls 10

- Remote Control Devices 11
- Hand Controls 12
- Pedal Adaptations 14
- Steering Adaptations 15
- Other Driving Controls 16

Other Adaptations 17

Training & Events 18

Charitable Grants 19

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Who we are

Experienced experts

We are accredited with all the leading manufacturers, enabling us to offer impartial advice across a wide range of products. With over 20 years' experience we are experts in our field who put our customers' needs at the heart of what we do.

Mobile fitters

With a fleet of fully equipped mobile workshops, our specialist engineers carry the latest precision-welding, grinding and cutting equipment, allowing us to undertake the majority of specialised work offsite, at a location of your choice.

Adaptations specialists

At Ergomobility we rarely decline an adaptation because it's too complex or because parts don't exist. We pride ourselves on our ability to design bespoke solutions to complex problems, engineering parts ourselves where none exist.

Knowledgeable assessors

Our free-of-charge assessments enable customers to try out adaptations in person, with advice on-hand from knowledgeable assessors who understand the complex challenges that disabled drivers and passengers face.

Motability partners

As the preferred Motability partner for more than 600 car dealerships we have adapted thousands of Motability vehicles, so our team can provide advice and support to customers and dealers alike, from pricing to installation.

Industry champions

Our mission is to improve the driving experience for disabled motorists and passengers everywhere, which is why we're committed to sharing our knowledge with the people who can make a difference in their lives.

TRANSFER & SEATING

We fit a variety of adaptations that help with getting in and out of a vehicle more easily, from swivel seats and person hoists, to transfer plates and grab handles for support. If you aren't sure which adaptations may be required, our team are on hand to discuss options with you.

Swivel Seats

Swivel seats

Swivel seats can be a great alternative to wheelchair accessible vehicles, enabling drivers and passengers to transfer into and out of a standard vehicle with ease. Swivel seats range from those with simple, mechanical in-and-out functions, to those that are electronically programmed to swivel in and out then lower, all at the touch of a button. The original car seat is almost always replaced with a model that will fit to the base.

The Carony Wheelchair System

For those who struggle to transfer from a wheelchair into a swivel seat, the Carony Wheelchair System consists of a swivel seat with glide rails, enabling the seat to slide onto a wheelchair base. The seat, plus base, can then be used as a standard wheelchair.

Carony Wheelchair System

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Swivel Seats

Person Hoists

Person hoists

Person hoists are designed to lift people into and out of a vehicle from a wheelchair or scooter. They can be an excellent alternative to wheelchair accessible vehicles, enabling the user to travel normally in a standard vehicle. The hoist attaches to a sling, which can be placed on the wheelchair seat before the user sits in it; a remote control is then used to lift and lower the customer. The hoist is then simply removed and stored neatly in a bag, out of the way.

Transfer plates

Transfer plates (or tip-up plates) provide a smooth, frictionless surface to allow easy transfer onto a car seat. Both mechanical and electric options are available and the plates can be fitted in either the driver or passenger side of the vehicle.

Transfer Plates

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Seat adjustments

If the position of the driver or passenger front seat is making it difficult to access a vehicle, we can raise or lower the height of the car seat to a fixed position, or extend the seat runners, maximising leg-room. Adjustments are tailored to requirements, so we ask customers to be present when the vehicle is being adapted, enabling us to assess their needs.

Grab handles

Getting into and out of a vehicle can be much more difficult if there aren't any natural places to grab for support. Grab handles or grab straps offer a simple solution and can be fitted in a variety of positions depending on the customer's preference.

Door widening

Drivers or passengers with prosthetic legs - or limited flexibility in the lower limbs - may find it more difficult swinging their legs into the vehicle. Adjusting the door so that it opens a few inches wider can make all the difference and is possible in a wide range of vehicles.

FREE ASSESSMENT SERVICE

Swivel seats and person hoists don't work for everyone, so it's vital that every customer has had a full demonstration and assessment with us. This free-of-charge service enables us to determine:

✓ The type of swivel seat that will best meet our customers' needs.

✓ Which size sling is required (for a person hoist).

✓ The suitability of the vehicle being considered.

Seat Adjustments

Grab Handles

Door Widening

LIFTING MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

Transporting wheelchairs, scooters or powerchairs is often difficult, simply because they're too heavy to lift into a vehicle. We fit a variety of adaptations that take the strain out of lifting this essential equipment, ensuring disabled drivers and passengers stay mobile and maintain their independence.

Wheelchair rooftop boxes

For those who can transfer independently to and from a standard folding wheelchair but can't load the chair into the boot of their vehicle, a wheelchair roof top box is a great option. The remote control is operated from the driver's seat, lowering a winch from the roof top box, so the wheelchair can simply be slipped onto the apparatus and lifted into the roof box.

Wheelchair Rooftop Boxes

Standard boot hoists

A standard boot hoist consists of a compact crane and winch, which are used to lift a wheelchair or scooter. The 'up-down' and 'in-out' motions are controlled using a remote and the scooter is then guided by hand, to ensure it remains steady. When the apparatus is not required, the mechanism can easily be removed to free up luggage space.

Standard Boot Hoist

Folding boot hoists

Folding boot hoists are similar in their operation to standard hoists, but the hoist arm can be folded down once equipment is loaded. This makes these hoists suitable for use in much smaller vehicles (e.g. hatchbacks).

Folding Boot Hoist

Other considerations for boot hoists

- ✓ Try lifting the mobility equipment into the vehicle tailgate, to ensure that it will fit.
- ✓ Some (or all) of the vehicle's second row seats may need to be folded down to make room for the mobility equipment.
- ✓ The style of vehicle will determine which type of hoist is required. If the tailgate slopes (e.g. in a hatchback), a folding hoist will probably be necessary.
- ✓ If a client is new to boot hoists, we can offer a free demonstration to ensure it's the right solution.

Scooters, powerchairs & wheelchairs

When looking at the vehicle to be fitted with a boot hoist, the key consideration should always be the size, weight and shape of the mobility equipment being lifted... it might seem obvious, but if the scooter/wheelchair/powerchair won't fit through the opening of the tailgate, it's never going to work with a boot hoist. This is why it's so important to think about how the equipment can be folded/dismantled to make it as compact as possible (e.g. removing the seat), whilst also considering whether those adjustments will realistically be manageable.

How does the equipment fold?

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

DRIVING CONTROLS

We are industry experts when it comes to driving controls, offering a wide range of modern and discreet systems. We are also completely independent from our suppliers, so we can be impartial in our product selection, ensuring our customers will always receive the adaptations that best meet their needs.

Wireless Key Pad

Remote control devices

Wireless keypads

Wireless keypads enable drivers to operate secondary vehicle functions, such as the indicators, horn, headlights and wipers, without removing their hands from the steering wheel or hand controls. They are usually fitted to the steering wheel, but can be located anywhere within easy reach of the driver. There are a number of keypads on the market, coming in different shapes and sizes and with a range of different functions, depending on the driver's requirements and preference.

Mini keypads

Mini keypads work in a similar way to wireless keypads, but are specifically designed to be fitted alongside hand controls for ease of use. Mini keypads allow the driver to operate up to 13 secondary functions, e.g. indicators, lights, horn and wipers.

Bleeper systems

Bleeper systems are ideal for drivers with more restrictive physical conditions, who find it difficult to operate other remote control devices. They allow the driver to operate a range of secondary driving controls using a single button. When the button is pressed it issues a sound for each function and the button is simply released to select the function of choice. A second press then cancels it. Bleeper systems are flexible because they can be operated from a wide range of different positions and with different parts of the body (e.g. fingers, elbow, head).

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Wireless Keypads

Bleeper Systems

Mini Keypads

Hand controls

Push/Pull Hand Controls

Push/pull hand controls (mechanical or electronic)

Push/pull hand controls enable drivers to operate the brake and accelerator with one hand, using a lever that is fitted near the steering wheel. Pushing the lever (toward the front of the car) activates the brake; pulling the lever (inwards, toward the driver's body) triggers the accelerator. The vehicle can still be driven with the pedals, as these remain intact. Ergomobility fit modern, 'discreet' systems whenever possible, with rods that are largely hidden from view.

Ring Accelerators

Ring accelerators (electronic)

Ring accelerators sit neatly over or under the steering wheel, blending with the vehicle's interior. The ring is simply pressed toward the steering wheel to accelerate, requiring very little strength, which makes them a great solution for drivers with limited mobility in the upper body. Options include: over ring accelerators, under ring accelerators and the Ghost Accelerator (rotated right/ left to accelerate).

Trigger Hand Controls

Trigger hand controls (electronic accelerator & mechanical brake)

Trigger hand controls feature a lever and trigger system that is operated with one hand. The brake is activated by pushing the lever away (toward the front of the car) and the accelerator is activated by pulling a small trigger. Because the accelerator is electronic, very little pressure or upper body strength is required to operate the system, which makes it a great solution for drivers with limited mobility in the upper body.

Floor Mounted Hand Controls

Floor mounted hand controls (mechanical)

Floor mounted hand controls work in a similar way to push/pull systems, but they are positioned to the left of the steering wheel, lower down. They can be a good option for drivers who prefer to steer with their right hand, or for those who are more comfortable with the lower operating position. Getting in and out of the car is also easier because the controls are out of the way, near the centre console, whilst the ability to adjust the steering wheel is retained.

Satellite Accelerator

Satellite accelerator (electronic)

The satellite accelerator is operated by pressing on a small plunger which is attached to a lead. It can be held in one hand and moved around, allowing the driver to change the position of their hands whilst operating the throttle, so there's less chance of stiffening up after prolonged periods of driving. Very little upper body strength is required to operate this system, making it a good solution for drivers with limited mobility in the upper body.

Radial Hand Controls

Radial hand controls (mechanical or electronic)

Radial hand controls provide an alternative solution for drivers who have problems with the grip in their hands. The brake and accelerator are controlled with a lever that is pushed forwards (toward the front of the car) to brake and downwards (toward the floor of the vehicle) to accelerate. Because the lever can be pressed down with any part of the hand, no grip is required.

Floor Mounted Hand Controls

New to hand controls?

- ✓ A driving assessment may be required with an accredited assessment centre, to determine which hand controls are appropriate.
- ✓ Motability may consider covering the costs of a driving assessment and/or driving lessons.
- ✓ Drivers must advise their insurers and the DVLA when driving with adaptations.

Related adaptations

- ✓ Many related adaptations are free to Motability customers.
- ✓ **Hinged accelerator pedal:** flips up, out of the way, reducing the risk it will be pressed accidentally. It also gives the driver the option to stretch out their right leg.
- ✓ **Pedal guards:** used alongside hand controls, removable pedal guards ensure the pedals can't be pressed accidentally and prevent the feet from sliding under the pedals.
- ✓ **Indicator switch:** a switch on the hand controls that can be used to operate the indicators.

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Left Foot Accelerator Systems

Pedal adaptations

Left foot accelerator systems

Left foot accelerator systems comprise an additional accelerator pedal which is fitted to the left-hand side of the brake, so the vehicle can be driven with either the right foot or the left, as required. The Twin-Flip Folding system is usually fitted in vehicles with hanging pedals, so that if one pedal is flipped down for use, the other flips up out of the way automatically. In vehicles with floor-mounted pedals, both accelerator pedals are fixed (immovable) in the vehicle and the pedal that is not in use is either deactivated with an electronic switch, or protected with an interchangeable pedal guard.

Pedal extensions

Pedal extensions are a great adaptation for drivers who struggle to reach the pedals. They are made to measure, so the client must be present at the fitting – and if extensions of 3 inches or more are required, a raised floor may be needed for the driver to rest their feet on. A quick release mechanism is optional, for easy removal.

Other pedal adjustments

There are a number of adjustments that can be made to the pedals, for example: hinging the accelerator pedal, so it can be flipped up out of the way; or adjusting the height of the pedals – or the space between them – to help drivers with restricted mobility in their feet or ankles.

For expert advice, guidance and costs,
call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Pedal Extensions

Other Pedal Adjustments

Steering adaptations

Glove & Peg

Tetra Grip

Reduced Size Steering Wheels

Steering aids

Steering aids enable safe control of the steering wheel with only one hand. They are commonly fitted alongside hand controls because the other hand will almost always be operating the hand controls. Most steering aids are designed to be 'quick release', making them easily removable when they are not in use.

- **Steering balls:** Available in a variety of shapes, including: 'ball', 'mushroom' 'tulip' and 'peg', depending on the customer's preference.
- **Tetra Grip:** For drivers with limited grip, the wrist is wedged between two prongs and the client holds the third, enabling steering with the hand/wrist.
- **Glove & peg:** For drivers with limited grip, the glove and peg clip into a fitment on the steering wheel, enabling steering with the hand/wrist.

Reduced size steering wheels

For drivers with a limited range of movement in their arms a smaller steering wheel enables full control of the steering wheel without overstretching. They can also be a good solution for larger drivers - or for someone driving from a wheelchair, as space can be more restricted.

Lightened power steering

Lightening the power steering can provide a good solution for drivers with limited strength in their upper body, who find the steering on their vehicle too heavy to drive comfortably. The degree of lightness will depend on the needs of the individual.

Steering Balls

Lightened Power Steering

Electric Handbrakes

Electric Gear Selectors

Other driving controls

Remote ignition switches

Remote ignition switches are designed for people who have difficulty turning the key in the ignition. With some clever wiring, we make the ignition 'switch operated', so that, when the key is in the ignition, the switch can be flicked and the vehicle can then be started by pressing a button on the dashboard.

Easy release handbrakes & gear selectors

Some drivers experience difficulty pressing the button on the handbrake or gear selector, due to a disability or weakness in their hands, fingers or thumbs. The easy release handbrake and gear selector allow drivers to release the handbrake or gear lever in one simple movement, without any need to press the button.

Electric handbrakes & gear selectors

For those drivers who find easy release handbrakes or gear selectors difficult to operate, both electric handbrakes and electric gear selectors are available. The electric handbrake replaces the original with a switch or button on the dashboard. The electric gear selector features a control panel that can be fitted almost anywhere on the dashboard; the standard gear lever is removed and the Park, Reverse, Neutral and Drive functions can then be selected by pressing the appropriate button on the panel.

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

Remote Ignition Switches

Easy Release Handbrakes

Easy Release Gear Selectors

OTHER ADAPTATIONS

Posture Belts & Harnesses

Posture belts & harnesses

For those requiring extra postural support, a posture belt system or harness can be used. Posture belts and harnesses are designed to provide additional postural support for passengers, or even a certain degree of restraint for passengers with some learning difficulties.

Oxygen tank holders

Oxygen tank holders are designed to quickly and safely transport medical oxygen for personal use in a vehicle. They are designed to prevent oxygen cylinders from tipping, falling or becoming a projectile during a sudden stop or manoeuvre.

Boot straps / automatic tailgates

For those who struggle to close the tailgate because it's too high, a simple bootstrap can be attached to bring it within reach. Alternatively, the tailgate can be fitted with a pneumatic opener, allowing it to be opened automatically with a remote or a switch. The tailgate can still be opened or closed manually, if desired.

Perspex screens

Drivers carrying passengers with complex needs or behavioural difficulties can be at higher risk from physical interference when driving, which can make day-to-day travel very challenging. Fitting a perspex screen in the vehicle creates a shield between the front seats and the rear compartment, allowing communication without physical contact. This can offer drivers the protection they need to travel safely with their loved ones, worry-free.

Oxygen Tank Holders

Automatic Tailgates

Boot Straps

Perspex Screens

TRAINING & EVENTS

Training

At Ergomobility we are proud to work with disabled people to enhance their driving experience and improve their quality of life. We firmly believe that in sharing our knowledge around vehicle adaptations with other providers, we are passing on the skills that they in turn can share with their customers. All our training is backed up with hands-on, practical knowledge and is delivered by experienced professionals.

Options include:

- **1-hour adaptations demonstration:** looking at some of the most widely used vehicle adaptations (free of charge).
- **1/2-day workshops** (for larger groups): bespoke training exploring vehicle adaptations in more depth and looking at some of the wider issues surrounding disabled drivers (prices on request).

Events

Creating meaningful event partnerships can have a powerful influence on the success of an event. By reaching out to potential collaborators and complementary brands you can spread the word to new audiences and enhance the event experience by offering something unique. At Ergomobility we work in partnership with other providers to deliver events with a difference, from planning the process to providing support on the day.

For expert advice, guidance and costs, call our specialist team: 01444 882 233

CHARITABLE GRANTS

Motability

Motability, as a national charity, can offer means-tested Charitable Grants towards the cost of vehicles, adaptations or driving lessons on the Motability scheme. For more information visit:

www.motability.org.uk/grants
T: 0300 456 4566

OTHER CHARITABLE GRANTS

Other charities and organisations may also be able to offer financial help. Customers can search for charitable grants online through a number of different websites.

Adapt your vehicle, not your life

ergomobility
THE VEHICLE ADAPTATION SPECIALISTS

www.ergomobility.co.uk

Ergomobility (Sussex Branch)
Units 1-4 Crosspost Industrial Park, Bolney, West Sussex RH17 5QU
Tel: 01444 882 233 info@ergomobility.co.uk

Ergomobility (Thames Valley Branch)
7 Tylorstown, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 7XW
Tel: 0118 321 8193 info@ergomobility.co.uk