

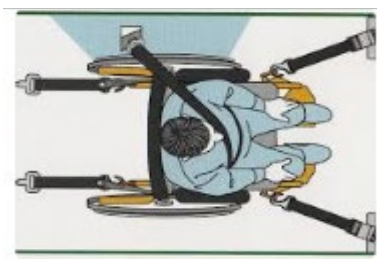
TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR WHEELCHAIR

Safety Considerations when traveling in a motor vehicle:

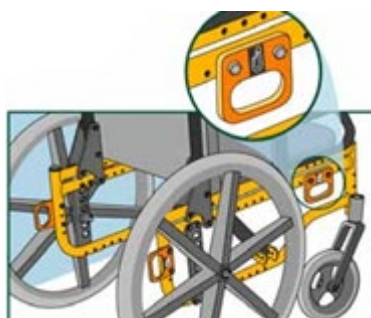
- Recommend **transferring to vehicle seat** and using the **vehicle seatbelt with shoulder strap**
- **Secure unoccupied wheelchair** to avoid injury in case of crash

If you cannot transfer out of your wheelchair to a vehicle seat, ensure the following:

1. **Secure the wheelchair:** typically, with use of 4 crash-tested tie-down straps secured to the wheelchair frame or, ideally, secured to transportation securement brackets on wheelchair frame
 - **WC-19 compliant wheelchairs** are those that have met the voluntary industry standard regulating design and crash-testing of wheelchairs to be used in vehicles. The main provision is that the wheelchair has four (4) crash-tested securement points.
 - **If the wheelchair is not WC-19 compliant**, the next best thing is an accessible, solid or welded metal frame where securement straps can be attached at frame junctions, OR, transportation securement brackets can be added to the wheelchair frame by the manufacturer at time of order. These brackets can be an additional charge.
 - **Always ensure securement system used is certified WC-18 compliant.** Most often this is with a 4-point strap securement system, standard in most commercial wheelchair transport vehicles (e.g. Winnipeg Transit Plus, private wheelchair taxi vans).
 - **Always position wheelchair in forward-facing direction**



4-point strap securement system



transportation securement brackets



vehicle seat belt system

2. **Secure the occupant:** Always use both the seatbelt and shoulder straps of the vehicle's seatbelt, regardless of any positioning belts attached directly to the wheelchair. Positioning belts on wheelchairs are not designed to withstand a motor vehicle crash.
 - The lap belt should fit snug and low near pelvis, with shoulder strap in contact with upper torso and shoulder area.
3. **Remove and secure any added wheelchair components** (e.g. laptray)

When prescribing a wheelchair, your therapist will consider many factors and provide you with information to make an informed decision regarding your wheelchair and seating needs. The therapist will prescribe what is appropriate at the time of assessment, with consideration of potential future needs, but is not able to accurately and reliably predict all future needs, including changes to transportation abilities and options. If your wheelchair and/or transportation needs change, please consider obtaining a referral to an occupational therapist for further assessment and assistance.