Motability Scheme

MOTABILITY.CO.UK

Getting a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) through the Motability Scheme



Welcome

In this guide, we'll help you decide if a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) is right for you.

What is a WAV?

It's a vehicle that's been converted so you can travel as a passenger or driver while you stay in your wheelchair. They're ideal for most people who use a wheelchair.

If you're not able to transfer from your wheelchair to a standard car seat, a WAV could be a good option for you.

Most WAVs position you behind the front seats or near the back. Some WAVs let you sit next to the driver. You can learn more at **motability.co.uk/wavs**

Are you eligible?

You can join the Scheme if you receive a higher rate mobility allowance and have at least 12 months left. If you're a parent or guardian of a child aged three or over, you can also apply on their behalf.

Check if you're eligible at **motability.co.uk/allowances**



You choose who drives

You can insure up to three drivers on your WAV. So even if you do not drive, you can still take advantage of the Scheme.

Learn more about who can drive at **motability.co.uk/drivers**

We're the service that keeps you moving

Join over 915,000 Motability Scheme customers who are already enjoying the freedom that comes with mobility.

How it works

Simply exchange your qualifying mobility allowance for a brand-new WAV, with all of this included:

Our all-inclusive package

- Insurance cover
- Servicing and repairs
- Tyre repair and replacement
- EV charging support, for electric WAVs (eWAVs)
- Up to three drivers
- RAC breakdown assistance
- 50,000 mileage allowance for a five-year lease, or 30,000 for a three-year lease

You'll also get these, with your WAV:

- A dedicated WAV supplier
- A yearly WAV check
- Critical repairs within 72 hours
- Home repairs, where possible
- A converted alternative, if your vehicle is out of action for more than 48 hours

Join in three simple steps

Keep reading to learn more about your options and what to do next.



Types of WAV on the Scheme

Our WAVs come in different sizes: small, medium-small, medium-large, and large. There are also lots of different types of WAVs available on the Scheme. Here's a quick overview. You can visit **motability.co.uk/wavs** and use our online tool to learn more.

Passenger WAVs

You can ride in these or store your wheelchair. They're the most common and popular type of WAV on the Scheme. You'll usually get in using a ramp or lift, then someone else will need to secure your wheelchair with tie-downs.

Drive From Wheelchair WAVs

These make it possible to stay in your wheelchair while you drive. They're large vehicles that are specially adapted for you. You might also hear these called Independent Driving Solutions.

They cost more than passenger WAVs and take time to make, but they offer great independence. Visit **motability.co.uk/dfw** for more.

Adaptations might suit you best

If you can transfer out of your wheelchair, a standard car fitted with adaptations could be a better option for you.

We have a range of adaptations to help you drive, get in and out, or store your equipment. You can add many adaptations at the start of your lease at no extra cost.

We work with installers who can guide you on the different types of adaptations that might help you. You can find one close to you at **motability.co.uk/adaptations**



How you get in and out of your WAV

You can choose to access your WAV from the rear or the side. Think about how you'll use and park your WAV before you decide.

Ramps

These make it simple to get your wheelchair into your WAV. You can choose a built-in manual or automatic ramp.

If you go for a side-access ramp, it can be more convenient. It can also be steep, so you might need extra help.

Talk to your WAV supplier about your ramp options to make sure you get the right one for you.

Lifts

Some large WAVs have a lift instead of a ramp. This means as long as you can secure yourself, you can get in and out by yourself, without help, and even drive it alone. They cost more and add extra weight to your WAV.



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 over time.

Seating inside your WAV

The space inside your WAV is important. You'll need room for your 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 let the wheelchair passenger sit beside the driver.

There are lots of seating layouts available, depending on the size of WAV and what you need. Your WAV supplier will talk through your options.

Safety and space

Most WAVs have four belts that attach to the front and rear of the wheelchair, to lock it in place. The front belts are adjustable and usually self-lock. Everyone helping you get in and out your WAV 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 your options.

Helpful tips

- Check your position in the WAV does not make it difficult to see out of the windows or hear passengers
- Does the layout let people get to your wheelchair user during journeys?
- You can ask for extra seats on some WAVs. These can be smaller than a standard seat and might not be suitable for long journeys or for baby or child seats
- You'll get air conditioning in all WAVs. If you're sensitive to temperature, you might need extra heating
- If your carer has limited hand mobility or dexterity, some tie-downs might be easier to use than others

Once you're ready, here's how to join the Scheme in three easy steps.

Step one.
Choose your new WAV

We have a range of brand-new WAVs for you to pick from. And our online tool can help you find the right one.

Customers tell us they wish they'd spent more time researching, so it's worth looking around.

Think about the:

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

Use our online tool to help you find the right WAV.

Visit **motability.co.uk/wavsearch** to start your search now.



We've got lots of WAVs at different prices. 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. You can learn more about how you pay and what it costs at **motability.co.uk/payments**

Motability Foundation

About the Motability Foundation

The Motability Foundation is a charity which oversees the Motability Scheme. It also provides means-tested grants to Motability Scheme customers to help fund the vehicle they need. Visit **motabilityfoundation.org.uk** for more information.

Step two.
Have a demonstration

Our WAV suppliers will bring the WAV you like to your home, with no pressure to lease it. They'll show you around and let you test drive it, so you can feel confident it's right for you.

If you will not be driving yourself, a family member, friend or carer can take the test drive for you.

First, choose one of our WAV suppliers. They all offer a nationwide service and are trained specialists. They can talk to you about your needs and recommend solutions. You can find our suppliers at **motability.co.uk/find-a-dealer**

Speak to a few suppliers and test drive a few WAVs before you make your mind up. It's important you understand what each supplier includes, as this might differ.

They'll build up a picture of your needs over the phone first, to make sure they bring the most appropriate WAV for you.

During your demonstration, remember to:

- Visit places and roads you'd regularly use
- Try your luggage and equipment
- Practise loading and getting in and out
- Ask about travel costs, based on the fuel you choose
- Think about whether your needs might change in the future





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. A home demonstration costs nothing. You can have as many as you like, from as many suppliers as you like, and take a long as you need.

Visit **motability.co.uk/wavsearch** to start your search now. Once you've found the WAV that best suits your needs, just order it with your supplier.

Here's a tip: start applying in your Motability Scheme online account before you speak to a supplier. This will give them more time to help you find the right WAV for your needs.

Get started at **motability.co.uk/account**

Thinking of ordering, but not sure?

You might be eligible for our WAV Experience, to help you decide.

Learn more at **motability.co.uk/wavexperience**

Step three. Enjoy your new WAV!

When your WAV is ready your supplier will deliver it to your home. They'll remind you how the features work. Then, just fuel or charge and off you go, knowing we've got you covered.

By your side

If you have any issues with your WAV, contact your WAV supplier first. We'll support you throughout your lease too. Whether your circumstances change or you need advice, we're here to help.

Plus, your online account is available all day, every day, to help you flexibly manage your lease and easily make changes.

At the end of your lease

Simply return your WAV and choose your next one. So you know, you cannot buy the WAV at the end of your lease.



Sign up to our newsletter and get all the latest Motability Scheme news delivered straight to your inbox.

Just go to **motability.co.uk/signup**

Find your WAV at motability.co.uk





Ready to get started?

Next steps

Find your WAV at
motability.co.uk/wavsearch

Choose a local supplier at
motability.co.uk/find-a-dealer

Connect with the Motability Scheme

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