

# Crelling Harnesses for Disabled Ltd.

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## Wheelchair Harness Usage Policy

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The Crelling Harnesses Wheelchair range has been designed to help those who suffer from inadequate postural support to help maintain a position that enables them to use wheelchair and other forms of seating.

At Crelling Harnesses we believe that everybody should have the facility to get out and about as safely and securely as possible and we are endeavouring to assist in this and provide those with special needs and their family and carers a greater degree of freedom.

When choosing and using one of our products we strongly recommend the following considerations be undertaken:

#### **Risk assessment, legislation & permissions:**

- Perform a risk assessment: Determine whether a product in our Wheelchair range or a bespoke design is the best solution and whether any harm could be caused by the use of one.
- When performing any risk assessment with regard to those with Special Educational needs please also do consider the safety of staff members who may be in close proximity and members of the general public, for instances where challenging behaviour may be experienced.
- If looking after children or vulnerable adults who are not family members Crelling Harnesses recommend permission be sought from the parent or guardian prior to using our products. If acting on behalf of other bodies or organisations it may be a requirement to make enquiries of them prior to using our products.
- Ensure that any specialized risk assessments are conducted in line with the policies, rules and regulations of the governing body or institution you are working on behalf of to avoid bringing an individual or organisation into disrepute.
- Schools, medical facilities and care establishments must check with local councils or other regulatory bodies to ensure the use of one of our bathing products is not against specific rules and regulations in relation to human rights or other impedances.

#### **Additional medical conditions:**

- Our Wheelchair harnesses are recommended for use where the wearer may suffer from inadequate postural support or where severe challenging behaviour may be exhibited that may pose a direct or indirect risk to their safety and that of others.
- If prior respiratory issues are present extra care should be taken to ensure that the harness is not fitted too tightly and that the wearer continues to exhibit unhindered breathing, regular checks ought to be made during the duration of the harness's usage.

#### **Fitting & Adjustment:**

- Those fitting our products ought to be familiar with their specification, instructions for usage and our bathing harness usage policies and must ensure that if transferring an individual's care over to another staff member that they too are familiar with the products operation, limitations and fully understand our usage policy.

We recommend regular checks of the harness and components to ensure that they remain free from damage, and wear, if any discrepancies are discovered the product should not be used and replaced until advice has been sought from the manufacturer, if under warranty Crelling Harnesses will either repair or replace the product at our discretion, if outside of the warranty period the product may need to be replaced.

- Most of our products utilize a combination of Neoprene, PVC and webbing, these materials can cause overheating and /or sweating on hot days or after prolonged use and so care should be taken to check the wearer regularly and temporarily removed if there are issues.
- When not in use and not mounted to a wheelchair or other type of seating our products should be stored flat and not folded to prevent creasing or weakening of the materials and should be stored in a dry place but not left directly in the sun which can deteriorate or discolour some materials (Especially Neoprene)
- Additionally, our harnesses should be stored out of reach of children, vulnerable adults and Special educational needs individuals so that they are not damaged, or left strewn about causing a tripping or choking hazard.
- Neoprene pads should they become wet ought not to be dried on a radiator or left out in the sun as this is the quickest way to deteriorate the Neoprene, the pads should be rinsed after use and can be sandwiched in a tea-towel and pressed to remove excess water. They should then be hung in an airy place where any dripping water will not cause any issues.

**Usage considerations and guidelines:**

- Our wheelchair products are designed as a postural support for wearers who are under supervision, we do not recommend that those wearing our products are left unattended at any time to ensure their continued safety and wellbeing.
- It is essential that our products are checked before each and every usage to ensure that they have not been abused, altered or become damaged in any way that may impair their use or present a risk to the wearer.
- If the harness is in constant use by people of greatly varying sizes and body types it may be good practice to fully extend the straps after each use so that the next user can be quickly seated and made secure without first having to loosen the straps, again this is entirely at the users' discretion.