

Crelling Harnesses for Disabled Ltd.

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Bathing Harness Usage Policy.

The Crelling Harnesses bathing range has been designed to help those who suffer from inadequate postural support to help maintain a position that enables proper washing and sanitary care of the wearer.

Although this is the basic premise for all of the bathing products in our range, we do offer some products with features to aid the carer in their role such as quick release clips for the harness to be easily removed for washing and maintenance and 2-way adjusting shoulder straps enabling adjustments to be made to the fitting of the harness without needing to move into the flow of water.

At Crelling Harnesses we are well aware of the necessity for washing and cleaning for everyone's sake and endeavour to supply products which help those requiring postural support in a comfortable manner which is neither restrictive nor demeaning.

The primary purpose of our bathing harnesses is postural support and positioning during washing and personal care.

We recommend the following considerations be undertaken when considering using one of our products or commissioning your own bespoke solution.

Risk assessment, legislation & permissions:

- Perform a risk assessment: Determine whether a product in our bathing 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 (SEN) needs please also do consider the safety of staff members who may be in close proximity and members of the general public, in 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 should ensure that the use of any bathing support equipment complies with their own policies, safeguarding procedures and applicable legislation.

Additional medical conditions:

- Our bathing harnesses are recommended for use where the wearer may suffer from inadequate postural support or where severe challenging behaviour may be exhibited especially when the individual is known to propel themselves forward or lurch without warning posing a direct 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 harnesses usage.

Fitting & Adjustment:

- Crelling Harnesses has developed a range of bathing harness solutions and endeavours to design bespoke solutions for circumstances where our standard range may not adequately fit; do ensure you are selecting a product which most closely matches your requirements and ensure you are selecting an appropriate size. (Our friendly staff will be very happy to talk with you and assist you in your choice)
- 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.
- For occasions where Neoprene pads are being used by our customers we recommend purchasing an extra set of pads so that one set can be drying whilst the other is in use. For drying guidance please see the Care, maintenance & Storage section below.
- Special care must be taken to ensure our harness does not in any way interfere with, obstruct or hinder the operation of other special and essential equipment required by the wearer such as feeding tubes, Colostomy bags, catheters, dressings and similar medical equipment.

Care, maintenance & storage:

- **The harness must be inspected before each use for signs of damage, excessive wear or alteration.**
- 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 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 utilise 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 bathing appliance 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 (SEN) individuals so that they are not damaged, or left strewn about causing a tripping or choking hazard.
- Neoprene pads 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 bathing products are designed as an aid 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.
- If a 2-way shoulder adjustment system is fitted to your harness and has been used to loosen the straps to aid in washing the wearer it is essential to remember to tighten the straps back up when finished to ensure the wearer remains secure.
- 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 it may be a good practice to wet the harness with warm water immediately prior to the wearer using it to avoid discomfort from the harness being cold and wet from a prior use, this is entirely at the users discretion.
- 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.