

Home and Vehicle Program

Wheelchair Porch Lift

What is a Porch Lift (also called Vertical Platform Lift)?



- A porch lift is a platform used to overcome stairs. It travels in a vertical direction (up/down) with the individual seated in his/her wheelchair.

When to choose a porch lift to access the home:

- If the individual enters the home seated in a wheelchair
- When the height of the entrance is a minimum of 2 feet high
- When a ramp is not appropriate (e.g., space, client abilities)

Specifications:

- Requires a level area for a concrete pad base at the bottom
- Requires access to appropriate, designated electrical connection
- Must have a safety gate at the top
- Must have a platform at the top for individual to exit
- Requires a minimum 5' X 5' space for the lift to land

How do I go about obtaining a Porch Lift?

- Contact the Niagara Children's Centre Home and Vehicle program if you would like a consultation. You typically require 2 quotes when you apply for funding. You or your Occupational therapist can assist you with setting up an appointment with the contractor of your choice to obtain quotes and determine who you would like to complete the work. The Social Worker can assist you with funding options depending on your family income. Contractors have access to a number of manufacturers (e.g., Bruno, Savaria, Serenity, etc.). If possible, look up information about the porch lifts or ask your contractor which one they recommend and why. Remember to ask about Service, maintenance and warranties that come with the lift.

Other Considerations:

- A porch lift will not overcome a step into the home, so additional porch/deck construction may be necessary to bring the landing to the height of the doorway.
- The front door may have to be replaced for increased width or to swing in so it does not open into the landing.
- Two call/sends may be convenient so the unit can be operated by someone who is not on the lift.
- The unit will not work if ice/snow accumulates underneath it so it should be returned to the base location after each use.