

Make sure you are choosing Value for Money!

- Is the company of good reputation? Does it belong to BHTA* or another recognised trade association.
- Is the product of proven performance?
- Is there the opportunity for a personal demonstration?
- Does the Company ensure a nationwide after sales service?
- Are the staff friendly and helpful?
- Does the product suit your needs?

IF
ALL the answers are **YES**
you have made an excellent choice!

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(*British Healthcare Trades Association)

Independence at Home in Safety



Advice on Choosing
which product
best suits your
requirements
for safety
at home



Having the right equipment to help you with your daily living can make all the difference. You can be independent: you can get on with your own life, you can stay in your own home. However equipment can be expensive. You want to make the right decision. What should you do?

Getting the best advice

- First, through your G.P. you can have a professional impartial assessment of your needs in your own home by an occupational therapist.
- This professional will be able to advise on and suggest suitable equipment and reliable manufacturers and may also provide you with brochures and price lists or websites to look at.
- Or look in the Yellow Pages to find your nearest Disabled Living Centre where you can visit and try out equipment.

Which product?

Be sure you have satisfactory answers to the following questions before you decide on a particular product.

1. DOES THE SUPPLIER PROVIDE A FREE PERSONAL DEMONSTRATION?

Special equipment can be expensive. You need to be sure it is right for YOU. You should try it out in your own home or at a disabled living centre BEFORE you pay any money – wherever possible it is ideal to have an occupational therapist with you, but if not then a district nurse or a close friend is wise.

2. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PRODUCT BREAKS DOWN?

A worthwhile manufacturer will provide a 2 year guarantee on their products.

HOWEVER, make sure the manufacturer or retailer will come and repair your equipment. Also make sure that spare parts will continue to be available for a reasonable duration (five years). CHECK what a service visit will cost.

For peace of mind, pick a manufacturer with a reliable reputation for good customer service.

3. WHY ARE PRICES SO VARIABLE, WHAT ARE YOU PAYING FOR?

An aid to daily living, to help you remain independent in safety with dignity is NOT a luxury. It must be strong, reliable and well made. This is essential.

In making your choice ask yourself:

- a) HOW LONG WILL THIS PRODUCT LAST?
- b) HOW LIGHT & EASY IS IT TO MOVE?
- c) IS IT SIMPLE TO KEEP CLEAN?
- d) WHAT WILL BE THE ON-GOING COSTS? (HOW OFTEN DO THE BATTERIES NEED CHANGING?)
- e) WHEN I NEED HELP WHO DO I ASK? WILL THE SUPPLIER RESPOND WHEN I NEED HELP?