



# Sources of second hand equipment

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DLF Factsheet

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**Reg. Charity No: 290069**  
**VAT Reg. No: 226 9253 54**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Buying new equipment is often expensive and may not be an option for some people. Buying second-hand can be a cheaper way of finding solutions to daily living difficulties, but choice is more limited. You must make sure that you do not compromise on your essential requirements. If you are unsure about what you need, contact the occupational therapist at your local social services for advice; or find out if there is a Disabled Living Centre (DLC) near you. DLCs are non-commercial organisations set up to provide information and advice on disability equipment. They all have equipment demonstration centres where you can visit to see and try out ranges of equipment. To find out the address of your nearest centre, contact:

**Assist UK**  
Redbank House  
4 St. Chad's Street  
Manchester,  
M8 8QA

0870 770 2866;  
[general.info@assist-uk.org](mailto:general.info@assist-uk.org)  
[www.assist-uk.org](http://www.assist-uk.org)

You must check that what you are buying is in good working order. You do have certain consumer rights when buying second-hand, e.g. the seller must accurately describe the product he/she is selling to you; and you should be made fully aware of any faults that need attention. If possible, obtain a written description of the product from the seller before you buy so that should you find any faults, you can more easily get your money back. There are basically two sources of second-hand equipment: disability equipment retailers and private individuals.

### **Advice and information for consumers from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)**

The MHRA has a useful webpage explaining Do's and Don'ts of buying:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Adviceandinformationforconsumers/Buyingmedicaldevices/index.htm>

### **Buying from a Disability Equipment Retailer**

Some commercial suppliers of equipment buy unwanted items, recondition them, then offer them for sale with a short guarantee of, for example, three months. Some might also sell ex-demonstration models. Buying second-hand from a retailer is generally more expensive than buying from a private individual, but the equipment is likely to have been serviced and should be in reasonable working order.

### **Buying from a Private Individual**

Some mainstream magazines and several disability organisations publish journals that contain advertisements for second-hand equipment. If you are buying second-hand from a private individual, you must make sure that:

- the equipment has been regularly maintained;
- that you also receive accompanying literature, for example a care manual;

- that batteries have been regularly charged (usually once a month is sufficient if the equipment is not being used); and that you receive instructions on how to use the equipment properly and safely.

You will also need to find a local company able to service the equipment and carry out future repairs.

## SOURCES OF SECOND-HAND EQUIPMENT

### Websites

The following web sites carry advertisements for second-hand disability equipment:

- **Disability Equipment Register**  
[www.disabilityequipment.org.uk](http://www.disabilityequipment.org.uk)
- **DisabledGear.com**  
[www.DisabledGear.com](http://www.DisabledGear.com)
- **Ebay Bay UK's Disability Resources page**  
<http://pages.ebay.co.uk/zones/disabilityresources.html>
- **Mobility Market**  
[www.themobilitymarket.co.uk/](http://www.themobilitymarket.co.uk/)

### Disability Equipment Retailers

For addresses of disability equipment retailers in your area, look in your local phone book (usually listed under 'disability' or 'mobility'); contact your local Disabled Living Centre; or contact the Disabled Living Foundation's Helpline on 0845 130 9177 (10 am to 4 pm). We have a list, although it is not comprehensive, of retailers on our database.

### Mainstream Journals

#### EXCHANGE AND MART CLASSIFIED

United Advertising Publications Link  
House 25 West Street Poole Dorset, BH15  
1LL  
tel: (01202) 445000;  
helpline: (0800) 680680  
email: [help@exchangeandmart.co.uk](mailto:help@exchangeandmart.co.uk)  
website: [www.exchangeandmart.co.uk](http://www.exchangeandmart.co.uk)

#### LOOT

tel: (020) 7 3281771  
email: [queries@loot.com](mailto:queries@loot.com);  
website: [www.loot.com](http://www.loot.com)

## Disability Journals

Disability Now

6 Market Road London N7

9PW

tel: (020) 7619 7323;

fax: (020) 7619

7331

minicom: (020) 7619 7332

e mail: [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)

homepage: [www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk)

Able Magazine

Craven Publishing Ltd 15-39 Durham Steet, Kinning Park Glasgow G41 1BS tel:

(0141) 419 0044 fax: (0141) 419 0077

email: [info@disabilityview.co.uk](mailto:info@disabilityview.co.uk)

homepage link: <http://www.disabilityview.co.uk/classifieds.shtml>

Carers World

Hawker Publications 13

Park House 140 Battersea Park Road

London SW4 4NB tel: (020) 7720 2108

## Disability Organisations

The following disability organisations publish newsletters with second-hand equipment sections:

ARTHRITIS CARE

18 Stephenson Way London NW1 2HD

tel: (020) 7380 6500

fax: (020) 7380 6505

helpline: (0808) 8004050

e mail: [reception@arthritiscare.org.uk](mailto:reception@arthritiscare.org.uk)

homepage: [www.arthritiscare.org.uk](http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk)

BRITISH POLIO FELLOWSHIP

Ground Floor Unit A Eagle Office Centre The Runway, South Ruislip HA4 6SE

tel: (0800) 0180586

fax: (020) 8842 0555

helpline: (0800) 0180586

e mail: [info@britishpolio.org](mailto:info@britishpolio.org)

homepage: [www.britishpolio.org](http://www.britishpolio.org)

CARERS UK

Ruth Pitter House 20-25

Glasshouse Yard London EC1A 4JT

tel:(020) 7490 8818

fax: (020) 7490 8824

minicom: (020) 7251 8969

helpline: (0808) 808 7777

E mail: [info@ukcarers.org](mailto:info@ukcarers.org)

homepage: [www.carersuk.org/](http://www.carersuk.org/)

## DISABILITY NORTH

The Dene Centre Castles Farm Road Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 1PH

tel: (0191) 284 0480

fax: (0191) 213 0910

textphone: (0191) 285 7261

email: [reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk](mailto:reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk)

homepage: [www.disabilitynorth.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynorth.org.uk)

## DISABILITY WALES

Caerphilly Business Park Van Road Caerphilly Mid Glamorgan CF83 3ED

tel: (0292) 088 7325

fax:(0292) 088 8702

minicom: (0292) 088 7325

helpline: (0800) 731 6282 .

<http://www.disabilitywales.org/>

## Mobilise

National Headquarters Ashwellthorpe Norwich, NR16 1EX

tel: (0870) 770 3333

fax: (01508) 488173

e mail: [ddahq@aol.com](mailto:ddahq@aol.com)

homepage: [www.dda.org.uk](http://www.dda.org.uk)

## DISABLED MOTORISTS FEDERATION

(DMF) 145 Knoulbury Road Blackfell Washington Tyne and Wear

tel/fax 0191 416 3172

email: <http://www.freewebs.com/dmfed/>

## MENCAP

123 Golden Lane London, EC1Y 0RT

Tel: (020) 7454 0454

Fax: (020) 7608 3254

Helpline: (020) 0808 808 1111

Email: [information@mencap.org.uk](mailto:information@mencap.org.uk)

Homepage: [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

## MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION (MND)

PO Box 246

Northampton Northamptonshire, NN1 2PR

Tel: (01604) 250 505

Fax: (01604) 624726

Helpline: (08457) 515 151

E mail: [enquiries@mndassociation.org](mailto:enquiries@mndassociation.org)

Homepage: [www.mndassociation.org.uk](http://www.mndassociation.org.uk)

## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

f Great Britain and Northern Ireland, MS National Centre

372 Edgware Road London NW2 6ND

Tel: (020) 8438 0700

Fax: (020) 8438 0701

Helpline: (0808) 8008000

E mail: [info@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:info@mssociety.org.uk)

Homepage: [www.mssociety.org.uk](http://www.mssociety.org.uk)

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN  
7-11 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS  
Tel: (020) 7720 8055  
Fax: (020) 74980670  
E mail: [info@muscular-dstrophy.org.uk](mailto:info@muscular-dstrophy.org.uk)  
Homepage: [www.muscular-dystrophy.org](http://www.muscular-dystrophy.org)

SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION (SIA)  
SIA House 2 Truman Place Milton Keynes MK6 2HH  
Tel: 0845 678 6633  
Fax: 0845 070 6911  
Helpline: (0800) 980 0501  
Email: [sia@spinal.co.uk](mailto:sia@spinal.co.uk)  
Website: [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

# Donation Form

We hope this factsheet has proven useful to you. If you would like to help the DLF continue to provide valuable information such as this, you may wish to consider making a small donation towards our work. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of the public to help us continue to help older and disabled people lead independent lives.

## Your Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please accept my gift of:

£5

£10

£20

£30

£ \_\_\_\_\_ other

Please make cheques/postal order/ CAF Voucher payable to **Disabled Living Foundation**

If you would like to make a credit card donation, please call our Fundraising Department on **020 7289 6111 (ext: 254)**, or alternatively visit our website at **www.dlf.org.uk**

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- Tick here if you are a UK taxpayer and would like the Disabled Living Foundation to reclaim the tax on all donations you have made for the 6 years prior to this year, (but no earlier than 6th April 2000) and on any future donations you make at no additional cost to yourself, until you notify us otherwise.

NB: You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for every £1 you give)

## Thank You

- Please tick here if you would like to receive details on how you can help by making regular donations through your bank.
- Please tick here if you would prefer not to receive further communications from the DLF.

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