

Guide to **WAVs**

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles





WHAT IS A WAV?

Wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) are adapted vehicles that allow you to travel in or drive the vehicle whilst remaining seated in your wheelchair. Other people use a WAV to transport their wheelchair or scooter, whilst they transfer to a passenger seat. A large selection of WAVs are available for you to choose from, ranging from small cars to larger MPVs to accommodate the whole family.

WAV features may include:

- Access ramp
- Special wheelchair restraints
- Special wheelchair occupant seat belts
- Lowered floor (or, in some cases, a raised roof) to assist entry and access and to provide additional headroom

Wheelchair Passengers

WAVs are typically converted for wheelchair passengers. As a passenger, you will normally have access from, and be seated in, the rear of the vehicle.

Wheelchair Drivers

Some WAVs are specially converted to allow you to drive whilst remaining in your wheelchair. Standard cars can also be adapted with special driver controls so that you can drive after transferring to a standard or adapted driver's seat.

The Range of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

WAV cars are popular and affordable and can offer a size that is just right for you. If you are looking for several extra passenger seats and luggage space to accommodate the whole family you may wish to choose an MPV-sized vehicle. Some MPV and minibus WAVs can accommodate two or more wheelchair passengers.

Choosing the perfect WAV is about finding what features best suit your particular needs, then finding the vehicle that can provide these for you.

IS A WAV FOR YOU?

Many wheelchair users prefer a WAV because it enables you to travel in your wheelchair, without the need to transfer into a car seat and then stow your wheelchair inside the vehicle.

Moving to a car seat with the aid of a hoist may be quite an uncomfortable option for you. Selecting a WAV will enable you to travel in your wheelchair, letting you have a more comfortable journey. If you are unable to transfer to a car seat then a WAV is the perfect solution, giving you freedom to travel where you want, when you want. All our WAVs offer complete security with high quality safety features including wheelchair restraints, a wheelchair passenger seatbelt and wheelchair access ramps. Some people who are able to transfer to the car seats also find a WAV provides the easiest way to transport their wheelchair.

Scooter Users

Our WAVs are also increasingly popular with scooter users. They make it easy and safe to load and transport your scooter, while you transfer and travel comfortably in the passenger seat.

Popular Reasons for Getting a WAV

- No need to transfer from your wheelchair
- Getting in and out can be quick and easy
- Room for family and luggage
- Choice of models now available from Allied Mobility to buy, hire or through the Motability Scheme
- Ideal for storing your wheelchair and for scooter users too

Alternatives to WAVs

If you find it easy to transfer to a car seat and have no difficulty stowing your wheelchair, then adaptations can be made to standard cars to help you travel with ease. Aids such as swivel chairs, hand controls, hoists and rooftop and boot stowage are just a few of the alternatives available.

KEY FEATURES OF PASSENGER WAVs

When considering which wheelchair accessible vehicle best suits your needs, keep in mind the various features our WAV conversions can offer.

Feature	Details
Lowered floor	More headroom and easier ramp gradient.
Lowering suspension	Vehicle can be lowered for an easier ramp gradient.
High roof	Increased headroom.
Folding seats	Rear seats fold away to make room for the wheelchair passenger and can be folded back when needed.
Folding ramps	All Allied Mobility wheelchair vehicles include an easy-to-use lightweight ramp. Counterweights or springs make the ramp easier to fold in and out. Our unique EasyFold™ ramp extends into the vehicle floor for an even easier ramp gradient.
Safety	All Allied WAVs also have a system to secure the wheelchair and a specially designed seat belt for the wheelchair passenger.
Electric winch	If your carer/partner has trouble pushing your wheelchair up the ramp, an electric winch can be fitted to help you.
Lifts	Our minibus WAVs for group transport can be fitted with either a lift or ramp to aid entry and exit.

PAYING FOR YOUR WAV

All of our wheelchair accessible cars and MPVs are available to buy, rent or through the Motability Scheme. We also offer monthly hire purchase packages to spread payment if you are meeting the cost of the vehicle yourself.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

- **Cash payment**

Pay the full value of your vehicle outright.

- **Arrange finance for your vehicle**

We can help you to apply for finance for the hire purchase of your vehicle. Normally you will make monthly payments over three, four or five years. At the end of the payment plan, you will own your vehicle outright.

- **Obtain your vehicle through the Motability Scheme**

The Motability Scheme is available to anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement.

By simply exchanging your benefit, you can receive a WAV through the Motability contract hire scheme. WAV agreements are usually for five years and include a mileage allowance of 100,000 miles, insurance, breakdown cover and servicing and maintenance throughout the course of your agreement.

Under the Motability Scheme, your mobility allowance will be transferred to Motability to meet the monthly cost of your wheelchair accessible vehicle. You will also have an initial Advance Payment to make. The amount of this will vary, depending on the value of your WAV. For details of current WAV Advance Payments call our mobility advisors on **freephone 0800 916 0008**.

Financial Assistance

You may be able to obtain financial support towards the cost of buying your wheelchair accessible vehicle or towards the Advance Payment required if you use the Motability contract hire scheme. Motability can offer grant support, depending on your needs and circumstances. If you are working, or hope to return to work, you may also be able to obtain an Access to Work grant.

Simply call our Motability Advisors on **freephone 0800 916 0008** to discuss your needs or to request our free guides to the Motability Scheme and Access to Work grants.

Open Road Accessible Rentals

Allied Mobility also offers a hire service dedicated to wheelchair cars and MPVs. All our wheelchair accessible cars are available for short or long term hire.



“I was able to get an Allied Mobility WAV through the Motability Scheme. Now I can get out and about whenever I like.”

WAVs FOR WHEELCHAIR PASSENGERS

When choosing a wheelchair accessible vehicle, you'll be looking for a car or MPV that has certain features, in order to suit your specific needs and requirements.

Room for Your Wheelchair or Scooter

You will need a WAV that has the correct space for your wheelchair or scooter. You should be able to move your wheelchair or scooter into and out of the vehicle with ease, avoiding any difficult manoeuvres that may cause damage to either your wheelchair or scooter or to the vehicle's fittings.

By measuring the width of the widest point of your wheelchair or scooter and the width of the narrowest point of the WAV, you can check if your wheelchair or scooter will be able to enter the vehicle. Similarly the length of your wheelchair or scooter compared with the length of the wheelchair or scooter passenger space in the vehicle will also determine whether your wheelchair or scooter can be safely secured in the WAV.

The best way to be sure is to try your wheelchair or scooter in whichever WAV you are considering. If you intend to travel seated in your wheelchair, make sure you have enough space for your legs, as some chairs are longer than others and you may choose to sit with the leg rest elevated.

Passengers

Allied's WAVs can accommodate at least two seated passengers as well as the wheelchair user and driver. Most also enable you to fold additional seats forward, to accommodate the wheelchair user or you can use these as normal, when required. However, watch out for some converters who may advertise vehicles which in fact have no rear seats as standard and will charge extra for these.

When viewing a wheelchair accessible vehicle, test the size and comfort of the seats. If a child seat is to be used it should be tested during your vehicle demonstration.

Room for Luggage

Always consider the equipment that you plan to take with you when you travel. Bear this in mind when viewing a WAV to establish whether the vehicle has adequate luggage space for your needs.

Wheelchair Access

All Allied Mobility wheelchair accessible cars and MPVs are fitted with a lightweight, easy-to-use ramp. Larger minibuses, for group transport, may be fitted with either a folding ramp or tail lift. When choosing a ramp it is important to let the person who'll be using the ramp try it out. Your helper should be able to assist you up the ramp and into the vehicle at all times, even when the vehicle is parked on a slope. The angle of the ramp will also affect how easily and safely you get in and out of the vehicle.

Some Allied WAVs offer a slope that is less steep by using longer ramps or by offering suspension that lowers the rear of the vehicle. Others have an electric winch to aid wheelchair entry and exit.



Parking

When parking you will have to allow space for the ramp or lift to fully extend for secure entry. Choosing a smaller vehicle could make this easier. Think about where you regularly park and the height of the wheelchair accessible vehicles you are considering, especially if you often park in a multi-story car park with a height restriction.

Seated Position

Ask what seating layouts are available to you. If your carer or family member needs easy access during a journey, the seating layout you choose should accommodate this.

Take into account the view you have from your wheelchair and your headroom, as these can differ in each vehicle conversion. If you wish to have more headroom, high roof WAVs are available.

Safety

All Allied Mobility wheelchair cars, MPVs and minibuses are fitted with high quality wheelchair securing systems and a wheelchair passenger seat belt. These essential items, together with the full vehicle adaptation, have all been thoroughly tested to meet stringent safety standards.



WAVs FOR WHEELCHAIR DRIVERS

Driving a wheelchair car or MPV from your wheelchair gives you great freedom, with automatic features facilitating a completely independent drive. There are two types of WAV conversions for wheelchair user-drivers:

- Transfer to standard/adapted driver's seat
- Drive directly from your wheelchair

Drive-from-Wheelchair

Converted WAVs for wheelchair user-drivers provide a clear route from point of entry to the driving position and so have fewer rear seats than other smaller size wheelchair passenger WAVs. Wheelchair entry in Allied's drive-from-wheelchair cars is from the side of the vehicle. We also offer remote-operated lowering suspension and unfolding of the access ramp, allowing you fully independent entry or exit.

Before settling on a drive-from-wheelchair vehicle we will also arrange for you to have a detailed assessment to ensure the vehicle is best tailored to your individual needs.

Custom Fitted Adaptations

Wheelchair drivers, in most instances, need some form of driving adaptations, such as hand controls, that are tailored to their individual needs. Some examples include:

- Pedal extensions
- Hand controls
- Indicator extension
- Steering spinners



A wide range of driver aids is available through Allied Mobility.

THE ALLIED MOBILITY RANGE

Allied Mobility is the UK's leading wheelchair accessible vehicle specialist. We produce high quality wheelchair cars, MPVs and minibuses in association with leading manufacturers including Peugeot, Citroën, Volkswagen, Vauxhall and Fiat. All Allied Mobility vehicles are available to buy, rent or through the UK Motability Scheme.

Our vehicles are built to the highest safety standards and equipped with a variety of access and security features such as wheelchair restraint systems, wheelchair seat belts and easy-to-use access ramps.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PASSENGER VEHICLES

Wheelchair Cars

Accommodating driver, wheelchair passenger and up to two seated passengers or driver and up to four seated passengers.



Wheelchair MPVs

Accommodating driver, wheelchair passenger and up to six seated passengers.



Wheelchair Minibuses

Wheelchair accessible minibus conversions available on a wide range of base vehicles, tailor made to suit your accessibility needs. Accommodating up to 17 seated passengers or six wheelchair occupants.



To arrange a FREE, no obligation home demonstration or for further information on our wheelchair accessible vehicle range, simply call our specialist Mobility Advisors on **freephone 0800 916 0008**, email **info@alliedmobility.com** or visit **www.alliedmobility.com**

DRIVE FROM WHEELCHAIR MPVs

Allied Mobility, in partnership with Alfred Bekker, offers adapted vehicles specially built for wheelchair user-drivers. Based on the Chrysler Voyager, your drive-from-wheelchair MPV comes with state-of-the-art, remote control activated access ramps, wheelchair restraints and driving adaptations providing optimum safety and independence.

Options available:

- Power tail gate
- Power sliding doors
- Electrically operated folding ramp
- Wheelchair bracketry
- Wheelchair user head restraint
- Drive by wire joystick
- Choice of right or left side entry
- Push/pull hand controls
- Electric super winch
- Steering knob, peg or mushroom
- Electrically operated hand brake
- Reduced effort steering
- Electrically operated wheel-in tie-down

Wheelchair access is from the near side, allowing you direct entry and exit to and from the pavement. For further information please contact our Mobility Advisors, who will be more than happy to discuss your needs and send you further information.

Freephone 0800 916 0008, email info@alliedmobility.com or visit www.alliedmobilty.com for more information.



GETTING A WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE

Follow these easy steps to help you choose your ideal wheelchair vehicle and make sure it's right for you.

Gathering Information

Allied Mobility is more than happy to provide information and advice on our wide range of wheelchair accessible vehicles and adaptations. Detailed brochures are also available, free of charge, for all our wheelchair accessible cars and MPVs.

Give us a call free on **0800 916 0008** to speak to one of our Mobility Advisors, who can provide you with expert advice and details on all of our vehicles. Alternatively you can email **info@alliedmobility.com** or visit **www.alliedmobility.com**

Make a Shortlist

Our advisors can help talk through your needs and decide which wheelchair accessible vehicle is most suitable for you.



Arrange a Home Demonstration

Home demonstrations are the best way to decide if the vehicle can meet your individual requirements. To make sure a vehicle is right for you, Allied Mobility always offer a free home demonstration – available anywhere in the UK.

Once you have identified which wheelchair car or MPV is most suitable for you, your Mobility Advisor will arrange for a local consultant to come and demonstrate the vehicle, at a time convenient to you. Just contact your Mobility Advisor on **freephone 0800 916 0008** to arrange your free, no obligation, home demonstration.

It is important for you to involve your carer, partner or whoever will be driving the WAV. They must be happy with driving your wheelchair vehicle and confident that they can operate the wheelchair accessible features, such as the ramp and restraints, before a final decision is made. Any equipment, mobility aids or child seats should be taken on your test drive to check that they can fit in your new wheelchair accessible vehicle.

FAQs

How do I pay for my WAV?

You can obtain your Allied Mobility wheelchair accessible vehicle by buying it outright; by paying for it monthly through a hire purchase agreement or, if you receive a state mobility allowance, you can get your WAV through the Motability Scheme. Allied Mobility wheelchair cars and MPVs are also available for short or longer term hire. See page seven for further details.

Can I get help towards the cost of an advance payment?

Depending on your circumstances, Motability may be able to provide a grant to help with the cost of an advance payment that you cannot afford. If you are working, or intend to, you may be eligible for an Access to Work grant. For more information on grant support contact our Mobility Advisors on **freephone 0800 916 0008**.

How do I know which WAV will suit me?

Use this guide to help determine the features you require. You can also request further information and advice from our specialist Mobility Advisors or talk to other wheelchair accessible vehicle owners to help you decide.

Can I arrange a demonstration?

Once you have an idea of the wheelchair accessible vehicle that can meet your requirements, it is important to arrange a demonstration to make sure your preferred WAV is suitable for you. Allied Mobility always offers free home demonstrations, throughout the UK.

What if I need to change my wheelchair?

Change is difficult to plan. If, for any reason, you believe you may change your wheelchair over the next five years, you may need to alter your requirements and consider a larger vehicle with more entry space or headroom.

I am part way through my current Motability vehicle contract but need a different WAV now. How do I resolve this?

If you are having difficulties using your current vehicle, that has been obtained through the Motability Scheme, you may be able to change to a more suitable vehicle. For information on how to do this, contact Allied Mobility on **freephone 0800 916 0008**. Please note - there may sometimes be a fee if you end your contract early.

When will I get my new WAV?

Allied Mobility will build your new wheelchair accessible vehicle to order and will write to you once you place your order to confirm your delivery date. Vehicles are usually available in between six to eight weeks. If you obtain a WAV through the Motability Scheme, delivery of your vehicle usually takes between 12 and 16 weeks from application.

How do I get the correct adaptations for my driver WAV?

If you are looking for a WAV converted to be driven by a wheelchair user, contact an Allied Mobility Advisor on **freephone 0800 916 0008** to help you find the vehicle that meets your requirements. If you are purchasing your adapted vehicle through the Motability Scheme your requirements will be detailed during your assessment.

What happens when my WAV needs servicing?

Allied Mobility wheelchair accessible vehicles can be serviced at any local dealer or garage. We also have a national network of repair agents for specialist features. Motability will advise you on servicing and repairs for WAVs obtained through the Motability Scheme.

What if my WAV is off the road for any reason?

Should your own wheelchair accessible vehicle be unavailable for a time, a replacement vehicle may be difficult to find due to the highly adapted nature of WAVs. However, *Open Road* accessible rentals, Allied Mobility's accessible hire service, offers a range of wheelchair accessible vehicles for short or longer term hire.

If you obtain your wheelchair accessible vehicle through the

Motability Scheme, you may be able to receive help whilst your vehicle is being serviced - for example, help with travel costs can be provided. If your Motability car is off the road for an extended period, Motability may agree to provide a free replacement vehicle. Allied's *Open Road* accessible rentals service is a main supplier of WAVs to Motability for this purpose, so you can look forward to a high quality replacement vehicle until your's is returned.

What's the difference between a wheelchair car, disabled car, disabled van and wheelchair accessible vehicle?

Simple - nothing! Different people just happen to use different names for the same thing. 'Vans' or 'MPVs' are slightly larger and accommodate more passengers than 'cars' but otherwise disabled cars, disabled vans, wheelchair cars, wheelchair MPVs and so on are all names used for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Allied Mobility

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Visit www.alliedmobility.com



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