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BATHING AIDS

BUYERS GUIDE



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BUYING AN BATHING AID

How to look for a bathing aid

Bathing can be particularly frustrating for people with mobility problems. Many baths are too high to step into, while standing in the shower can be exhausting. Asking for help can leave people feeling humiliated, as bathing is usually a private matter

Bathing aids, such as walk-in baths and showers and bath lifts, can help people to keep their independence, assisting them to stay in their own home for longer and reduce the need for a carer.

Although some bathing solutions can be inexpensive, such as a shower chair or grab rails, others like a mobility bath or walk-in shower are a bigger investment. Before investing in a bathing solution, make sure you do some research. Talk to someone who uses bathing aids or has a wet room, as they can provide first-hand advice. To get a better idea of what bathing solutions are available, have a look at a catalogue or visit a showroom.

By doing this, you will be able to weigh up the advantages of various types of bathing aids, although this can be time consuming. Using Mobility Compare can be quicker, as the website matches your exact needs and wants with a variety of products, providing information on prices, benefits and the functions of each item.



What sort of bathing aid would suit you?

Choosing which bathing aid to buy will depend on your needs and finances. It is important to consider what you require and how this could change, especially if your mobility becomes more restricted. For those who love a long soak, a walk-in bath or a bath lift can be a good choice. A mobility bath enables people to walk straight into the tub, without having to climb over the edges. These baths, which come in a variety of shapes and sizes, have a small door, which either opens in or outwards.

Bath lifts can usually be fitted into most standard bathtubs and are considerably less expensive than installing a walk-in bath, making them an ideal investment for people who are concerned about the cost of bathing aids.

Bath and shower combinations are also available, providing the benefits of both bathing devices. Easy access showers are also popular with people looking for bathing solutions. These come with a shower tray which is usually level with the floor, making them a good idea for people who have very limited mobility. Other options include installing a wetroom, which can include a disabled toilet and an open shower, or buying a shower chair.

What to expect from a sales visit?

Arranging a sales visit can be a daunting task but it is also often very beneficial. Before organising the visit, think carefully about your needs and explain these whilst arranging for a representative to speak to you. Before the sales person arrives, make a list of any questions you may have. This will ensure that you don't forget to mention any worries you might have while the representative is speaking to you. Having a family member or friend on hand can also be helpful.

During the sales visit, the representative should talk through the various options available. Make it

clear to the sales person what your budget is and ask that they explain suitable products in detail.

While the visit is taking place, the sales person should make a full assessment of your needs and the amount of assistance you require. The representative will typically take measurements, factoring how much space you might need for a walk-in bath or other bathing solution. He or she might also take the dimensions of your tub, if you want to install a bath lift. At the end of the visit, the representative should provide a quote and details of your options. Don't feel pressurised into accepting the offer automatically and consider speaking to other companies.

Buying tips?

There are a few simple things to consider before buying a bathing aid

01 As well as factoring in your needs, it is also important to consider plumbing issues and space. A walk-in bath needs to be empty when you enter and exit it. If you don't want to sit there shivering while waiting for the bath to fill up with water or empty, fast fill and drain times are key. It's important to get your bathroom plumbing checked to ensure it can cope with fast drain times.

02 Walk-in baths where the door opens inwards give better protection against leaks and save space, while outward opening doors enable you to exit the bath quickly, even if the water has not drained.

03 Organising a visit from a surveyor can also be beneficial. They will be able to tell you what size and type of bath would best suit your home and if it can be installed properly.

04 Make sure the bathing aid company is considering the size of your bath, if buying a bath lift.

Also, for all bathing solutions, take into consideration the warranty on the products, as well as whether the company offers a call-out service. To find a bathing aid that suit your needs, use the Mobility Compare site to compare bathing aids www.mobilitycompare.co.uk