

The Complete Mobility Aid Buyer's Guide

How to choose the right rollator, wheelchair, scooter, knee scooter, or cane, matched to your situation instead of whatever ranks highest.

START HERE

Match the aid to the support you need

The single most important decision is choosing the right *type* of aid. From least to most support: a **cane** for light balance, a **rollator** for distance plus a seat to rest on, a **wheelchair or transport chair** when walking far isn't the goal, a **mobility scooter** for independent range, and a **knee scooter** for a non-weight-bearing foot or ankle injury. Buy the least aid that keeps you safe and confident, and step up only as needed.

How we score every product: the Fit Score

We rate each product 0–10 on five things, then average them. No brand pays for ranking.

CATEGORY	WHAT IT MEASURES
Comfort	Seat, grip, padding, and ride quality over a long day, not a quick test.
Stability	How steady and secure it feels: frame, wheelbase, brakes, support.
Portability	Weight, how it folds or disassembles, how easy to transport or stow.
Ease of use	Steering, controls, adjustments, transfers, and day-to-day fuss.
Value	What you get for the price, including build quality and warranty.

The five categories, in plain terms

Rollators & walkers **DISTANCE + A SEAT**

Four wheels, hand brakes, and a built-in seat. The workhorse when you tire easily but your balance is decent. A plain walker (no wheels) gives more stability for early recovery.

Key choice: wheel size (bigger = better outdoors), and how it folds (a stand-up side-fold is best for the car).

Wheelchairs & transport chairs **WHO PUSHES?**

A self-propel wheelchair has large rear wheels the user drives themselves. A transport chair has four small wheels and is pushed by a caregiver, lighter and more packable, but can't be self-propelled.

Key choice: who does the pushing, and seat width (measure hip to hip, add an inch or two).

Mobility scooters **INDEPENDENT RANGE**

Powered scooters for longer distances when walking the distance is the problem. Travel models disassemble or fold for the car; full-size models go further but need a ramp or lift.

Key choice: travel vs. full-size, 3 wheels (tighter turns) vs. 4 wheels (more stable), and realistic battery range.

Knee scooters **FOOT/ANKLE INJURY**

Rest the injured leg on a padded platform and roll, hands free. Usually far easier than crutches for a non-weight-bearing foot or ankle. Not for hip or thigh injuries.

Key choice: steerable front wheels (much easier), and wheel size (12" all-terrain for grass and gravel).

Canes **LIGHT BALANCE**

The lightest aid, for confidence rather than full support. Single-point for mild needs; a quad or pivoting base for more stability. Hold it in the hand opposite your weaker leg.

Key choice: single-point vs. quad/pivoting base, grip comfort, and correct height (grip at the wrist crease).

The before-you-buy checklist

- ✓ Weight capacity covers you **with margin**, never buy at the limit.
- ✓ Height adjusts to fit you (grip at the wrist crease, slight elbow bend).
- ✓ For chairs: seat width measured hip to hip, plus an inch or two.
- ✓ Frame width fits your hallways and bathroom door.
- ✓ Brakes engage smoothly and the park lock holds firmly.
- ✓ It folds or packs the way your car and storage actually need.
- ✓ The wheels suit your surfaces (indoors, pavement, or rough ground).

One rule that overrides everything: if you're recovering from surgery, your surgeon or physical therapist sets your weight-bearing status. That instruction decides what's safe, follow it over anything in this guide.

Find your match in 60 seconds. Take the quiz and see your specific pick, with the reasoning, at mobility-reviews.com/quiz. Browse all scored picks at mobility-reviews.com/best.

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