

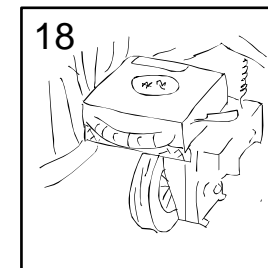
This is one of 18 leaflets in the "WiseBuy" series to enable people to choose the right product for easier living. The titles include:

- 1 *Choosing an Armchair*
- 2 *Choosing a Bath with a Door*
- 3 *Choosing a Bathlift*
- 4 *Choosing a Commode*
- 5 *Choosing an Electric Bed*
- 6 *Choosing an Electric Wheelchair*
- 7 *Buying by Mail Order*
- 8 *Choosing a Riser Recliner*
- 9 *Choosing a Scooter*
- 10 *Choosing a Stairlift*
- 11 *Choosing a Walking Stick*
- 12 *Choosing a Wheelchair*
- 13 *Choosing a Wheeled Walker*
- 14 *Choosing a Mattress*
- 15 *Choosing a Social Alarm*
- 16 *Choosing Grab Rails*
- 17 *Avoid Slips and Trips*
- 18 *Choosing a Power Pack*

**Large Print Versions Available on Request**

~ For more information contact your local ~  
Independent Living Centre : **01392 687276**  
Citizens Advice Bureau : **see local phone directory**  
Trading Standards Dept. : **0870 872 9000**  
Social Services Dept. : **see local phone directory**

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**Don't get in a rut...**

... read our useful information guide  
before you buy a **Power Pack**



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## Can you say YES to these questions?

Some wheelchair services provide power packs, some don't. Have you checked your local criteria? Are you eligible for a manual wheelchair? YES [ ]

Have you applied for a Disability Living Allowance towards your mobility needs if you are under 65? If you are entitled to the mobility component you can use this to purchase mobility equipment. YES [ ]

Have you talked to family, friends or a therapist about buying a power pack? Get as much information as you can. YES [ ]

Are you aware of the local suppliers? We have lists available. YES [ ]

Do you know enough about electric motor power pack attachments for a manual wheelchair? If you already have an NHS manual wheelchair you may need to get permission to have a power pack fitted. YES [ ]

Have you considered whether your carer can operate a power pack and take it on and off the wheelchair to fold the wheelchair in and out of a car boot? YES [ ]

If you intend transporting your chair in a car, have you checked that you or your carer can physically manage this? Even in parts, electric power packs are heavy. YES [ ]

Will the chair and power pack still suit you in a few years time? YES [ ]

Have you thought about maintenance? The power pack will need charging, cleaning and repair. Is the repair service local? YES [ ]

Can your carer control the chair well? Practice over rough ground and on slopes, up and down, for at least 20 minutes. Controls can be very sensitive until you get used to them. YES [ ]

Have you checked the weight threshold of your wheelchair and power pack? Heavy duty models are available which are more substantial, however they are also heavier to lift. YES [ ]

## COULD YOU ANSWER 'YES' TO ALL THE QUESTIONS? IF NOT TELEPHONE YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE ON

**01392 687276**

### Useful tips to help YOU decide

- Power packs attached to the back of the wheelchair. They have a drive wheel, a battery and clamps to hold the power pack in position. The controls are attached to the push handles for the carer to operate
- The unit detaches so that the wheelchair can be folded to store, for example in the boot of a car
- The battery is charged via a charger off the mains
- Manufacturers often recommend the fitting of push handle brakes for added safety. Please discuss this with your supplier and expect to pay a little more on top of equipment costs for these
- Power packs don't always work well on kerbs

**Power packs start from  
around £350  
(Sept 2005)**

**Assist UK is the national network for advice on independent living equipment where anyone having difficulty with everyday tasks can get advice, information and try out a wide range of products and solutions.**

**To find your nearest centre call us now on 0870 770 2866  
(Textphone 0870 770 5813)**