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.

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/CON019611

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

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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](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
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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
homepage: 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
homepage link: www.ablemagazine.co.uk

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:

ARTHITIS CARE
18 Stephenson Way London NW1 2HD
tel: (020) 7380 6500 fax: (020) 7380 6505
helpline: (0808) 8004050
e mail: reception@arthritiscare.org.uk

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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.uk
homepage: www.britishpolio.org.uk

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
homepage: 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
e mail: reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk
homepage: 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: ddahg@aol.com
homepage: www.dda.org.uk

DISABLED MOTORISTS FEDERATION
(DMF) 145 Knoulbury Road Black Fell Washington Tyne and Wear
tel/fax 0191 416 3172
e mail: http://www.freewebs.com/dmfed/
MENCAP
123 Golden Lane London, EC1Y ORT
Tel: (020) 7454 0454
Fax: (020) 7608 3254
Helpline: (020) 0808 808 1111
Email: information@mencap.org.uk
Homepage: 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
Homepage: 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
Homepage: 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-dystrophy.org.uk
Homepage: 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
Website: www.spinal.co.uk

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The majority of DLF’s advice is now online. If you would like advice and support to get online or information on local courses about getting online please visit one of the following websites.

**Age UK**  
Call **0800 169 8787**

**BBC Webwise**  
http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/  
Call **08000 150 950**

**Digital Unite**  
Call **0800 228 9272** Or you can write to them  
Digital Unite Limited, Unit 2B Poles Copse, Poles Lane, Otterbourne, Winchester, SO21 2DZ

**Go On**  
http://www.go-on.co.uk/  
Call 0800 77 1234  
UK online centres, The Quadrant, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WG

**UK Online Centre**  
http://www.ukonlinecentres.com/
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* This is the last three digits found on the signature strip on the reverse of your card

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