

What You Need to Know ... Before Buying a Stairlift

Regaining the freedom to move around your home may be as easy as installing a stairlift. If you, a friend or family member has trouble with stairs but would like to stay in their current home, a stairlift may be the right solution.

Many older adults continue to enjoy good health and want to remain in their homes, but find stairs to be a challenge.

Today's stairlifts do not require any structural changes to the home, and they do not damage the stairs or home décor. The stair lifts are designed for quiet, efficient operation, with a battery-powered motor with regular house current used to recharge the batteries.

Some top things to know when considering adding a stairlift to your home include:

Stair Style. Choosing the right stairlift for your stairs helps you get the most from the product. Lifts are available in designs specific to straight stairways, curved stairways and outdoor stairways such as front steps or patio steps. The modular style of most manufacturer stairlifts allows for easy installation without structural changes to the home.

Safety Features. Most models of stairlifts include multiple safety features. The chair and built-in footrest typically fold up when not in use, allowing for easy passage on the stairs. The lifts also feature sensors on the foot platform, motor rail panels (top & bottom) that will stop the lift when triggered. In addition, most lifts include remote control components to make it easy for family or others to operate. The stairlifts also include safety belts, locks, lockable swivel seats and light touch for easy operation by individuals whose dexterity is limited.

Support. When you purchase a stairlifts from BLACKBURN'S an authorized dealer and installation provider, service and support is performed by a trained service technician who can address any problems with your stairlift. In addition, look for a manufacturer of stairlifts that offers a warranty that covers the motor and gearbox on the stairlift. Only authorized manufacturer dealer and installers can provide service. If a stairlift is removed or serviced by an unauthorized dealer/installer, the manufacturer reserves the right to "void" all warranties.

Purchasing Used. We see "used" lifts listed in local newspapers and the internet. The price is much lower than a new unit, so you buy it. Great deal...maybe not. Unless you're an authorized manufacturer dealer/installer, buying used from a private owner can be a serious mistake. Work with an authorized manufacturer dealer/installer when considering a used unit. Protect your investment and avoid unexpected costs for installation, repairs and "voided" warranties.

Ask for References. Stairlift manufacturers list authorized dealers/installers on their website. Check out multiple dealers in your area. Make sure the company you select is an authorized dealer with a proven track record of successful installations.

(Source) Portions of this article are reprinted from an Acorn Stair Lifts article published in NewsUSA

BLACKBURN'S is an authorized manufacturer dealer/installer for Handicare and Harmar stairlifts. Our manufacturer-trained professionals will provide a home evaluation to determine the right stair lift for your needs. Call to schedule your *free* in-home evaluation.

800-472-2440



Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist
(CAPS)

Registered Pennsylvania Home
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6 Questions Answered When Buying a Stairlift

MARCH 24, 2017 (Source: Handicare)

Stairlifts questions answered

The decision to go ahead and buy a stairlift is a big decision for people and often they will have spent a long time thinking about it before finally deciding that they will benefit from having one installed.

Once that decision has been made, deciding which lift to buy is a major consideration; in many cases, people are unfamiliar with stairlifts and what to look out for so the whole process can seem rather daunting. We have answered six of the most common questions that people have when buying a stairlift so if you or someone you know is considering a stairlift we hope this will help with making an informed decision.

Are my stairs suitable for a stairlift?

There is a variety of stairlift systems available, so you can generally find something that will work on curved, helical or straight stairs. There are some staircases that even have a mixture of both straight-flight stairs and fan-like steps or intermittent landings; custom-made rails are available to handle most of these configurations. Whatever type of staircase you have, there is often a solution that can be found.

How is the stairlift installed?

Stairlifts are usually fitted to the stairs, not the wall. Most of the time the rail is secured to the stairs with multiple supports along the rail. The supports won't be needed on every step and their positioning will depend on the staircase. If you have a complex multi-level flight of stairs then you may require more supports than a standard straight flight of stairs.

BLACKBURN'S will conduct an onsite evaluation to determine the optimum rail for you, which means we'll be able to give you a good idea before you order where the rail will be affixed.

Will I need any building work to accommodate a stairlift?

Sometimes minor modifications are required to the property to ensure that the stairlift will fit and travel safely – while rare, this shouldn't be a cause for concern. Handrails or other obstructions may require minor adjustment or removal for a proper fit for the stairlift.

Most stairlifts offer a variety of installation options to enable us to fit in most homes. The most manufacturer stairlifts require a minimum width of 29" to operate properly. Should any adaptation be needed in your home, BLACKBURN'S will provide you with guidance and advice. This may, for example, include removal of a handrail to make room for your stairlift.

Can I change my carpet once my stairlift has been fitted?

Yes you can. BLACKBURN'S offers a 'lift and lower' service. We'll come on a scheduled time to remove your stairlift and return to refit it after your new carpet has been installed.

This is a chargeable service so if you are also considering a new carpet it may be more cost-effective for you to have that fitted before your new stairlift is installed.

Can I try before I buy?

BLACKBURN'S has an Accessibility Center showroom located at the Pittsburgh Mills Galleria Mall in Tarentum PA for demonstrations of the stairlift. Demonstrations are by appointment only, call to schedule a date/time to meet our representative.

For a custom curve unit, BLACKBURN'S performs an in-home photo of your staircase with a special CAD camera. With a proprietary Vision App and/or PhotoSurvey3D tool we generate an image of how the curve stairlift will look in your home so you know what to expect before it is installed.

Are all stairlift seats the same?

Stairlift seats come in different shapes and sizes, and depending on each individual circumstance, there will be options available to suit users' medical or physical conditions.

BLACKBURN'S offers a *free, no-obligation* visit in your home to measure your staircase and answer any questions you may have before recommending a solution.

Speak to one of our mobility experts today!

Call

800-472-2440