

# Buying Second-Hand Equipment

You need to keep in mind that buying used items or second-hand items can save you money but does not provide the same consumer protection rights as when buying new items. It is important to check the product's condition before buying or accepting second-hand goods. You may want to seek assistance to ensure that a piece of equipment is suitable for an individual by organising a health professional to carry out a pre-purchase evaluation of the equipment.

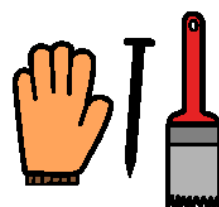


The following is a checklist to help you select second-hand items as suggested by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), 2014:



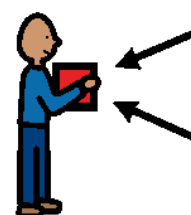
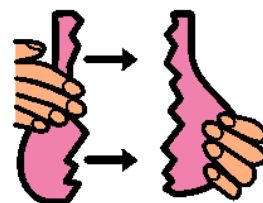
## Current Condition:

- ☐ Is the item sturdy and stable?
- ☐ Does the item come with full instructions for assembly and use?
- ☐ Do all parts work correctly?
- ☐ Does the item have safety instructions?
- ☐ What is the manufacturer's life expectancy for the item?
- ☐ Was the item broken or damaged during previous use?
- ☐ Does the item have tears, sharp edges, or points?
- ☐ Is the item missing any vital parts?
- ☐ Does the item have a history of being in an accident or being damaged?
- ☐ Are there hygiene issues associated with purchasing this second-hand item (e.g. urinal, mattress, etc.)?
- ☐ Does the item have an Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) number? Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is Australia's regulatory authority for therapeutic goods. Visit: [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).



## Repairs / Maintenance:

- ☐ Is the item still covered by the warranty?
- ☐ Was the item banned by the manufacturer/supplier for safety reasons?
- ☐ Was the item recalled by the manufacturer/supplier for safety reasons?
- ☐ Was the item repaired previously? Who completed these repairs?
- ☐ Did the item have any changes made that will make it unsafe (e.g. wrong size mattress in a cot)? Are new parts that replace broken parts still compatible with the item?
- ☐ Can the item be fixed, if necessary, by the original supplier?
- ☐ Have you checked for mandatory safety standards or bans that may cover the second-hand product?





Keep in mind that it is better to avoid products that have suffered an impact. While a product may look undamaged, it may have weaknesses that make it unsafe for use. Repaired and modified second-hand products may cause serious injury or death.

Fitted items, such as stairlifts or overhead hoists, would have been customised to suit the needs of the previous owner. Check that tracking and other fittings suit your requirements. These items should have a safety check and may need to be reconditioned. It is advisable to consult a supplier of these items before making a private second-hand purchase.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommends to check the Product Safety Australia website [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au) for a list of bans and mandatory standards to help identify products to avoid because they are: 1) banned, or 2) lack compulsory safety features currently required for similar new products, or 3) lack compulsory warnings and instructions required for similar new products.

## Buying Online

Check that the product is clearly identified and all the important details are described, delivery options and costs are clear, and that you are able to easily contact the seller if anything goes wrong. This is particularly important when buying on auction or second-hand sites, such as eBay or Gumtree.



Safety standards apply to many products sold in Australia. If you buy from an overseas website, there is a risk that the product would not meet Australian standards. Look for statements that the item is certified to the relevant Australian standard.

## Sources of Second Hand Equipment

We suggest you check the Independent Living Centre NSW (ILCNSW) website [www.ilcnsw.asn.au](http://www.ilcnsw.asn.au) for information on sources of second-hand equipment. The ILCNSW has a second-hand equipment register for Assistive Technology as well where members of the public could add their items. If you have further questions, please contact the ILCNSW Infoline on 1300 452 679 or by email [help@ilcnsw.asn.au](mailto:help@ilcnsw.asn.au).

The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2014 by Mayer-Johnson LLC. All Rights Reserved Worldwide.  
Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Mayer-Johnson LLC.

---

**For more information, please contact**

### **Independent Living Centre NSW**

Shop 4019, Level 4, Westpoint Shopping Centre, 17 Patrick Street, Blacktown NSW 2148

**Infoline: 1300 452 679**

**Email: [help@ilcnsw.asn.au](mailto:help@ilcnsw.asn.au)**

**Web: [www.ilcnsw.asn.au](http://www.ilcnsw.asn.au)**



[www.facebook.com/ilcnsw](http://www.facebook.com/ilcnsw)



[www.youtube.com/ilcnsw](http://www.youtube.com/ilcnsw)

**Disclaimer:** The Independent Living Centre NSW provides information on assistive technology and services. Visit our website to search for products on our @Magic database. We do not sell or hire any products. The provision of this information does not constitute a recommendation. Responsibility for final selection of items rests with the individual.