



How To Store Your Mobility Scooter For Extended Periods

Find out how to keep the scooter and battery in top condition when in storage for an extended period of time.

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In March, the Government issued new guidelines advising those at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to follow stringent social distancing measures. Those considered at increased risk of severe illness include people:

- Aged 70 or older
- Under 70 with an underlying health condition (i.e. anyone who is typically instructed to get a flu jab each year)
- Who are pregnant

What exactly does this mean?

Social distancing means taking extra precautions to avoid social interaction between people in order to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Steps you can take to implement social distancing include working from home, avoiding large and small social gatherings in public spaces, and avoiding non-essential travel.

Many of the people Surewise provide mobility scooter insurance with every single month fall into that group, so we wanted to provide a quick step-by-step guide to make sure you're correctly storing your mobility scooter when you're self-isolating so that it stays in good condition until you next need it.

1 Store It In A Dry, Secure Place

Ideally, you will want to store your scooter in a dry, safe, and secure storage unit with a mains electricity socket so you can charge it. Make sure you have read your insurance policy's specific guidelines on storing your scooter properly – you will want to make sure you are adhering to typical policy conditions by storing your scooter in a safe and lockable place, whether that's indoors or in a separate unit.



The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) recommends storing your scooter in a separate unit 6 metres away from your home, but in a place that is easy to access. A lockable garage or secure shed could also be ideal for this – just make sure it's not blocking any doorways and isn't stored in a damp area, which could corrode the battery.

2 Keep Your Battery Topped Up

Your mobility scooter battery will degrade over time if it is not used, so it's important to keep your scooter charged and ready for use. Make sure that you've charged your scooter's battery as soon as you return from a trip.

If you are using your scooter regularly, charging it up after every use is normally recommended. It does depend on what model you have, but charging your mobility scooter battery for longer than 12 hours is not recommended as overcharging could also damage your battery.

Instead, occasionally topping up the battery while it is being stored long-term is a good idea to ensure the battery doesn't go completely flat – charging the battery every two to three weeks should be fine, although in warmer weather perhaps only charge the battery once a month. We'd recommend checking your specific mobility scooter manual for detailed instructions for your model.

3 Consider Stocking Some Spare Parts

Some people choose to have a few spare parts for their mobility scooter, which can definitely be useful. A few spare parts you might like to have include:

- A spare battery (in case your main battery does go flat)
- Spare tyre tubes
- Light bulbs/reflectors

If you do want to get a spare battery for your mobility scooter, these tend to cost around £30 to £50, although this will depend on your specific model. Again, make sure you've referred back to your scooter model to make sure you get the right battery for it.

4 Monitor Your Tyre Pressure

Keep your mobility scooter's tyres in good condition by storing your scooter at the correct pressure recommended by the manufacturer.

It may be a good idea just to double-check the tyres (and the brakes) are in good working condition before you take your first trip with your scooter after it's been in storage for an extended time.

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5 Get your scooter serviced after storage

If your scooter has been in storage for several months without use, it may be a good idea to have it serviced to ensure there are no faults that could put you or others in danger.

Before your first use, check your scooter for any signs of major wear and tear, and be watchful for any unusual speed fluctuations and trouble steering as these could be indications that your scooter has developed an issue from under-use.



6 Make sure your insurance is up to date

Mobility scooter insurance isn't a legal requirement – but it is strongly recommended by the government. Our scooter insurance will cover you for loss or damage to your scooter, third party liability and accidental damage to property, recovery, legal expenses, and personal accident, so you can live life confidently knowing that the cost of your scooter is covered should something happen.



Stay up to date with the latest government measures and guidelines for dealing with coronavirus (COVID-19), social distancing, and self-isolating on the official [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Mobility Scooter Insurance

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