

# WHEELAIR®

USER MANUAL



IMPORTANT PRODUCT INFORMATION

PLEASE READ AND STORE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE



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## **GENERAL**

This manual contains information to properly install and care for your wheelAIR® cooling backrest cushion.

**WARNING: This manual must not be removed from packaging until it is delivered to the end user. It encloses vital instructions that must be available to the user or caregiver.**

**SUPPLIER:** This manual must accompany the product on sale – ensure the consumer receives and understands the information enclosed.

**USER/CARE-GIVER:** We recommend you read this manual thoroughly and keep it safe for future referencing.

## **COMPANY DETAILS**

Thank you for choosing wheelAIR®!

### **Mission**

We aim to create products that enhance people's quality of life. The goal is to help everyone in a wheelchair live a more active and carefree lifestyle.

### **Contact**

If you need to contact us for any reason, about the function and safety of the wheelAIR® or if you do not understand this instruction manual, then please do not hesitate to get in contact with us:

wheelAIR by Staels Design LTD  
PO Box 7428  
Glasgow  
G51 9ER

+44 (0) 141 432 0425  
info@wheelair.co.uk

\*Please note: because we are a growing start-up we may move premise. Please refer to our website ([www.wheelAIR.co.uk](http://www.wheelAIR.co.uk)) for the most up-to-date address and landline number.

If you change your home address or email address, contact us and let us know so we can inform you of any new safety information that may come to light or any further products that may be of use to you in the future.

## **YOUR SUPPLIER**

Your carefully picked supplier has been educated on wheelAIR® products and can answer the majority of questions that may arise regarding safety, use and upkeep. For your own reference, fill in the following:

Supplier:

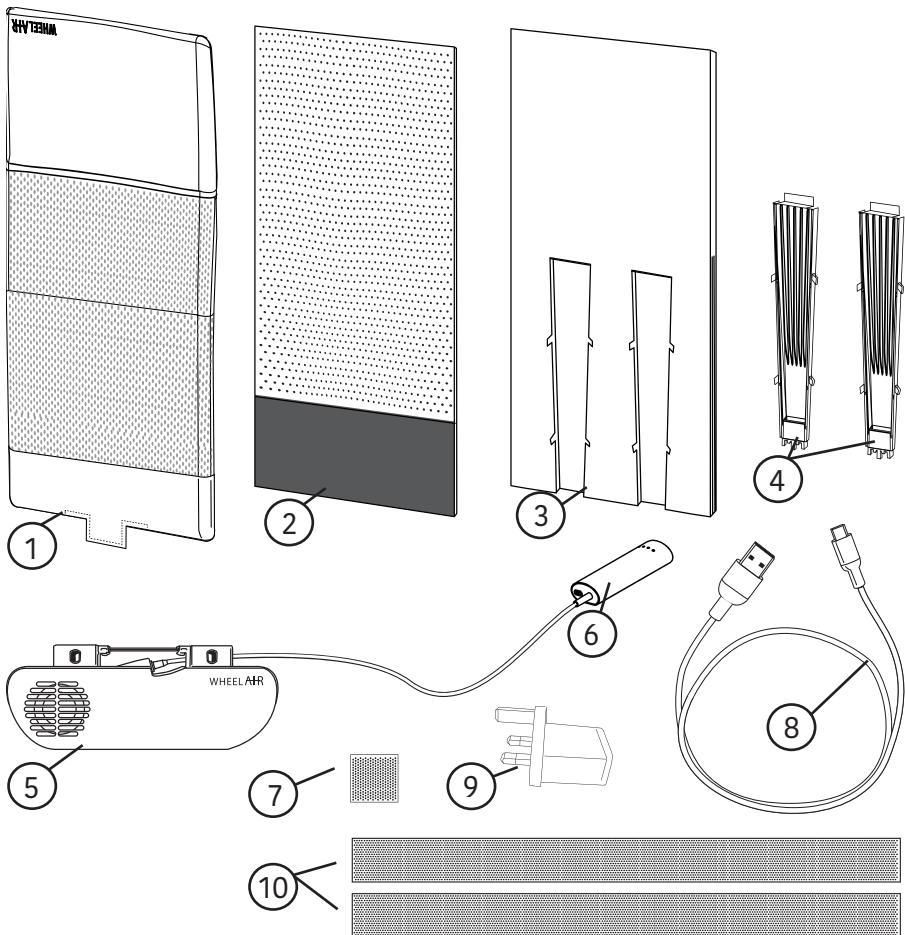
Address:

Telephone:

Serial number:

Date purchased:

If you have bought the wheelAIR® directly on [www.wheelAIR.co.uk](http://www.wheelAIR.co.uk) or from one of our trade partners then please get in touch using the contact details on page 5.





## **wheelAIR® – IN DETAIL**

The wheelAIR® is a wheelchair accessory designed to improve user comfort and reduce temperature by blowing air onto the user's back, using battery powered fan technology. Not only this, it offers extra support through its uniquely designed foam structure.

wheelAIR® is designed to help users maximise function and remain in their chair for longer periods without the usual discomfort of heat build-up and moisture.

The wheelAIR® has four levels of cooling, with 7 to 20 hours of battery life (depending on the used setting) and is easily recharged using a USB port found in the remote. We pride ourselves on it being lightweight and simple in design, making the wheelAIR® very user friendly.

1. Outer cover
2. Inner cover
3. Foam cushion
4. Flexi channels
5. Fan box
6. Remote
7. Velcro patch
8. USB cable
9. Charger
10. Loop velcro strips

## **PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

### **Size**

290mm, 330mm, 360mm, 400mm, 420mm and 440mm width by 740mm height. Custom options also available.

11 inches, 13 inches, 14 inches, 16 inches, 16.5 inches and 17 inches width by 29 inches height. Custom options also available.

### **Weight**

Fan box + remote: 450g

Cushion: between 750g and 860g depending on size

### **Materials**

Outer cover: faux leather – 100% PU + 100% Rayon, spacer mesh with FRESH finish – 100% polyester.

Inner cover: 100% polyester.

Cushion: viscoelastic foam + synthetic rubber channels.

Max user weight: 300 lbs (136 kg).

The wheelAIR® is transit approved. We do advise clicking off the fan box and taking it in (hand) luggage when travelling by air to ensure its careful handling.

## **RECYCLING INFO**

Contains no natural rubber.  
Contains no animal leather.

Sustainability and quality are some of our core values, which translates into the materials we use. wheelAIR® parts can be replaced individually by us or our service providers so that we minimise waste at all levels of the product's lifespan.

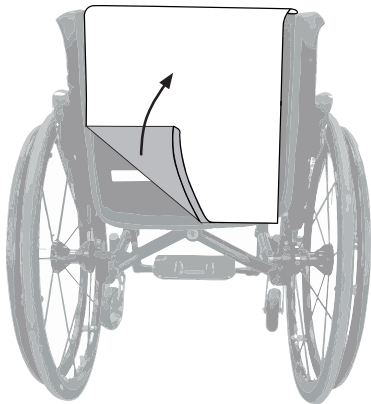
If you do decide to dispose of the wheelAIR®, then it should not be thrown away with regular household waste. Please recycle this product by taking it to an approved collection or recycling point. By doing so you are helping conserve finite natural resources and protecting the environment.

## HOW TO INSTALL YOUR wheelAIR®

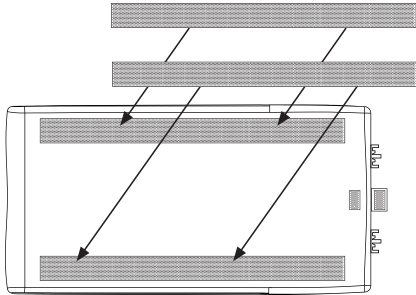
The wheelAIR® can be assembled onto manual wheelchairs with a frame height of between 300mm – 450mm and a frame width of between 320mm – 540mm depending on your brand of wheelchair.

wheelAIR® is readily available in six different widths: 290mm, 330mm, 360mm, 400mm, 420mm, 440mm and installed easily by following these instructions:

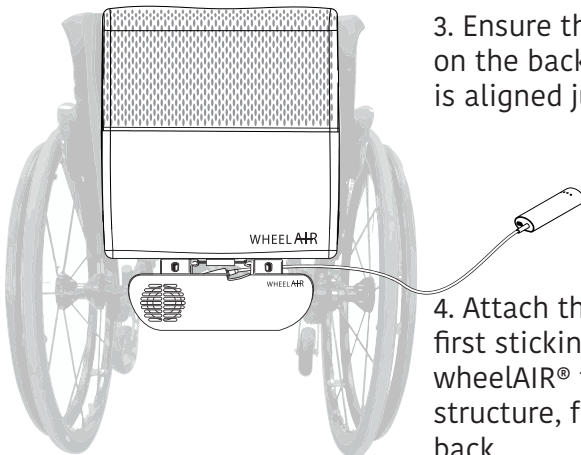
**Please fully charge your wheelAIR® before its first use. See page 18.**



1. Remove the current backrest from your wheelchair. This should be easily removed from Velcro fastener strips beneath. Leave the suspension support structure attached to your wheelchair.

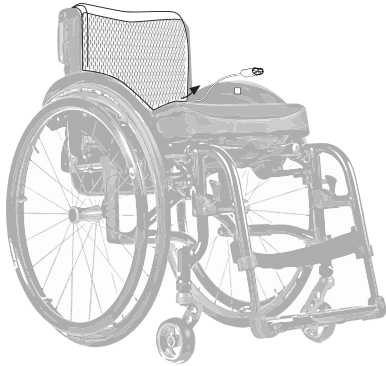


2. Determine whether your wheelchair support structure has hook or loop Velcro and remove the loop Velcro strips from the wheelAIR® backrest cushion if necessary.



3. Ensure that the wheelAIR® logo is on the back side and that the fan box is aligned just below your seat.

4. Attach the backrest cushion by first sticking the front part of the wheelAIR® to the front of the support structure, followed by folding over the back.



5. Feed the remote through the gap between the backrest and seat cushion on the side that suits you best.

6. Secure one side of the small self-sticking Velcro fastener patch on the side of your wheelchair where you desire the remote to sit. Then stick the other side of the Velcro patch onto the remote. The remote will now stick to the desired location on your chair for safe and handy future use.

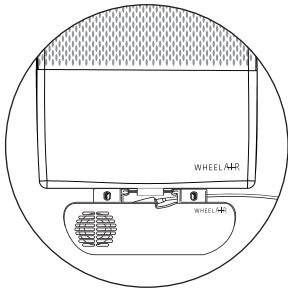
Alternatively the remote can be stored in the back pouch.

You can now use your wheelAIR® and alter the intensity of the air-flow by using the remote (see page 17).

**Make sure nothing covers the fan box vents as this will prevent the flow of air from functioning effectively.**

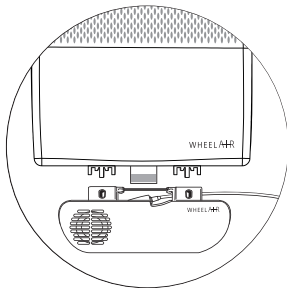
## HOW TO ATTACH AND DETACH YOUR wheelAIR® FANBOX

The cushion can stay on at all times (unless when washing). The fan box can be removed for air travel or when desired. The following steps will show how to attach and detach the fan box.

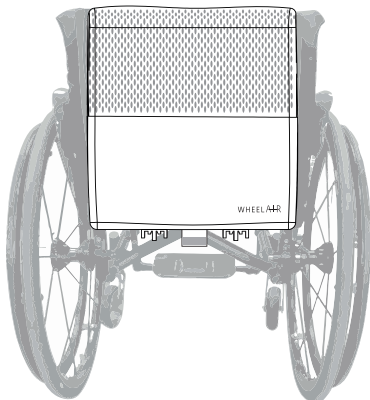


1. Peel off the Velcro fastener strip on the bottom of the wheelAIR® backrest cushion and feed through the metal bar of the fan box.

2. Push in the push buttons connecting the channels and fan box, and pull out the fan box. The front and back button should be pushed in at the same time, unclicking one channel at a time.



This might be difficult at the start because of the newness of the plastic but will get easier after a couple of times. Some force may be used.



3. The cushion should now look like this.

**Wrap the fan box in some protection when transporting it separately. It can also be stored in the back pouch.**

Attaching the fan box can be done either with the cushion still on or taken off the wheelchair.

4. Take the fan box and align the two openings with the two channel endings in the backrest cushion and click into place. The wheelAIR® logo should be visible to you.

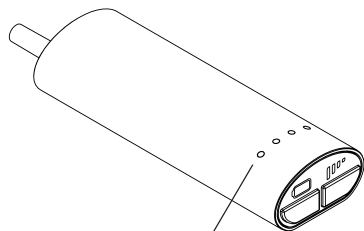
5. Feed the Velcro through the metal bar of the fan box.

6. Click the channels and fan box into place by pushing the front and back push buttons at the same time. One channel at a time.

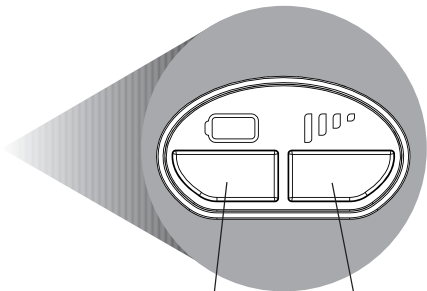
7. Fasten the Velcro on the bottom of the wheelAIR® backrest cushion. This ensures extra protection.



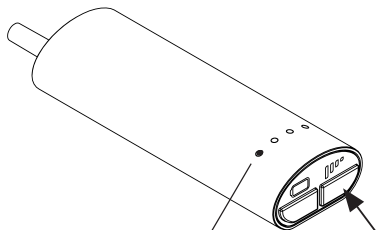
## HOW TO USE YOUR wheelAIR®



LEDs indicate fan speed/  
battery level



Battery level    Fan control



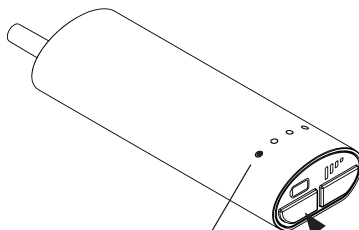
Press to turn on, alter airflow  
and turn off completely



low (white light)



high



Press to see battery level



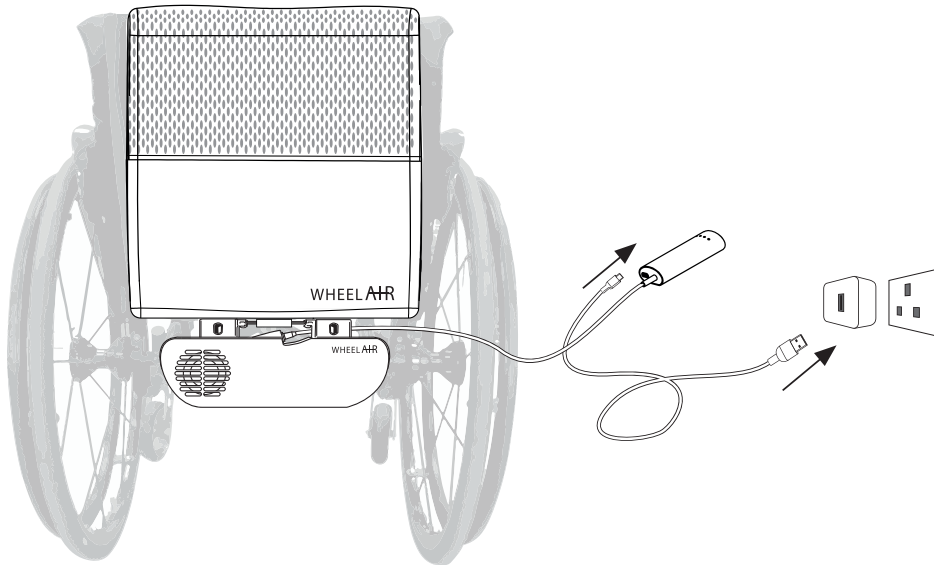
low (blue light)



high

## HOW TO CHARGE YOUR wheelAIR®

Fully charge your battery prior to first use. Simply plug the cable into the USB charger, plug the USB into the slot in your remote handset and then plug the USB charger into the electrical wall socket. The fan box can be taken off or left on the wheelAIR® cushion to charge it.



Charging is taking place when the LEDs are pulsing blue.

The level of charge is indicated by how many LEDs are pulsing. One bar indicates 0 - 25% charged, two indicates 25% - 50% charged and three indicates 50 - 75% charged. Charging is 100% complete when all LEDs are lit blue.

To check how charged your wheelAIR® is when not connected to a wall socket, simply click the battery button and the LEDs will flash blue for 2 seconds reflecting how much the wheelAIR® is charged. The LEDs will then revert back to white, indicating the air flow of the wheelAIR®, or off. The LEDs will flash blue if the battery button is pressed even if the wheelAIR® air flow is turned off.

If the battery is dead the remote will display one solid blue LED until it is connected to the charger. At some point, if left uncharged for a prolonged period of time there will be no LEDs lit when checking the battery level.

The battery takes around 17 hours to charge from 0% to 100%. This could change over time. The battery can be replaced by us or your provider if needed.

**Please note:**

The battery cannot charge while the wheelAIR® is in use.

The wheelAIR® will automatically shut off when the battery level is too low as a matter of safety.

## HOW TO CLEAN YOUR wheelAIR®

The wheelAIR® backrest cushion can be washed. Instructions should be followed carefully.

For light cleaning, simply wipe the material with a damp cloth.

### **Please note:**

The care label instructions have changed regarding the foam and channels and might be different on your care label. The instructions below are the latest ones. Please make sure you follow them.

### **To wash the backrest cushion:**

1. Detach the fan box from the backrest cushion by unfastening the Velcro strip and unclicking the channels. See steps on page 15 - 16.
2. Remove the backrest cushion from the wheelchair. If required, remove the two loop Velcro fastener strips from hook Velcro on the wheelAIR®.
3. Remove the inner cover from the outer cover and follow the care label instructions. The outer cover can be washed at 40°C while the inner cover can be washed at 60°C. Close all zips when washing. **The foam and attached channels can be hand washed.**

4. Allow to thoroughly dry before reattaching to your wheelchair.

\*Please note: The channels' side fins are lightly glued into the foam to keep them securely within. They might move during washing. Make sure that the channels inside the cushion are still in place, and align them post wash if needed. Use your hand to correctly align them in the foam before placing back into the white mesh cover. Add a little bit of super glue on the channels' side fins to ensure they stay securely attached in the foam, if needed.

**WARNING:** Use of the following may cause damage to the cushion: bleach; abrasives; oil-based lotions, lanolin or phenolic-based disinfectants; ozone gas; cleaning products that contain organic solvents or petroleum, including adhesive remover, toluene, Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK), naphtha, acetone, dry cleaning fluid; ultraviolet light cleaning methods; caustic, automatic dishwasher detergents.

### **To wash the fan box:**

Regular wiping of the fan box and remote with a damp cloth will prevent the buildup of dirt. This can be achieved whilst the box is still attached to the cushion.

**DO NOT** immerse the fan box in water.

## **WARNINGS**

Staels Design Ltd would recommend that a clinician such as a doctor or occupational therapist with a background in seating determine if the wheelAIR® is appropriate for your needs.

Please do not separate this instruction manual from the wheelAIR® cushion, it contains essential information that must be available to the user.

### **USER/ CAREGIVER WARNINGS:**

1. Do not operate the wheelAIR® without first reading this manual. Then retain for future reference. If the instructions or warnings are unclear to you then contact us or your supplier before installing and operating the cushion. Failure to comply may result in injury or damage the product.

2. Be aware of any skin/ soft tissue breakdown. This can occur due to a variety of factors depending on the individual user. Check skin frequently for redness, bruising or darker areas (compared to your normal skin) – this may be indicative of the beginning of soft tissue breakdown. If this discolouration persists, immediately consult a healthcare professional.

3. Do not use the wheelAIR® with any other backrest cushion product as this could cause instability.
4. Only use the wheelAIR® as a wheelchair backrest cushion as illuminated in this instruction manual. Use in other contexts cannot guarantee product safety.

### **DEALER/ TECHNICIAN WARNINGS:**

Do not operate or service the wheelAIR® without reading this manual. If you have any questions regarding the instructions or warnings or are unclear on what to do, then contact the wheelAIR® team before showcasing/operating the wheelAIR®. Failure to comply may result in injury to you or damage to the product.

### **GENERAL WARNINGS:**

1. **TEMPERATURE RANGE:** Never store your wheelAIR® in conditions of extreme heat or cold. The device uses ambient air so regulate the setting accordingly to avoid becoming too cold. If you or the user starts showing signs of hypothermia or hyperthermia then please seek medical attention. If you are in an environment of extreme heat, the wheelAIR® will blow air of that same temperature. At some point the effect of cooling might be lost.

2. FAN BOX: Be careful with the fan box, the fans are fragile and can break. The fan box can handle water splashes but could be damaged by heavy rainfall or submergion.

a) FANS: The fans have an inbuilt mechanism that shuts them down if they become too hot, so there is little danger of the fan box overheating. However, please refrain from covering them.

b) BATTERY: The battery has an inbuilt mechanism that shuts it down if it becomes too hot, so there is little danger of the fan box overheating.

c) BATTERY DISPOSAL: Please refer to the disposal and recycling information earlier in this manual for instructions on how to dispose of the wheelAIR® unit battery.

3. CUSHION COVER: Check regularly for any punctures or rips in the cushion fabric. Please note, punctures are not covered in the warranty.

4. VELCRO STRIP: If you have secured your small Velcro strip on the outside of your chair frame, please ensure it remains securely fastened to the chair at all times - if it comes loose the remote could become entangled in the wheelchair's wheels.



5. REPLACEMENT PARTS: Please refrain from using anything but wheelAIR® replacement parts. Do not attempt to repair yourself. If you do so you will not be eligible for warranty. If the fan box has been opened by you instead of your supplier, you are no longer eligible for warranty.

## **WARRANTY**

Apart from general wear and tear, we warrant the wheelAIR® against specific defects for one year from the date of the original user's purchase. To qualify for warranty, the wheelAIR® must have its original serial number tag (located on the fan box) and you must have proof of purchase. We will send you a pre-paid packaging slip to return your wheelAIR® to us.

Warranties are not transferrable.

We do not warrant damage caused by poor treatment, accident, misuse or from improper installation or any exterior modification. We do not warrant if the fan box has been opened by the user or dropped/smashed. We do not warrant use in commercial activities, hire, reward or rental. We do not warrant if you simply change your mind after a 14 day return period.

However, we do service our products for a fee if there has been wear and tear or it has passed the 1 year warranty period. Claims can be made using contact information provided on page 5. We do not pay for postage in this instance.

Only express warranties will be accepted – other warranties including implied warranties of merchantability and warranties of fitness for particular purpose are not accepted. The only express warranties that

are accepted are to repair or for replacement of the goods. No damages for breach of any warranty include any consequential damages or exceed the cost of non-conforming goods sold.

## **CONSUMER NOTICE:**

1. This warranty replaces other warranties (written or oral, express or implied, including a warranty of merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose) if allowed by law.
2. This warranty gives you certain legal rights. You may also have other rights that are local to you.

Record your serial number here for future reference:

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Thank you for choosing the wheelAIR®! We strive to provide high quality and functional products that never compromise on style.

Staels Design LTD, PO Box 7428, Glasgow, G51 9ER

[www.wheelAIR.co.uk](http://www.wheelAIR.co.uk)

2018

Version 2

Designed in Glasgow, Scotland

Staels Design LTD has a policy of continual product improvement and may use their right to amend this document at any time. A current version of this document is available at [www.wheelAIR.co.uk](http://www.wheelAIR.co.uk).