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Wheelchair Carriers: What You Need to Know

by Misty Fauchaux

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Wheelchairs can be difficult to carry in vehicles unless someone owns a larger car, van or truck. Luckily, wheelchair carriers make this process easier. Wheelchair carriers are motorized tools that will mount a wheelchair either onto the roof or the rear of the vehicle.

Since these devices are constantly exposed to the elements, a wheelchair carrier should be made of good stainless steel, and it has to have a weather-resistant coating. This is important in the torrential downpours we sometimes get in Texas, as well as blazingly hot summer temperatures. Many of these wheelchair carriers will even fold up for storage when not in use.

Bumper-Mounted Wheelchair Carriers or Wheelchair Lifts

There are several types of wheelchair carriers or wheelchair lifts from which a wheelchair owner can choose. One of the most popular is the bumper-mounted wheelchair carrier because owners can mount the carrier to the car him/herself, and it's easy to remove. These carriers attach to the back of the car and will pick up a wheelchair and store it. These types of wheelchair carriers or wheelchair lifts usually weigh about 100 pounds.

Wheelchair Carriers for Trucks

If someone owns a pick-up truck (and what Texan doesn't?!), then a pick-up wheelchair carrier would probably be the best choice. With these types of wheelchair carriers, owners just press a button, and the carrier will pick up the wheelchair and place it within the bed of the truck.

Hitch Mounts

Another popular type of wheelchair carrier is the hitch-mounted carrier. The hitch-mounted wheelchair carrier comes with a release bar that will release the wheelchair back to the ground. These types of wheelchair carriers need to be manually operated. The hoisting mechanism has to be turned until the wheelchair is tilted far enough back to lock it. While these devices are cheaper, there is some work involved in operating the hoisting mechanism, which may be difficult for some people to use.

Top Mounts

The final type of wheelchair carrier is the top-mounted wheelchair carrier. Just as the name implies, this allows a wheelchair to be stored on top of a vehicle. The wheelchair carrier mechanically pulls the wheelchair to the vehicle roof while someone simply just pushes a button. It will then fold and secure the wheelchair to the roof.

Before purchasing a wheelchair carrier, wheelchair owners should consult a professional. Some carriers come in different sizes based on vehicle size. And, some wheelchair carriers will not work with smaller cars.

Now that you know what to look for, check out [wheelchair carrier retailers](#) in and around Houston.

Photo courtesy Car-Go-Mate wheelchair carriers.

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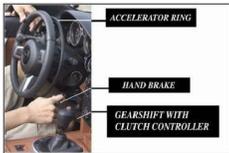




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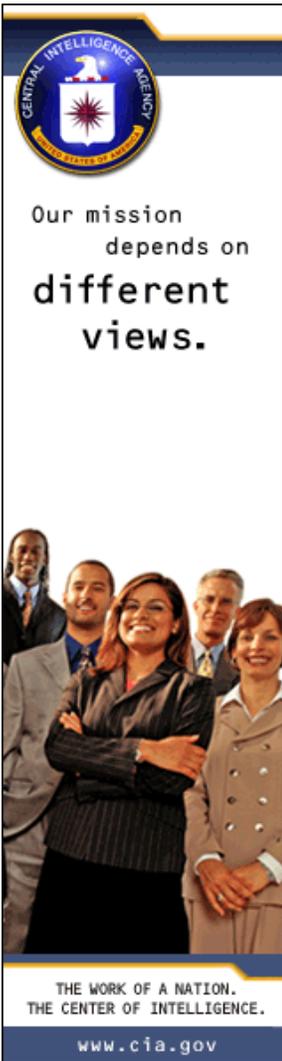
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