

# General Care & Use for Z-Axis Custom Wheelchair Backs

## INSTALLATION

The Custom Z-Axis Back is designed and fabricated to accomplish positioning in a total contact fashion, thus reducing pointed pressures, while aligning all asymmetry with functional range and supporting fixed contractures. The custom design maximizes function and prolongs sitting tolerance. The custom Z-Axis Back should be initially installed and fit by an authorized Certified Rehab Services, Inc. provider to ensure the back is functioning appropriately for your seating and positioning needs.

**Setting Up the Back:** Remove existing wheelchair back as the Z-Axis Custom Back will replace the sling upholstery of the wheelchair. Remove any pre-existing back hardware and/or components. Prior to installation determine the width of the back canes and set up back mounting components accordingly. Attach back with mounting components to wheelchair canes tubes and hand tighten. Adjust mounting components until appropriate height and medial/lateral positions are determined. Once desired position is achieved tighten all clamps and screws. Utilizing Loctite on all screws/fasteners is recommended.

**Adjust** The Z-Axis system can adjust for height, medial/lateral widths, and torsion. The back and hardware may require periodic checks for function and safety. Be sure all adjustments are done by a qualified medical professional that is an authorized dealer of Certified Rehab Services, Inc.

**Caution:** Installing a back on a wheelchair may change the center of gravity of the wheelchair, and cause the wheelchair to tip backwards resulting in harm. Certified recommends the use of anti-tippers on wheelchair when utilizing a Z-Axis Custom Back. Do not use the Z-Axis Custom back to lift or push the wheelchair. Doing so may cause an unexpected detachment of the back causing harm to wheelchair and/or rider. Z-Axis Custom Backs are not tested for transit safety or dynamically tested for use in a motor vehicle.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Regular cleaning and maintenance is highly recommended to help extend life of the back and to ensure proper cleanliness and continued safety.

First unzip and remove back cover. Inspect inside and outside of cover for excessive wear and tear or any abnormalities. Once inspected the cover can be machined wash in warm water, and tumbled dry on low heat cycle or air dried. Avoid ironing cover, dry cleaning, and do not use bleach or other chemical during wash cycle.

Once cover is removed inspect foam layer and plastic shell for any breakdown or abnormalities. Then simply wipe out back with damp cloth. Light soap and water may be used, but be sure the back air dries completely before use. Re-apply cover after back and cover are dry. Then follow installation steps as described above.

If complete removal of back is desired, remove back components carefully remembering placement and set up for re-installation. Leave components on wheelchair tubes so back can be re-attached in same position. Check for any loose screws/fasteners or cracks in attachment hardware. Any loose screws/fastener should be tightened accordingly. If any cracks or breaks are noticed contact your authorized Z-Axis Back dealer immediately and have parts replaced before continued use.

## BREAK-IN PROTOCOL

Prior to prolonged sitting, it is recommended to initially use the back for short periods of time while clinician inspects skin for redness and/or pressure spots. After this initial inspection with clinician commence a gradual use pattern as follows: Initial 30-minute sitting period and inspect for any redness. If no redness is present continue to increase sit time incrementally by 30 minutes to 1 hour each day. Always continually check for redness or pressure spots after each sitting period.

As a general rule keep sit times for a period lasting no longer than 2 to 4 hours. Also utilize pressure relief protocols with manual lifts, manual tilt/reclining, or weight shifts with power equipment as determined by your clinician.

If at any time your skin develops redness and it does not subside within a 10 to 30-minute window discontinue the use of the back and consult with your clinician or healthcare provider.

## SKIN CARE

The Custom Z-Axis Back is designed and fabricated to reduce pressures and reduce the likelihood of pressure sores. This being stated, there is not a back that will 100% eliminate pressure or prevent pressure sores. This is why it is pertinent to have good skin care habits including proper diet, cleanliness, habitual inspection of skin and back, while also implementing regular pressure relief techniques as determined by your clinician.

## GENERAL BACK CARE

Avoid sharp objects, excessive heat or open flame, prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures hot or cold, and prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

Be sure there are not obstructions between you and back cushion and/or between cover and foam base of back.



1709 Heath Parkway  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
800-466-7015  
info@certifiedortho.com