



Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair (Children's Chair) – Safety Procedures

Overview

The **Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair** is designed specifically for children to use on the beach (on hard or soft sand), in low water, and on grass or surfaced footpaths.

The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is to **ONLY be used on the beach from which it was hired** (either Williamstown or Altona Beach).

The chair is not designed to be submerged in water, although it is able to be used in low water. Water depth should not exceed the centre of the rear wheel.

The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is not designed to float and is not to be used in deep water. It should be used **ONLY between the flags as patrolled by Life Saving Club**.

The Sandpiper is NOT a self-propelled chair, so please ensure you have the right level of support is provided to transfer and push the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.

It is important to be prepared before you use the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair. Please read this document in full, including signing the safety procedures checklist at the end of this document prior to use.

If you have any questions about using the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair, please contact Council from Monday to Friday on 1300 179 994 or email accessiblebeaches@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

NOTE: An accessible change facility (with an adult-sized change table and hoist) is available at Weaver Reserve, across the road from Altona Beach. A Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) is required to access the accessible change facility. There is a hoist available for transfer, but please ensure you bring your own sling. Accessible toilets are available at Williamstown Beach, but there is no hoist.



Before use

- Check the weather for incoming tides, as well as the waves, wind, storms and heat prior to using the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair. The staff at the Life Saving Club will be able to provide you with helpful information about weather conditions.
- Ensure walkway / routes to be taken are clear of hazards.
- Visually inspect seating, tyres and moving parts for any damage or maintenance issues.
- Ensure the footrest is lowered and the wheel breaks are activated prior to user transferring into the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.
- If possible, ask support person to hold the handles of the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair so that it will not move when transferring.
- Please ensure you have the right level of support to transfer and if required to assist pushing the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.

NOTE: It may be useful to approach a local rehabilitation center, hospital or physiotherapist regarding training for transferring and lifting.

During use

- The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is designed to be used on dry sand and wet sand at the water's edge.
- The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is stable in low water levels up to the centre of the rear wheels, in still water conditions.
- The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is NOT to be used in deep water.
- Do not exceed maximum recommended loading of 80 kilograms.
- When providing support, do not leave the user unattended in the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.
- When parking, find a level surface and ensure the parking brake is securely locked down.
- Travelling on gradients steeper than a standard ramp rise are not recommended unless two people are assisting with pushing the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.

- Note that it is often easier to pull the chair backwards on dry, soft sand rather than pushing it forwards.
- Do not place heavy items on the back of Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair or the handles.
- If pushing the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair, always keep the passenger informed about what you are intending to do, e.g. turning, entering water, crossing road, etc.
- The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is not designed for self-propelling (independent use) and must be supervised and pushed by a support person.
- The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair must only be propelled by another person. Do not propel by towing behind a motor vehicle, kite or other means.
- Note that the chair has 'balloon tyres' which tend to float, depending on weight being carried, and may become unstable once the chair and user become buoyant. Therefore, the water depth should not exceed the centre of the rear wheel. A support person must be always present to push the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair and to ensure it remains stable in the water.
- When in low water, it is recommended to use the safety belt, depending on the user's understanding of their capacity to move around freely. Please use the seat belt if the user experiences unsteadiness (such as with epilepsy).
- Always use the safety belt when using the chair on dry land, including soft and hard sand. The seat belt should be always used if a passenger experiences unsteadiness (such as epilepsy).
- The Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair is not to be removed from the designated Altona or Williamstown beach area.

After use

- Ensure seat and footrests are in the correct position and wheel brakes applied prior to a user exiting the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.
- Where possible, the hirer should use a shower or hose to clean down the chair before returning to the Life Saving Club.
- Any safety, mechanical or accessibility concerns with the use of the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair should be reported immediately to the Life Saving Club.

Feedback and more information

We welcome your feedback on your experience and use.

Please provide feedback directly to the staff at the Life Saving Club or contact Council on 1300 179 944 or email accessiblebeaches@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Please also visit [Accessible Beaches - Hobsons Bay](#) for more information about the Accessible Beaches Program.

To find out more about the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair, visit www.beachwheelsaustralia.com

Safety Procedure checklist

Hirer/user to complete *prior* to use of the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair.

Please confirm that you have:

- read and understood the Sandpiper Beach Wheelchair Safety Procedures, including noting the low water instructions
- been provided with a demonstration on how to use the equipment
- the right level of support to transfer into and use the equipment
- checked park brake release and engage mechanism
- checked how to adjust arms, footrest, back rest, and seat belt harness
- checked weather conditions such as wind, tides, heat, and potential storms
- checked the lifesaving flags are in operation
- provided an approximate time to return the equipment

Name of hirer/user

Signature Date / /

Emergency contact

Name:

Mobile No.