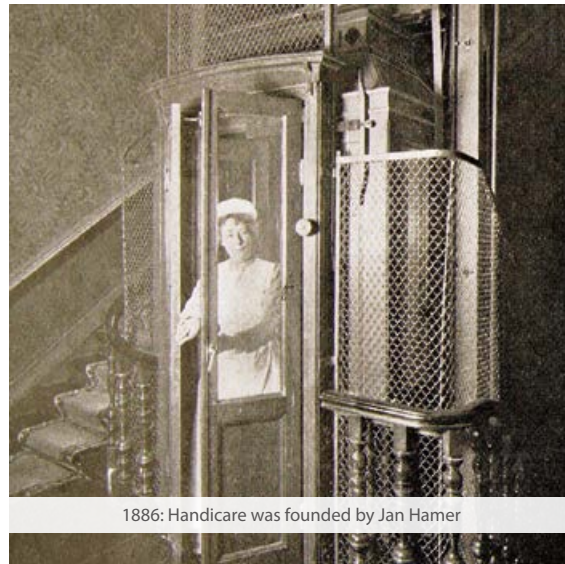




THE EXPERT GUIDE TO BUYING A STAIRLIFT FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

When taking the stairs becomes risky and difficult, stairlifts offer a convenient and accessible way to move between floors. This guide will walk you through everything you need to know before buying a stairlift for yourself or a loved one.



1886: Handicare was founded by Jan Hamer



1961: the first European seated stairlift produced.

Stairlifts have come a long way since King Henry VIII reportedly had the first stairlift installed in 1540. Impaired by a fall, his stairlift was powered by servants using pulleys and ropes. The first non-manual stairlifts were introduced in the late 19th century, replacing servants with electric power. Handicare was founded by Jan Hamer in 1886 as a technical trading company and produced the first stairlift in 1904 – the “winch” lift - used for goods lifting. Mr. Pieter Mulder Jr., as co-director of Handicare designed the first European seated stairlift in 1961.

Throughout the years, stairlift engineering and design have become more ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing. The introduction of curved rail systems - and new features and customizations ensure that modern stairlifts fit into nearly any home.



As technology and design have changed over the years, the reasons for needing a stairlift remain the same. Whether you or a loved one need a mobility solution after a fall, like King Henry VIII, or a stairlift is recommended by a medical professional, being able to move from one floor to the next makes independent living possible for longer - even in houses with narrow stairs or several floors.

The Technology and Functionality of Stairlifts

Stairlifts come in four categories:

- 01** -straight stairlifts for staircases with no curves, corners, or landings
- 02** -modular or custom-bent curved stairlifts for staircases with landings between flights or stairs with curves
- 03** -outdoor stairlifts (straight and curved) making the exterior of your home more accessible
- 04** -specialised options like heavy-duty stairlifts

Stairlifts are installed with a single or double rail that moves a seat or platform either along the stairway or along the wall. The chair or lift platform is connected to the rail and powered by an electric motor or a battery.

If your home has stairs that go straight up without turns, a straight stairlift mounted on a single rail next to the wall is your best solution. Straight stairlifts are also the most affordable models.



Curved stairlift with single rail



Curved stairlift with double rails

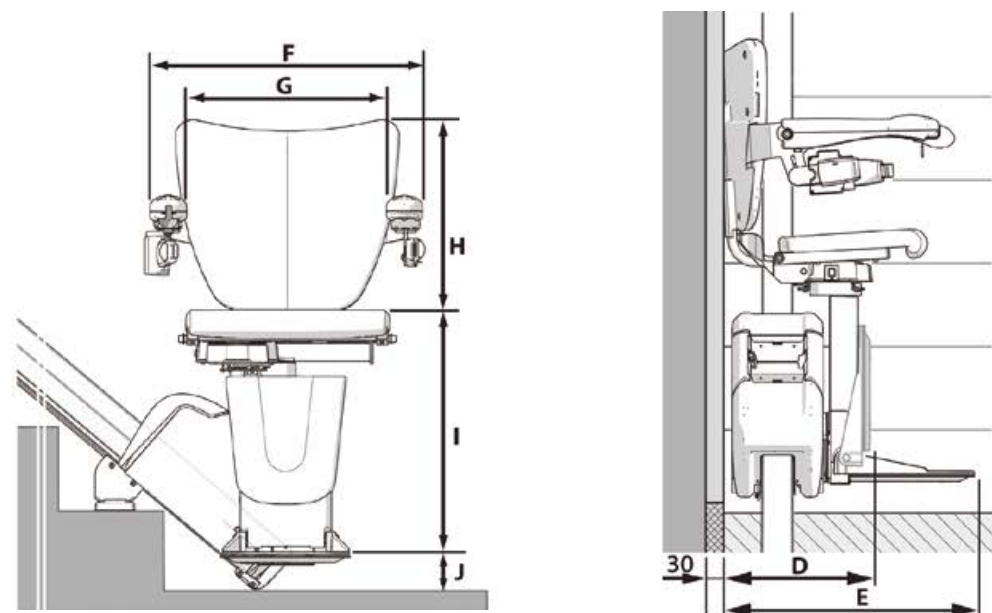


Straight stairlift

Curved stairlifts go on any stairs that are not in a straight line. Mounted on a single or double rail that moves the chair or platform along the side of the stairs, advanced curved stairlifts work in narrow spaces and even along spiral staircases. Modular curved stairlifts use pre-fabricated sections for fast lead times and installation. However, the ride can be bumpy and uneven because the sections are not a precise fit, and the chair must travel over more joints. Custom-bent stairlifts, on the other hand, are designed and

built around your specific staircase, offering a smoother and more comfortable ride. Handicare exclusively offers custom-bent stairlifts for superior ride comfort. While these provide higher quality and longer-lasting performance, they may have longer lead times.

Both straight and curved stairlifts may offer outdoor models or outdoor seats to move down any stairs outside your home, like porch stairs.



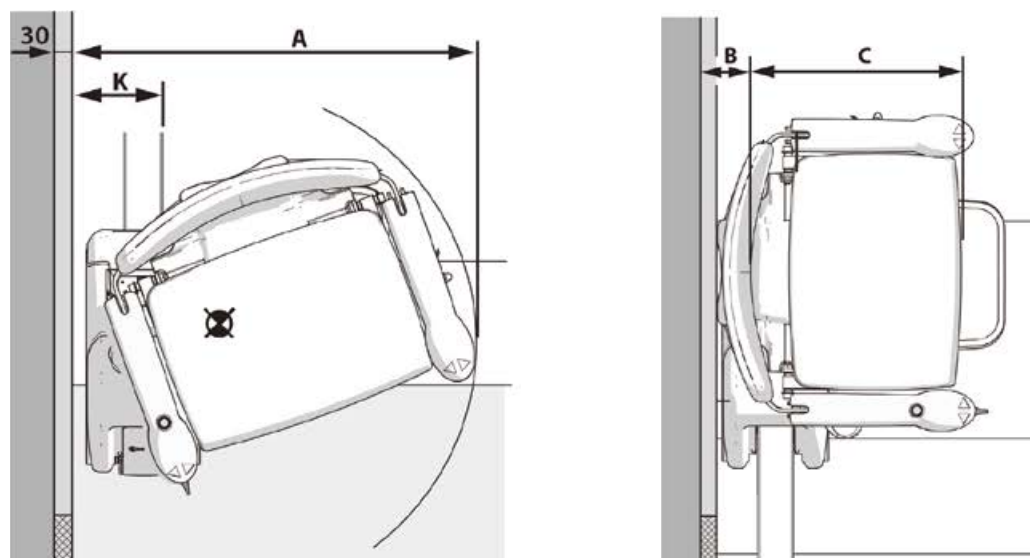
From the Handicare 1100 - We could use one of the model options with measurements for reference.

	style
A	Swivel radius
B	Minimum to seat back
C	Seat depth
D	Minimum folded width to footplate
E	Minimum open width to edge of footplate
F	Arrest width - external
G	Armrest width - internal
H	Seat back height
I	Footplate to seat height
J	Minimum footplate height
K	Front of track

The Stairlift Footprint

Stairlifts need less room than you might think. Standard models when opened to the edge of the footplate extend no more than 70 cm while requiring a standard swivel radius between 70 cm and 73.5 cm.

When folded away, lifts only take up around 40 cm, allowing plenty of space for everyone else. For reference, the average width of a staircase in the UK is 86 cm, and the minimum width required in the US is 91 cm.



Stairlift Load Capacity

Stairlifts are engineered to move one person at a time, who sits directly on the chair. Modern stairlifts, such as the Handicare Freecurve, offer a standard load capacity of 125kg.

Stairlift Energy Efficiency and Noise

Stairlifts operate quietly and have low running costs. The average modern stairlift uses 25-35 watts of energy per hour, similar to a laptop charger and less than most household appliances. Many stairlifts include a battery motor, allowing them to remain operational during power outages.

Charging methods for stairlifts vary by model. Some stairlifts are continuously charged along the rail, while others only charge when parked at specific points, usually at the top or bottom of the stairs. For these models, it's important to park the stairlift at a designated charging point to prevent battery depletion.

Advanced models, such as the Handicare 1100 straight stairlift, offer continuous charging along the entire rail. This feature provides greater flexibility and convenience, allowing users to park and charge the stairlift at any point on the stairs. This can be particularly beneficial for users who may need to stop midway on longer staircases or for users who prefer to keep the stairlift parked at various locations for easier access.

How Stairlifts Work

If you or a loved one are experiencing difficulty climbing the stairs, stairlifts are designed for ease of use by individuals with mobility issues and the elderly.

Step 1

Fold down the armrest, the seat and the footrest and sit on the chair. If you select a powered footrest, it will unfold automatically.



Step 2

Fasten your seatbelt.



Step 3

Feel comfortable and secure? Move the toggle or handle in the direction of travel to move the lift.



Step 4

Once you arrive upstairs or downstairs, use the manual swivel, or automatic swivel function to move your seat towards the top or bottom of the stairs - the so-called landing.



Step 5

Unfasten your seatbelt. Lift yourself up using the armrest, or use the active seat function, if available, which gently lifts you before you step onto the landing. Now you can fold your chair away.



Scan the QR-code to watch the video



How Stairlifts Are Installed and Maintained

Stairlifts are customised to fit your stairs and home, requiring professional measurements and fitting. To accurately measure your stairs, experienced companies like Handicare use digital tools like PhotoSurvey. With these measurements, you will be shown a 3D presentation of the moving stairlift on your staircase. Together, you can configure the stairlift, ensuring you are comfortable with the design before the advisor leaves.



Once you have decided on a stairlift, a skilled technician can have your stairlift installed in as little as one to a few hours - depending on model and rail length. The stairlift rail is installed first followed by the seat. After the installation, the technician will show you how to use the lift.

Stairlift maintenance may require daily dusting and regular cleaning of the rail. Annual maintenance by a professional includes checking all electrical and mechanical parts.



Traditional stairlifts have a tooth and rack rail that can become dusty and greasy over time. In contrast, advanced stairlifts like the Handicare 1100 feature a patented friction rail system with drive rollers that are grease and oil-free. This makes the rail easy to clean and safe to touch, especially around children. The rail is self-cleaning, thanks to four brush heads continuously sweeping away dust and pet hair.



How To Customise Your Stairlift

Stairlifts are designed to match the interior of your home. Staircase companies offer several rail colours and seat colours in fabric or faux leather - as well as a range of seats to choose from based on comfort, aesthetics and budget. The seat and upholstery colour options coordinate with most house interiors.

Stairlift Upgrade Options May Include:

01

-powered footplate instead of manual footplate to avoid bending down

02

-illuminated footplate

03

-one-way or two-way powered swivel option instead of a manual lever

04

-powered folding hinge

05

-active seat function to gently help out of the seat

A Stairlift for Every Interior

Of course, it's important that your stairlift fits into the rest of your home decor. That's why we offer you the chance to choose from four seat styles, with different types of upholstery.

Style Seat

(HANDICARE 1100)



VANILLA
BEIGE





Smart XXL Seat
(HANDICARE 1000)

With a capacity of 160 kg / 25 st and 200 kg / 31½ st respectively, the Handicare 1000 XL and XXL are our most powerful models.



Outdoor Seat
(HANDICARE 1000)

Seat colours (HANDICARE 1000)



RUBY CACAO SAND SLATE



Smart Perch Seat
(HANDICARE 1000)

Should you have a narrow staircase or problems with your knee or hip joints and cannot sit down, the Smart Perch seat is the perfect choice for you. The raised seat and the reduced seat depth allow you to use the lift in a standing position while being secured by a seatbelt.



Smart Seat
(HANDICARE 1000)



Alliance Seat



BORDEAUX RED BEIGE COCOA BROWN

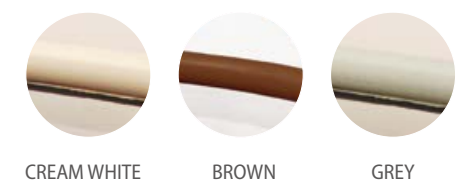


Elegance Seat



BORDEAUX RED BEIGE COCOA BROWN

Rail Color Handicare Freecurve



CREAM WHITE BROWN GREY



Classic Seat



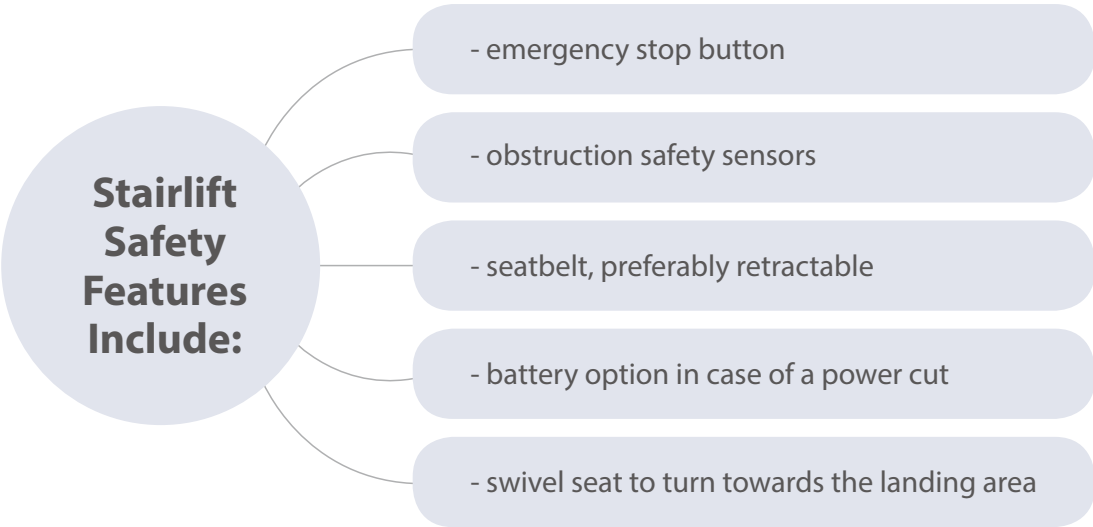
BORDEAUX RED BEIGE SLATE

Safety and Compliance for Stairlifts

Whether you are considering buying a stairlift for yourself or a loved one, we know you want to travel safely up and down the stairs without worrying about power outages or mechanical failures.

Look for stairlift models and providers with quality marks and certifications like ISO, TÜV, TNO and Liftinstituut. The ISO 14001:2015 certificate relates to the environment, whereas the ISO 9001:2015 certificate relates to quality management. Additionally, the American ASME A17.1/CSA B44 and the European EN 81-41 safety codes and standards apply to stairlifts.

EN81-40



Budget Requirements for Stairlifts

Stairlift pricing depends on several factors including the number of stairs and the number of turns - as well as your customisations and features.

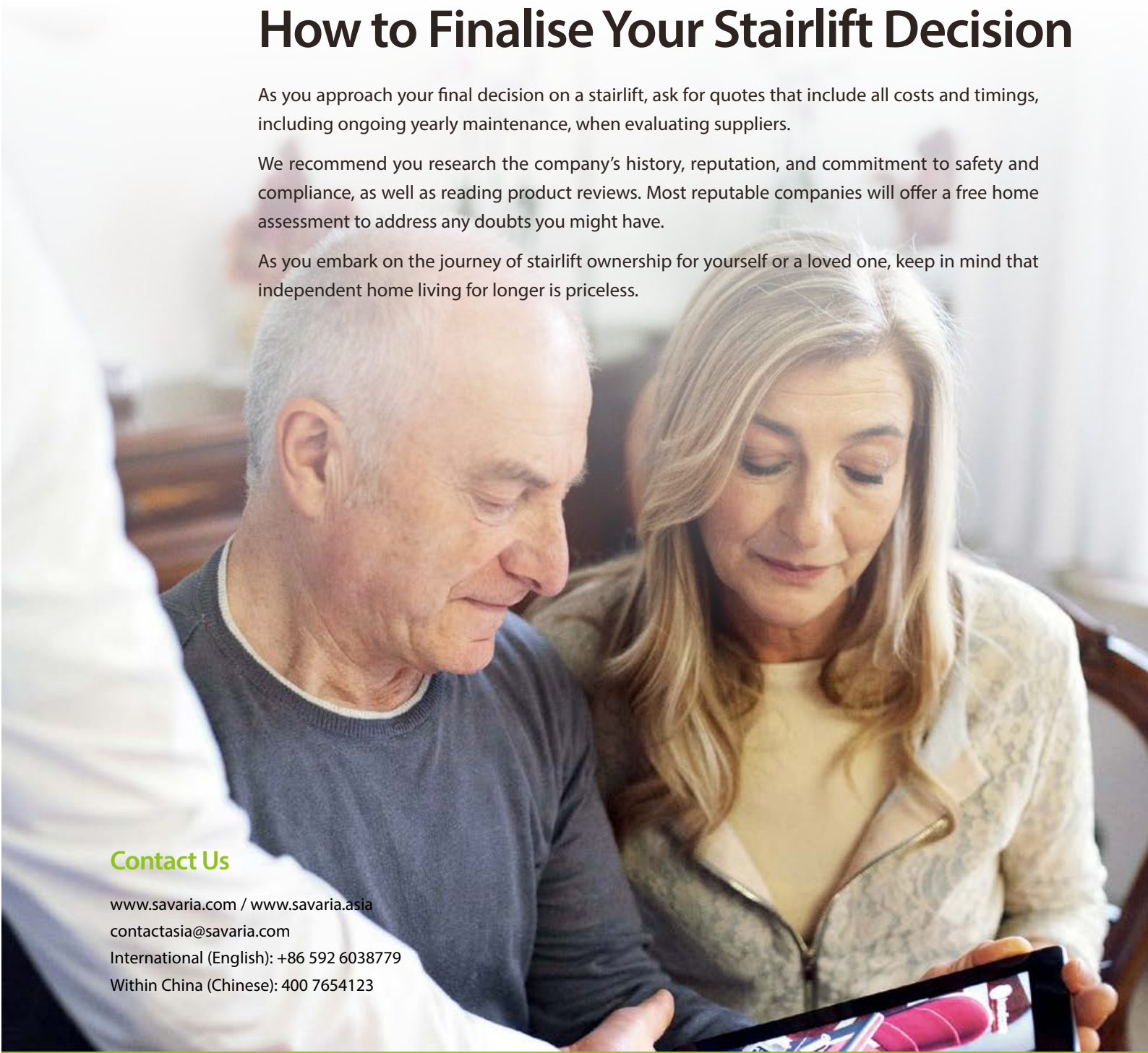
Compared to more complex mobility devices like ceiling lifts or home elevators, stairlifts are a quick and easy install. Installation and maintenance by a professional technician therefore have little impact on the overall price.

How to Finalise Your Stairlift Decision

As you approach your final decision on a stairlift, ask for quotes that include all costs and timings, including ongoing yearly maintenance, when evaluating suppliers.

We recommend you research the company's history, reputation, and commitment to safety and compliance, as well as reading product reviews. Most reputable companies will offer a free home assessment to address any doubts you might have.

As you embark on the journey of stairlift ownership for yourself or a loved one, keep in mind that independent home living for longer is priceless.



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Better mobility for life