

# Owner's Handbook:

# Ride® Forward™ Cushion



## **Ride Designs®**

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**Supplier:** This manual must be transferred to the end user of this product as it contains important information for proper use of this product.

**User:** Carefully read this entire manual prior to using this product and keep for future reference.

## **Intended Use and Installation Instructions**

### **Intended Use**

Your Ride Designs® Forward™ Cushion is an adjustable wheelchair cushion that has been carefully constructed to meet your posture and skin integrity needs and has been designed to be mounted to multiple wheelchair styles and sizes to aid in supporting and positioning of wheelchair users.

### **Weight Capacity**

Maximum user weight is 352 pounds (160kg).

## General Product Safety

Safe application of this product depends upon your good judgment and common sense, as well as that of your provider, caregiver, and/or healthcare professional and your attentiveness in following the warnings, cautions, notes, and instructions in this manual.

NOTE: Denotes important things to remember when using this product.

⚠ **WARNING:** Failure to heed these instructions could result in damage to the product or injury to the user.

⚠ **CAUTION:** Failure to heed cautions may result in damage to your product.

NOTE: We have compiled this manual from the latest specifications and product information available at the time of publication. We reserve the right to make changes as they become necessary. Any changes to our products may cause slight variations between the illustrations and explanations in this manual and the product you have purchased. Always contact your nearest authorized Ride Designs supplier, distributor, or [www.ridedesigns.com](http://www.ridedesigns.com) for the latest literature and information.

⚠ **NOTE:** Please read this instruction manual before using this product.

⚠ All Ride Designs cushions are designed to help reduce the incidence of pressure sores. However, no cushion can completely eliminate sitting pressure or prevent pressure sores. Ride Designs cushions are not a substitute for good skin care including proper diet, cleanliness, and regular pressure relief techniques.

⚠ Use of the Ride Forward Cushion without all components correctly assembled, including the inner and outer cover and foam cushion may result in injury to the user.

⚠ Installing a cushion on a wheelchair may affect the center of gravity of the wheelchair and may cause the wheelchair to tip backwards, potentially resulting in injury. Always assess for the potential need for anti-tippers or amputee axle adapter brackets to be added to your wheelchair to help increase stability.

⚠ Improper placement or securement of the Ride Forward Cushion to your wheelchair may result in injury. Your wheelchair must have complementary hook fastener on the sling or solid seat to properly secure the Cushion.

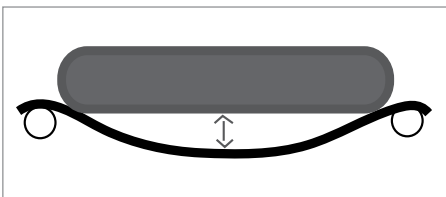
⚠ Failure to accurately assess and fit the Ride Forward Cushion may result in injury to the user.

⚠ Wheelchair configuration, and correct foot to back support fit are critical for successful use of any wheelchair cushion. Failure to properly attend to these items may result in injury to the user.

⚠ **WARNING:** The Ride Forward materials work optimally at room temperature. Do not leave the cushion in temperatures below 40°F (5°C) for prolonged periods of time. Always allow the Ride Forward cushion to come to room temperature before use. Sitting on excessively warm or cold surfaces can cause skin damage.

## Installation and Use Instructions

It is recommended that a supplier or therapist certified by Ride Designs conducts the initial fitting of your cushion. Your Ride Forward Cushion, in conjunction with its unique cover, is designed to comfortably stabilize your posture and help reduce your risk for skin breakdown.



### Preparing the wheelchair for your Ride Forward Cushion

Your Ride Forward Cushion is designed to work on both sling style or solid seat inserts.

NOTE: If your sling seat presents with a gap between the Cushion bottom and sling upholstery, the upholstery must be tightened or replaced.

⚠ **CAUTION:** The Ride Forward Cushion must not extend more than 1" beyond the front of your wheelchair's sling or solid seat.

## Install and fit your Ride Forward Cushion

1. Place the cushion on the wheelchair so that the rear of the cushion, identifiable by the content tags, is flush with the back of the sling or solid seat. Ensure that the loop fastener on the bottom of your Forward cover engages with hook fastener on the sling or solid seat of your wheelchair.
2. Transfer gently onto the cushion. Lean forward at the trunk and scoot your bottom to the back of the cushion. Ensure that your trochanters (hip bones) rest within the relief on the sides of the cushion and that your gluteal muscles are supported on the back corners of the cushion.
3. Adjust your footrest height so that your legs rest comfortably on the front of the cushion. Accurate footrest height is imperative for optimal cushion performance.

⚠ If you are unable to achieve sufficient skin protection, postural control, and/or are unable to tolerate sitting on the cushion for any reason, then the Ride Forward Cushion is not an appropriate cushion choice and a Ride Java Cushion or Custom Cushion should be considered. Contact Ride Designs or your certified Ride Designs supplier for more information about the Ride Java Cushion or the Ride Custom Cushion (USA only).

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## Initial Wearing Schedule

Prior to prolonged sitting, it is advisable to sit in your Cushion for short periods of time. Make sure to visually check any area that contacts the Cushion after each period of use. Any reddened area should fade within 10-30 minutes. Contact your doctor or therapist if the redness persists for greater than 30 minutes. As long as skin inspections do not show red areas persisting more than 30 minutes, extend the length of sitting time gradually (½ to 1 hour each day). Continue skin checks after each increased sitting time. Two to four hour periods are the general recommended maximum time in the sitting position. Skin checks should be made no less than daily, even after skin tolerance is established. Continue to perform routine intermittent pressure relief techniques (either manual lifts or weight shifts using power tilt) as advised by your healthcare professional.






⚠ **WARNING:** If any redness associated with the use of the Forward cushion persists for greater than 30 minutes, then cease sitting on the cushion and contact your therapist or doctor immediately.

⚠ Routine evaluations and adjustments must be made to ensure adequate clearance at your ischial tuberosities due to weight gain or slight cushion compression that can occur over the life of the product. Failure to routinely evaluate and adjust for ischial tuberosity clearance can result in injury.

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## Follow up

It is recommended to have your seated posture and skin integrity checked by your healthcare professional at least annually, or whenever you experience a change in your weight, posture, or general condition that could impact your ability to sit safely, comfortably, and functionally.

Laundry Care Symbols	
	Machine wash warm water (60° C)
	Do not bleach
	Drip dry
	Do not dry clean
	Do not iron


## Care and Maintenance of the Forward Cushion

### Cleaning the outer cover

- Remove your Ride Forward Cushion from the wheelchair.
- Remove the outer cover from the cushion. Zip cover closed.
- Machine or hand wash in warm water (60°C/140°F, regular detergent/no bleach).
- Hang dry.

### Cleaning the flame-resistant sheath

In accordance with European Flammability Standard EN-1021-2:2014, your Ride Forward Cushion comes with a sheath made of flame-resistant material, installed over the black, inner moisture-resistant cover.

 Removal of this flame-resistant material will significantly decrease the flame-resistance of the cushion.

To clean:

- Remove your Ride Forward Cushion from the wheelchair.
- Remove the outer cover from the cushion.
- Remove the flame-resistant sheath from the cushion.
- Machine or hand wash in warm water (60°C/140°F, regular detergent/no bleach).
- Hang dry.
- Once dry, pull the flame-resistant sheath onto the cushion, over the moisture-resistant inner cover. Pull the sheath on from front to back. Fold excess material underneath the cushion.
- Insert the cushion into the outer cover. Ensure that the cover is placed correctly front to back.
- When zipping the outer cover, take care to avoid snagging the flame-resistant material with the zipper.


### Cleaning the cushion

- The moisture resistant inner cover is designed to protect the foam materials of the cushion and should not be removed. If soiled, simply wipe clean with a damp cloth.
- Once dry, insert the cushion into the cover. Ensure that the cover is placed correctly front to back.
- Place the cushion on your wheelchair so that the rear of the cushion, identifiable by the content tags, is flush with the back of the sling or solid seat.


### Product life

The maximum intended usage of this product is four years.

### Reuse

 **RISK OF INJURY:** Consult an authorized Ride Designs dealer before transferring to another user. Do NOT use product if any damage is found.

### Disposal

 Recycle components and materials per local, state, and national regulations.



### Warranty Policy

Your Ride Forward Cushion has been carefully constructed to meet your wheelchair seating needs. This Limited Warranty is effective for 24 months from the date of delivery to the original purchaser. If any defect in material or workmanship is found, Ride Designs® will repair or replace the component, at our discretion. This limited warranty does not cover daily wear and tear or damage that is a result of mishandling, misuse, neglect, or not following the care and maintenance instructions.

Your cushion cover is under warranty for 90 days. The warranty includes damage due to workmanship, material defects or errors caused by the manufacturer. This warranty does not apply to cigarette burns, damage to the cover by sharp objects that may cause tears, or damage as a result of not following the washing instructions.

Claims and repairs should be processed through your nearest authorized Ride Designs rehab technology supplier. A copy of the Bill of Sale issued to the purchaser of the product may be required prior to processing a warranty claim.

### The Ride Forward Cushion works best when used with a Ride Designs Back support

The Java Back offers a patented biomechanically accurate design enables the fitter to quickly, easily, and independently optimize pelvic support and balance the trunk in a way that mimics the normal rhythm and movement of the body. The user experiences comfort and stability at rest, and no interference with function and mobility. Java Back supports are available in a wide range of heights, widths, and depths.

For people with more challenging postural control needs, consider the Ride Custom Back support (US only), the ultimate in postural support and skin care.

### Installation Notes

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Patents: [www.ridedesigns.com/patents](http://www.ridedesigns.com/patents)  
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