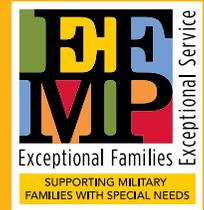


Adaptive Equipment



Adaptive equipment is a broad term describing any device designed to assist people with disabilities in performing activities of daily living, such as getting out of bed or taking a shower. Adaptive equipment is designed to help people with special needs live with the least amount of restriction or isolation.

Proper use of adaptive equipment can bring freedom and function to help those with special needs be more independent in daily routines and activities. Such equipment can provide a new normal for the family. Physical and occupational therapists, as well as social workers, assist physicians and individuals to identify appropriate adaptive assistance.

How adaptive equipment helps

People with disabilities may be reluctant to use assistive devices because of a perceived social stigma. However, choosing to use adaptive equipment provides a number of benefits and life improvements, including:

- Increased self-confidence
- Increased safety during functional mobility
- Decreased level of effort required to complete tasks
- Decreased likelihood of further injury
- Increased independence

Common types of adaptive equipment

Adaptive equipment is classified by the type of function it assists in providing.

- **Ambulatory aids:** crutches, canes and walkers
- **Wheeled mobility aids:** wheelchairs and scooters

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

- **General aids:** grab bars, bath chairs, reachers and modified kitchen utensils
- **Home modifications:** wheelchair ramp or stair lifts and widened door frames

Purchasing adaptive equipment

Some adaptive equipment can be purchased at drug stores or super centers. Many online vendors offer comprehensive selections of adaptive equipment. Consult your installation's Exceptional Family Member Program office for information and referral to appropriate TRICARE resources and other federal, state and local programs.



Exceptional Family Member Program support is available for military families with special needs.

For more information, please contact your installation EFMP office or visit

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>, an official Department of Defense website.