

Total body lift patient transfer devices

Also known as full body lifts and often called by the brand name, "Hoyer."TM

Note: "Person" refers to a patient, resident or client.

Total body lifts take the whole weight of a person when transferring from one place to another. Use a total body lift to keep the person and the caregiver safe during transfers.

Use a total body lift instead of manual transfer methods:

- If the person can't sit at the edge of the bed without external support
- If the caregiver uses more effort than lifting a 35 pound load.
- If the person lacks the strength and balance needed to play a major part in the transfer.
- If the person won't cooperate or whose effort level is hard to predict.

Equipment examples:

**Floor-based lift:
Hand-pumped version**



**Floor-based lift:
Battery powered version**



**3-in-1 device:
Battery powered**



**Ceiling lift:
mounted track**



**Ceiling lift:
4-post, free standing version***



 = Home friendly

*Free standing ceiling lifts also come in 2-post and 3-post versions.

For the person who can use some leg strength to stand AND needs only light to medium effort from the caregiver, a sit-to-stand device might be a better choice than a total body lift.

Benefits of using a ceiling lift instead of a floor-based lift:

- Ceiling lifts require much less pushing or pulling effort compared to floor-based lifts. That also means less strain on caregivers' spines.
- Ceiling lifts take up little, if any floor space.
- Ceiling lifts are more convenient, and more likely to be used.

When is it OK to do a manual transfer (just using human effort)?

Only if you use less effort than lifting 35 pounds.

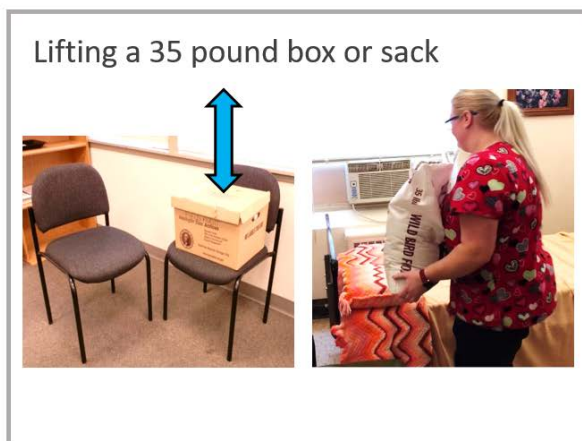
NOTE: The 35-pound weight limit applies for **ideal** transfer conditions.

A much lighter weight limit will apply for less-than-ideal conditions such as when:

- Caregivers reach far or low or to the side while lifting
- Caregivers twist while lifting
- Person resists or is likely to move suddenly

What does 35 pounds of lifting effort feel like?

Compare your lifting effort:



To

Transferring a person



✓ Less effort

✗ More effort

Tell the clinician or supervisor if it takes more effort than lifting 35 pounds.

This much effort is too much for a manual transfer.

They may have to do a new assessment and change the care plan to include equipment.

The 35-pound lift limit for patient handling activities comes from applying a lifting evaluation tool while taking into account a typical horizontal reach distance (14.5 inches) for a patient transfer. The evaluation otherwise assumes ideal conditions for the transfer.

Source: ["When is it Safe to Manually Lift a Patient?"](#) by Thomas Waters, 2007.