

Axillary Crutches

General Advice: These instructions are general advice only and do not take into account your specific circumstance. These instructions are to be used in conjunction with the information provided by your health professional and any instructions provided by the equipment manufacturer. Do not exceed the Maximum User Weight specified by the manufacturer. If you are unsure on how to use or fit a piece of equipment, please contact your Health Professional or Country Care Store.

Crutch Use

- Crutches are assistive devices used to help support weight-bearing and balance when walking. They are typically used for individuals with injuries or conditions that affect the legs, feet, or ankles, such as a broken leg, sprained ankle, or hip surgery
- Crutches can help reduce pain and improve mobility by taking pressure off the affected limb, allowing the individual to bear weight on the unaffected limb while using the crutches for support

How Do I Fit Axillary/Underarm Crutches?

Fitting crutches properly is important for safety and comfort while using them. General steps for fitting crutches include:

1. Adjust the height of the crutches: Stand up straight and place the crutches under your arms, with the hand grips at about hip level. The top of the crutches should be 1-2 inches below your armpits
2. Adjust the hand grips: The hand grips should be at a comfortable level for your hands, typically about wrist height
3. Adjust the tips: The tips should be on the ground, with the crutches at a slight angle (about 15°) away from your body
4. Test the fit: Take a few steps to make sure the crutches feel comfortable and stable. Make any necessary adjustments to the height
5. It's important to use the proper technique for walking with crutches, which your Healthcare Professional will teach you

How to Use Axillary/Underarm Crutches:

1. Stand up straight: Make sure you are standing up straight and have good posture before using the crutches
 2. Place the crutches under your arms and hold the hand grips of the crutches
 3. Lean forward slightly and put your crutches about one foot in front of you
 4. Begin your step as if you were going to use the injured foot or leg but instead, shift your weight to the crutches
 5. Bring your body forward slowly between the crutches
 6. Finish the step normally with your good leg
 7. When your good leg is on the ground, move your crutches ahead in preparation for your next step
 8. Always look forward, not down at your feet
- **Note:** It's important to use the proper technique for walking with crutches, which your Healthcare Professional will teach you. It is also important to use crutches only as directed by your Healthcare Professional and not to exceed their recommendations



PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY

- For safety, have someone help you until you have gained your balance, mobility and confidence
- Walk at a safe, comfortable pace and do not turn too quickly
- Be careful when walking over uneven or wet ground
- Wear well fitting, comfortable flat shoes with non-slip soles
- After adjusting length, check all adjustment buttons are fully secure

MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

- Please check the product label / user manual for specific cleaning instructions
- Keep rubber tips in good condition and attached securely
- If the equipment appears damaged, **DO NOT USE.** It may require replacing
- For further information, contact your Healthcare Professional
- **Additional options:** Replacement stoppers