

Frequently Asked Questions

*** Is the Natural-Fit designed for people with paraplegia or with good hand function?**

Yes. The Natural-Fit Handrim is designed for a person with paraplegia or with good hand function because its design incorporates a grip that uses the thumb.

*** Is the Natural-Fit all one piece or does it have component parts?**

The Natural-Fit comes in two pieces: The contoured thumb area and the oval rim. This is what allows us to apply a friction coating on the propulsion surface (the thumb area) and a smooth coating on the braking surface (the oval).

*** How is the Natural-Fit Handrim coated?**

The oval component of the Natural-Fit is hard anodized in black (to provide a smooth braking surface). For the contoured thumb area of the Natural-Fit, we offer two coating options: A Standard Grip coating and a SuperGrip coating. The Standard Grip coating is a thin, light-weight powder coating on the thumb area intended to serve as a propulsion surface that is slightly higher friction than the smooth surface of a standard anodized aluminum handrim. The SuperGrip is a higher friction coating for the thumb area that is an advanced copolymer which is similar to a PVC coating but provides a surface that is far more durable than PVC.

*** Should I get the Standard Grip or the SuperGrip?**

The answer to this question depends on your personal preference regarding how much friction or how grippy you want the propulsion surface (the thumb area) to be on the Natural-Fit. The standard grip is a powder coat that provides a lower friction surface on the thumb area to go along with the smooth braking surface on the anodized oval component. For those users particularly interested in the ergonomic features of the Natural-Fit but who do not like high friction surfaces, then the standard grip will be your best choice. In contrast, because the SuperGrip thumb area is coated with a higher friction polymer coating (it provides a PVC-like grip, but is more durable) to go along with the smooth braking surface on the anodized oval component, it will be the best choice for users who want both the ergonomic benefits of the Natural-Fit along with a grippier propulsion surface. The grippier surface of the SuperGrip may be particularly helpful when going up ramps, hills, or when traversing difficult surfaces (e.g., like deep-pile carpeting). Keep in mind that these coating options are for the thumb area only. The oval component of the Natural-Fit is always hard anodized in black to provide a smooth braking surface.

*** Can the Natural-Fit Handrim help me with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome or pain in my wrists and shoulders?**

We believe that the answer to this question is yes and Natural-Fit users consistently confirm this. On our web site (www.thenaturalfit.com), you will find a Testimonials page and a Research Evidence page that documents how the Natural-Fit benefits people who use it. We encourage you to evaluate the evidence for yourself and to consult with a clinician.

*** Will the Natural-Fit mount to any size wheel?**

The Natural-Fit is available for 24" and 25" spoke wheels (including Spinergy Wheels) with either a 6-position rivet nut mount (e.g., Quickie mount, or 6-position mag wheel) or a 6-position tab mount (e.g., flat tabs project from the handrim). The Natural-Fit is also available for X-Core Wheels.

*** Does the Natural-Fit add to the width of my chair?**

The Natural-Fit handrim will not add any width to your chair if you have a tab mount and you typically mount your handrim with the tab in the outside position (this means that the screw connecting the handrim to the wheel goes through the hole at the end of the tab). If you typically have your tab set in the inside position (the screw goes through the inside hole), then you will have to move it to the outside position in order to install the Natural-Fit. This will add 3/8 of an inch to the width of each wheel. If you have a rivet-nut mount, the Natural-Fit will add 1/8 of an inch to the width of each wheel.

*** Is the Natural-Fit made of lightweight materials?**

Yes. The Natural-Fit is made of lightweight aluminum (6061 aluminum alloy). The Natural-Fit weighs 1.6 lbs, which is just 12 ounces more than a standard uncoated, aluminum handrim. If your handrim is coated or made of steel, this small weight difference is further reduced.

*** Does the Natural-Fit come with a new wheel?**

No, the Natural-Fit only replaces the handrim on your present wheels. It does not replace the wheel itself.