

Is a Curved Stairlift Right for my Home?

When it comes to buying a stairlift, knowing which type to buy can be tricky. This blog answers common questions about curved stairlifts to help you decide if it's right for your home.



What is a stairlift?

Stairlifts help people with limited mobility to go up and down the stairs independently. They can improve the quality of life for someone restricted to one floor or make someone feel safer moving around their home.

The two main types of stairlifts are straight and curved stairlifts. Straight stairlifts are typically suitable for staircases that go in one straight line. You might require a curved stairlift if:

- Your staircase has one or more turns; or
- You have two (or more) straight staircases connected by a landing.

Our previous blog answers common questions about straight stairlifts. If you're interested in curved stairlifts, keep reading.

What are the benefits of installing a stairlift?

For many, stairlifts can be a safer way to navigate multiple floors. They can restore your independence whilst reducing the risk of a fall. If you struggle with stairs but want to stay in your home, installing a stairlift might be the answer.

Another time a stairlift might be helpful is if you have a temporary injury that makes using the stairs difficult or painful. Similarly, you may consider installing a stairlift when a guest with limited mobility stays at your home.



Is my home suitable for a curved stairlift?

A curved stairlift is likely right for your home if your staircase bends or curves. A curved stairlift can manoeuvre around corners while travelling continuously.

If you have two straight staircases connected by a landing, installing two straight stairlifts may be cheaper than a curved stairlift. However, if your mobility is very restricted, a curved stairlift is likely still be the better choice. This is because when you have two straight stairlifts with a landing between them, you need to be able to move safely from one stairlift seat to the other.

What if my staircase is narrow?

It is still possible to fit a stairlift if your staircase is narrow. Compact designs and collapsible parts mean a stairlift can work in small spaces and fold out of the way when not in use.

Some models, like the [Thyssen Flow 2 Curved Stairlift](#), are designed for staircases as narrow as 61cm. With this model, the stairlift seat automatically swivels at various points on the stairs to fit through the narrowest sections.



How much does a curved stairlift cost?

In 2023, the average cost of a curved staircase in the United Kingdom is £3,985. Curved stairlift prices are higher than the average straight stairlift due to its more complex design.

As staircases bend at varying amounts, curved stairlifts often require a custom-made rail to get the perfect fit. The bespoke nature of curved stairlifts adds to the cost. Some companies pre-manufacture rails in varying angles and lengths. If you can find a pre-made rail that fits your staircase correctly, this can be considerably cheaper than having one custom-built.

Another factor that increases manufacturing costs is the number of curves of your staircase. The average price for a curved stairlift with one turn is £3,500 pre-made and £4,250 bespoke manufactured. The price increases with more bends.

Optional features, such as a power swivel seat or your choice of upholstery, can also add to the final cost. A home survey might flag other expenses, such as removing anything structural that clashes with the stairlift seat as it passes.

Can I buy a curved stairlift second-hand?

You can buy second-hand curved stairlifts, which can be a more affordable option. Many manufacturers recondition previously owned stairlifts to ensure they work as well as new ones and provide warranties.

Although buying a second-hand stairlift from a private seller might be cheaper, without the safety net of a warranty, you won't be covered if it breaks down. This could lead to more costs if your stairlift stops working.

Compared to finding a reconditioned stairlift for a straight staircase, finding one that fits your curved staircase may take time and effort. For some, it may take longer to find the right fit. For others, your staircase might require a custom-made rail, making it almost impossible to find one second-hand.



Can I rent a stairlift instead of buying one?

If you only need a stairlift for a short time, such as when a relative is visiting, renting a stairlift is the most cost-effective option. Installation, monthly, and removal fees can all add up over time though, making renting expensive as a long-term solution.

Renting a curved stairlift is more expensive than renting a straight one. Renting a straight stairlift for six months costs up to £1000, whereas renting a curved stairlift can be up to £2,400 for the first six months.

It also may not be possible to rent a stairlift for your curved staircase. Curved stairlifts are less adaptable, and staircases with bends are often unique in shape. You may struggle to find a rail in stock that fits the dimensions of your staircase. In this instance, buying a reconditioned stairlift might be another way to keep costs down. If this isn't possible, you may also be able to [get funding to make your home more accessible](#).

Where can I buy a curved stairlift?

Popular brands offering curved stairlifts include Acorn, Handicare, Stannah and Thyssenkrupp. There are plenty of models to choose from, with varying features and at a range of prices. More basic models, like the [Acorn 180 curved](#), are at the lower end of the price range, while something more sophisticated, like the [Stannah Starla](#), sits at the higher end.



What is the installation process like?

When it comes to installation, stairlifts attach to the steps rather than the wall. Curved stairlifts usually have more brackets to fit than their straight counterparts because of needing to bend around corners.

As they are more complex and require more parts, curved stairlifts usually take longer to install than straight ones. While straight stairlifts typically take just one day to fit, curved stairlift installation can take a couple of days. Nonetheless, the process is normally fast and stress-free.

Before installing a stairlift, you will need a home survey from a qualified stairlift technician. If you need help with how to go about this, we can arrange a free home survey for you.



We provide free and impartial advice

We can advise you on the next steps in finding a stairlift to fit your needs.

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