

How to Get a Handle on Hand Controls in Six Steps

by *Driving Solutions LLC*

Medical conditions do not necessarily have to limit your independence with driving. Installing hand controls or other adaptive equipment in your vehicle can be truly life changing, however you should be aware that this can be a time consuming and costly process.

Talk to your doctor about your medical condition and your need for hand controls. You are a candidate for hand controls if you have an amputation, neuropathy, MS and/or paraplegia. Drivers who have other conditions that affect their legs should also consider hand controls.

Here's how to get started:

1) Get a Free Consultation

If you think you could benefit from hand controls, you can get a free phone consultation with Driving Solutions, LLC. Get a consultation by calling (508)878-9583 or schedule a call by emailing drivingsolutionsjudy@gmail.com.

2) Fill Out Your Paperwork

If driving with hand controls is an option for you, you will be asked to complete and submit some documents, including a Medical History Questionnaire, a Contact Sheet and Driver Profile, a list of current medications, a copy of your drivers license, and a prescription form signed by your physician (or an MD order written on a typical prescription pad is also acceptable).

3) Meet Your Specialist At Home For The Clinical Evaluation

Your Driving Solutions OT Driver Specialist will come to your home for the clinical evaluation, which does not include any actual driving. This usually takes 90 minutes in length. The cost is \$325 and includes a formal written report to the driver, the MD, and the appropriate driving school.

4) Arrange Your Private Driving Lessons

You will be responsible for arranging your own private driving lessons in a vehicle equipped with hand controls and other common driving adaptations. The cost will vary depending on the school, as will the number of lessons according to the learning needs of the driver. Lessons should include a home pick-up and drop-off.

5) Complete a Competency Road Test with the RMV

At the conclusion of your driving lessons, you will need to show the RMV that you are competent to drive a vehicle with mechanical aids by undergoing a road test.

6) Purchase and Install Your New Hand Controls / Adaptive Equipment

Once you have officially passed your road test, you will be eligible to have equipment installed in your own vehicle. The type, amount and cost of equipment required will be dependent on your own needs.