

SAFER LOCKS

SAFER AUTOMATIC WHEELCHAIR WHEEL LOCKS



Safer Locks is a patented, auto-engaging wheelchair wheel lock, designed to prevent wheelchair users from falls and injuries caused by unexpected chair roll due to unsecured manual wheel locks.

SAFER LOCK FEATURES

- ✓ Automatic operation is ideal for those with cognitive disorders
- ✓ Chair wheels are always locked when empty*
- ✓ Override handles allow for rolling the wheelchair while empty*
- ✓ Wheels are always locked when sitting into, or standing from wheelchair
- ✓ Positive Locking: No backward **or** forward roll
- ✓ Chair continues to operate as normal and can still be folded



WHY CHOOSE SAFER LOCKS?

Because most falls and injuries from wheelchairs could easily be prevented by using Safer Locks.

Wheelchair falls most commonly occur due to the chair user or caregiver simply forgetting to engage the manual wheel locks.

Safer Locks will give wheelchair users, caregivers, and their loved ones, the peace of mind in knowing that the wheelchair will always be locked in place every time that transfers take place.

The logo for Specialty Medical Products, Inc. (SMP) features the letters 'SMP' in a bold, green, stylized font.

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The Story Behind the "Safer Locks"

A SMALL TOWN DOCTOR ON A MISSION TO PREVENT WHEELCHAIR FALLS



Physician Grady Dugas, the inventor of the automatic wheelchair locking system, saw a crying need for the automatic locks while treating residents in nursing homes. "Some residents fell repeatedly, often injuring themselves seriously while attempting to get into or out of their wheelchairs. They did not consistently remember to engage the wheelchairs' manual locks. As a result, the wheelchairs would roll away from them as they attempted to stand up or sit down. Often these injuries changed the quality of the rest of residents' lives," said Dr. Dugas.

To help these people, the wheelchair locks needed to be automatic.

Dr. Dugas made it his mission to solve the problem. After experimenting with various designs, Dr. Dugas was awarded patent # 5,203,433 for his automatic wheelchair wheel lock system. Later, Dr. Dugas joined forces with Bill Hoge, President of United Plastic Molders in Jackson, Mississippi. With the help of Bill Hoge and the skilled craftsmen of UPM, they developed a lighter and more maintenance free wheelchair wheel lock design which utilized advanced DuPont polymers. The new design was patented in 1999 and Safer Automatic Wheelchair Wheel Locks, or Safer Locks, was formed.

Today, the team of dedicated professional at UPM and Safer Locks continues to fulfill Dr. Dugas' mission to "help prevent wheelchair-related falls and improve the quality of life for all wheelchair users".