



**Wheelchair Accessible Lowered Floor
Conversions**
Featuring 2007-2011
Dodge, Chrysler and Toyota Minivans

8105 Big Lake Rd, Clarkston MI 48346
Phone: 248-620-4200/ Fax: 248-625-3058
info@AutoAbility.com / www.AutoAbility.com

AutoAbility 
Your World Unlimited

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AutoAbility TM 
Your World Unlimited

Congratulations on the purchase of your new AutoAbility minivan. We at AutoAbility have designed and built your minivan conversion with you and your passengers in mind and have designed quality and safety into every aspect of the conversion. It is our hope that this new conversion will provide you years of trouble free, enjoyable transportation.

This owner's manual serves as a supplement to the owner's manual provided by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). Please take the time to read both manuals as they contain important information necessary for the safe and proper operation of your AutoAbility conversion. It is recommended that you keep both the OEM and AutoAbility owner's manuals inside you vehicle for future reference.

Your new AutoAbility minivan conversion carries a limited warranty which covers the modifications and alterations done to your vehicle. The AutoAbility Limited Warranty works concurrently with the warranty offered by the original equipment manufacturer. Defects or failures associated with modifications performed by AutoAbility are covered by the AutoAbility Limited Warranty. Defects or failures of unaltered original equipment are covered by the OEM. Please read the limited warranty information and registration located at the end of this manual and familiarize yourself with its coverage's and exclusions.

**BE SURE TO READ THIS MANUAL IN ITS ENTIRETY PRIOR TO OPERATING THIS VEHICLE AND BEFORE
TRANSPORTING WHEELCHAIR PASSENGERS.**

Call 248-620.4200 for further assistance
or visit us online at www.AutoAbility.com

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Warranty and Registration

Upon delivery please examine your AutoAbility conversion for any damage. Should damage have occurred during delivery notify the carrier at once with any claims.

A warranty/registration card and a delivery checklist are supplied with each AutoAbility conversion. Fill out the checklist and registration card with your sales representative and return both to AutoAbility .

A detailed Warranty section is provided within this manual. The warranty card must be processed to activate the warranty.

Record the vehicle identification number (VIN) and AutoAbility tag number (located on driver side door tag) in the spaces below for future reference. This information must be provided when filing a warranty claim or ordering parts.

Vehicle Identification Number _____

AutoAbility Tag Number _____

Introduction

AutoAbility minivan conversions are designed to provide years of trouble free service and mobility independence. Familiarity with proper operation and maintenance procedures will help ensure safe, trouble free operation.

AutoAbility encourages wheelchair passengers and their attendants to review the material contained in this manual with your sales representative before attempting operation. Any questions or concerns can be discussed at that time.

This manual addresses operations, safety features, safety precautions, and standard and optional conversion features. Refer to the Contents page for information specific to your conversion. Contact AutoAbility at (888) 592-5995 if you have any questions concerning the information in this manual, or if you are in need of clarification.

Please note: An Operation Quick Reference Guide (overview) section is provided on pages 4 and 5 of this manual.

Store this manual in the vehicle along with your vehicle's OEM owner's manual.

If you experience an operational problems, or there is any sign of wear or damage beyond the normal use, contact your sales representative or AutoAbility as soon as you are able. One of our national Product Support representatives will direct you to an AutoAbility authorized service center.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND SYMBOLS

All information contained in this manual and supplements (if included), is provided for your safety. Familiarity with proper operation and proper maintenance procedures are necessary to ensure safe, trouble free operation. Safety precautions are provided to identify potentially hazardous situations and instructions on how to avoid them.

The following symbols will appear throughout this manual and may appear on labels posted on your AutoAbility.

Please take time to recognize the seriousness of this information.



This symbol indicates the presence of a potentially hazardous condition which could result in serious personal injury or property damage.



This symbol indicates the presence of a hazard which could cause personal injury or damage to your vehicle.



This symbol calls attention to important information regarding the use or maintenance of your AutoAbility conversion.

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Operation Quick Reference

Operation Overview

This overview provides a simplified explanation of operation. Read the entire manual for complete details. Contact AutoAbility at 866-947-9119 if any of this information is not understood.

Accessing your new AutoAbility Mobility Conversion for wheelchair transport couldn't be easier. Simply follow the four basic steps.

- 1) Open rear lift gate to access the wheelchair ramp
- 2) Extend wheelchair ramp
- 3) Guide wheelchair passenger into securement area
- 4) Secure wheelchair and occupant with Q'Straint safety restraint system and OEM restraint belts, as described in this manual

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CONVERSIONS and FEATURES

Short Cut Conversion

The short cut conversion has a lowered floor area extending from the rear hatch to just behind the second row seating positions. This allows a wheelchair user to ride facing forward centered in the third row seating position.

Long Cut Conversion

The long cut conversion has a lowered floor area extending from the rear hatch to just behind the front driver/passenger seating positions. This allows a wheelchair user to ride facing forward centered in the second row seating position.

Rear ramp "secure-lock" latching mechanism

This device holds the rear ramp securely when the ramp is in the closed position and helps protect the vehicle occupants in the event of a rear end collision.

Bumper Design

The rear bumper cutout is integrated into the ramp, which gives the AutoAbility conversion a cleaner OEM like look while providing a cover for the secure-lock latching mechanism and rear crash bar.

Rear Hatch Manual Release

This feature allows the rear hatch to be released from inside the vehicle in the event of an emergency.

Unmodified Second Row Seating Positions

Standard on our short cut design, this feature allows all second row passengers to enjoy the level of comfort offered by the original equipment vehicle manufacturer.

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Extend-a-Reach Forward Wheelchair Restraints

The Extend-a-Reach design allows the forward restraints to be secured to the wheelchair from the outside rear of the vehicle, allowing the attendant to walk the wheelchair into the vehicle while the restraint straps retract. The attendant then secures the two rear restraints to the chair.

Optional Features

Wide Ramp

Manual Remote Front Tie Downs

Electric Remote Front Tie Downs

Side Flip-up Quad Seats

OPERATION

Before deploying the ramp, ensure that:

- ❖ The ground below the ramp is level and free of any obstructions,
- ❖ The transmission is in park, and
- ❖ The vehicle parking brake is fully engaged



Rear Hatch and Ramp Operation, Standard

Your AutoAbility rear entry conversion comes standard with a manually operated wheelchair ramp. To extend the wheelchair ramp:

1. Open the rear hatch using the OEM release handle (fig. 1)

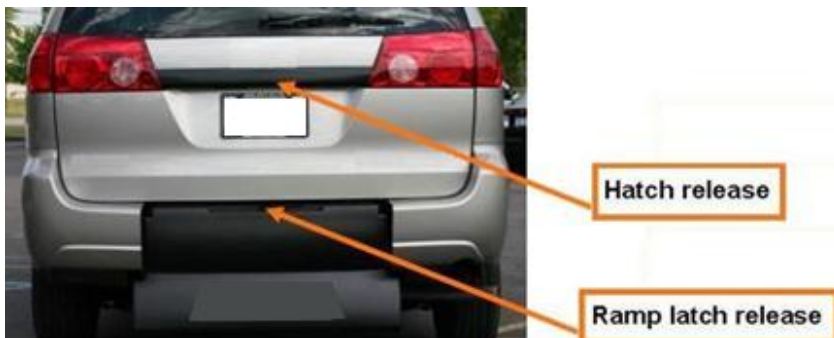


Figure 1 – Release handle locations

Rear Hatch and Ramp Operation, Standard (cont.)

- 2. Push forward on the top edge of the closed ramp, then pull up on the ramp latch release handle (figs. 2a and 2b)

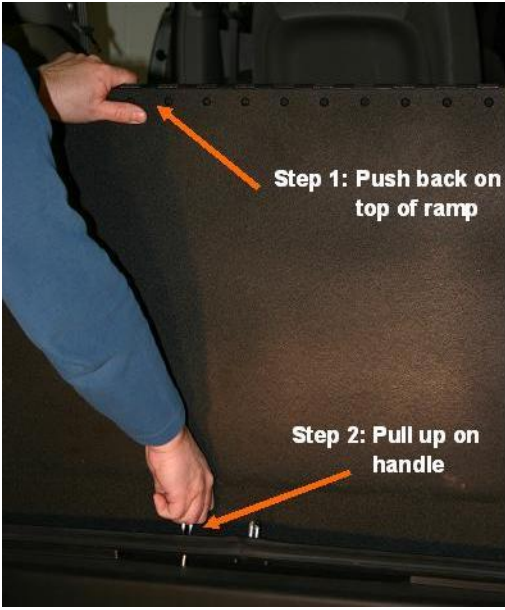


Figure 2a – Ramp release



Figure 2b – Ramp release handle

Rear Hatch and Ramp Operation, Standard (cont.)

- 3. Stand to one side and release ramp latch, grasp ramp handles and pull out in a downward motion until the ramp gently rests on the ground, making sure to stay out of the way of the ramp coming down. Be careful to keep your hands and fingers away the pinch points located where the side rails of the upper and lower ramp section meet (fig. 3a).



Figure 3a – Ramp side handles



Figure 3b – Ramp in lowered position


⚠ WARNING	
	Keep fingers away from where ramp side barriers meet to avoid potential pinching hazard to hand and or fingers


Rear Hatch and Ramp Operation, Optional Automatic

The AutoAbility optional Automatic Ramp can be activated by three separate methods:

1. Upper Center Console Control – To open and close, press the electric hatch control switch once, wait for hatch and ramp to complete a full cycle.



NOTICE	
	<p>If the ignition is keyed on the automatic ramp will not deploy.</p>

⚠ CAUTION	
	<p>Someone must be in attendance at the rear of the van before the ramp is deployed to assure safe operation of the automatic ramp system. For this reason, the automatic ramp will not function until either the driver or the passenger exits the vehicle and moves to the rear of the AutoAbility.</p>

Ramp Safety

Wheelchair attendants should be instructed on any special needs and/or procedures required for safe transport of each specific wheelchair passenger.

Follow all safety instructions regarding torso restraints, stability, balance, weight distribution and use of attendants as specified in the owner's manual supplied with your wheelchair.

Establish and practice safe ramp boarding and disembarking procedures under the direction of your health care representative and your AutoAbility sales representative to ensure your ability to do so safely.

Never attempt to enter the vehicle in a wheelchair unless being assisted by a person capable of guiding the wheelchair up the ramp and into position for safe transportation.

The wheelchair should be positioned in the center of the ramp at all times. You must be able to clearly view the ramp whenever boarding and disembarking the vehicle.

Attendants must never board an AutoAbility ramp if they are intoxicated.

⚠ WARNING	
	<p>Position and fasten the wheelchair equipped occupant seatbelt before loading onto the wheelchair ramp. Failure to do so may result in <u>serious bodily injury</u> and/or property damage.</p>

Ramp Safety (cont.)

It is the responsibility of the wheelchair operator to enter and exit the AutoAbility on the ramp in the safest possible manner.

The aid of an attendant stabilizing the wheelchair is recommended for optimum safety. Wheelchair passengers who intend to enter and exit their AutoAbility without the assistance of an attendant must determine the safest and most practical method and orientation of entering and exiting the AutoAbility. This method should be based on the physical characteristics of their personal wheelchair and their physical capabilities to maintain stability while the wheelchair is in motion on the AutoAbility ramp.

Wheelchair Attendants: When assisting a wheelchair occupant you must grasp the push handles securely when the wheelchair is on the ramp. Detachable wheelchair parts such as arms or leg rests must never be used for hand holds or lifting supports. Doing so could result in the detachable parts being inadvertently detached from the wheelchair, resulting in possible injury to the wheelchair occupant and/or you, the attendant.

Ramp Access

The ramp should always be approached straight on, not on an angle. Manual wheelchairs should be pushed at a comfortable and steady pace. Power wheelchairs should approach the ramp in low speed to avoid loss of control.

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Optional Side Flip-up Quad Seats

Side flip-up seats are available on certain AutoAbility models if specified at time of ordering. Use of these seats is simple and easy.

To place the seats into the stowed position:

1. Stand outside the vehicle directly next to the seat.
2. Releasing the factory OEM seat track mechanism, slide the seat to its full rearward position. Fold the seatback forward and down.



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Optional Side Flip-up Quad Seats (cont.)

3. Grasp the seat lock release strap and pull it firmly forward while lifting up on inboard arm of seat, rotating the seat up and locking it into the stowed position.



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Optional Side Flip-up Quad Seats (cont.)

To return the seats to the use position:

1. Holding the inboard bottom edge of the seat, grasp the lock release strap and firmly pull it forward to release the lock mechanism. Gently return the seat to its lowered position, making sure seat lock is engaged.



2. Release seatback and return to upright, locked position. Adjust the forward seat position as needed.

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Please note: The seat belts which come with most wheelchairs are for positioning purposes only and are not intended for use as a safety restraint. Only the latest models of wheelchairs with the "Transit Option" are equipped with crash tested safety lap belts. These are identifiable by the pin connector on the lap belt for the attachment of the securement system shoulder belt.

1. On the standard, or regular, lap/shoulder belt system, the end of the webbing of the lap belts have stiffeners to assist in threading the lap belt around the passenger and through the openings in the wheelchair.
2. The ends of the lap belt attaches to the pin connectors on the rear retractors.
3. The lap belt has a traditional seat belt buckle with center release button.
4. The female buckle with the release button should always be placed on the aisle side (as applicable) of the passenger.
5. The shoulder belt on the regular lap/shoulder belt system attaches to a wall anchor or may be permanently attached to the wall of the vehicle.
6. The shoulder belt passes over the shoulder of the passenger and attaches to the pin connector on the lap belt.
7. The connection point of the lap/shoulder belt must always be on the hip of the seated passenger.
8. The lap and shoulder belts will be discussed further as we accomplish the actual wheelchair and passenger securement.
9. There will be further discussion on the different types of lap/shoulder belts you may have in your particular vehicle.

Webbing Loop

1. The webbing loop is one of the most versatile pieces of equipment you may have with your securement system.
2. The webbing loop is used when it is difficult or impossible to connect the "J" hook directly to the wheelchair frame.
3. The webbing loop may be passed around a solid frame member, keeping it doubled, and then connecting the "J" hook to the webbing loop, as shown in the Q-Straint workbook, figure 1.
4. It is best to remove the webbing loop from the chair when it is not in use to ensure it is not damaged.

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Exiting the Vehicle

1. Raise the rear hatch and unlock and extend the ramp (refer to the Rear Hatch and Ramp Operation section of this manual).
2. Ensure the wheelchair brakes are engaged prior to unhooking the retractor belts.
3. Assist or ask the wheelchair occupant to disconnect the lap belt by pushing the center tab. Disconnect the shoulder belt from the left side lap belt tab. Latch the two sections together and set aside.
4. Remove the two rear restraints by pushing on the tab at the rear of the restraints to release belt tension. Pull and un-hook the restraint from the wheelchair. Pull the winged tab on the rear restraints and remove them from the slide and click floor mounts. Place the rear restraints back into their stowage positions mounted on the passenger side upper rear floor just inside the rear hatch.
5. Once both rear restraints have been removed and stowed the wheelchair is ready to be slowly guided backward down the ramp.
6. Move the wheelchair forward slightly to relieve tension on the restraint belts. Press down and hold the Forward Restraint Release handles mounted on the upper floor area near the rear hatch (fig. 2b). Assist wheelchair occupant in backing out of the vehicle.

Note: Restraint release handles must be held down in order to release the restraint from the lock position to allow the wheelchair to roll rearward.

7. Hook each restraint strap into stowage position located at the right rear corner of the vehicle just inside the hatch (see fig. 2b above).

Never attempt to exit the vehicle ramp while seated in the wheelchair unless being guided by an attendant.

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Emergency Extraction – Belt Cutter

It is recommended that you have at least one belt cutter on-board your vehicle. The ideal location is in your driver's compartment for easy access in case of emergency. Remember if it becomes necessary to cut a belt, it must be cut on a 45 degree angle for ease of cutting. Always be prepared for emergencies and think about the easiest way of assisting your passengers to evacuate should an emergency occur.



Q'Straint Preventative Maintenance (cont.)

All deficiencies should be reported to your Service Center or Supervisor and items either repaired or replaced prior to the vehicle being returned to service.

Wheelchair tie-downs and occupant restraint systems [WTORS] including anchorages that are suspected to have been in use during an impact, from which the vehicle must be towed, should be replaced.

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AutoAbility Preventative Maintenance

General maintenance of your AutoAbility conversion consists of general cleaning inside the passenger compartment and beneath the vehicle to remove dust, dirt and road grime. AutoAbility boasts simplicity of design in order to minimize expensive and time consuming preventative maintenance operations. Should you have any questions concerning the functionality of your conversion, please don't hesitate to contact us at the phone number or address listed in the following section "Contact Us".

Jacking, Tire Changing and Towing

See your original equipment owners manual for proper jacking, tire changing and towing instructions.

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Contact Us

The staff at AutoAbility is dedicated to developing and manufacturing the highest quality, leading edge, mobility solutions nationwide for private and public sector transportation needs. Our pledge is to establish lasting relationships with our customers by exceeding their expectations and gaining their trust through exceptional performance by every member of our team.

We look forward to you experiencing many years of mobility freedom from your AutoAbility conversion. In the event you experience any problems, please contact us immediately for timely resolution. It is through your feedback that we at AutoAbility can continue to provide the level of service that you, our customer, deserves.

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or visit us online at www.AutoAbility.com



Warranty Limitations and Coverage

AutoAbility warrants to the purchaser of its AutoAbility conversion that the metal fabrication on or of the frame, floor and lowered floor extension are free from defects in material and factory workmanship, including rust through, for a period of 3 years with unlimited miles. AutoAbility further warrants to the purchaser that the remainder of the modifications and alterations for associated parts are free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 3 years or 36,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Refer to your manufacturer's warranty information booklet for OEM (factory) limited warranty details.

NOTICE		
	Years/Miles In Service	Specific Area Covered
	3 years With Unlimited Miles	Autovan frame & structural components
		Autovan ramp, door, & structural components