

What goes into the price of a stairlift in Singapore

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What you pay for a stairlift in Singapore starts with your staircase. A straight flight takes the simplest rail, while a rail that turns a corner has to be built around your stairs' measurements. Then come outdoor use, the seat and powered extras, the installation, and, for a stairlift between floors, the BCA approval, permit and servicing the rules require.

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What sets a stairlift's price

Part	What changes the price
Your staircase	A straight flight takes the simplest rail. A rail that turns is built to your stairs' measurements.
Outdoor use	A model made for rain and sun
The chair	The seat and any powered extras
Installation	Rail fixings, a power point, handrail changes
The rules	For a stairlift between floors, BCA approval, a permit and servicing

The staircase decides the rail, and the rail ties the price to your home. The chair, the installation and, for a stairlift between floors, the BCA approvals come on top.

That's why two quotes for the same stairs can be far apart. One might price the chair and rail alone, the other the same rail with a powered swivel, a folding rail end, the permit work and a year of servicing. If you're comparing offers for [stairlift installation in a landed home](#), this page explains what each part of the price pays for, so you can line quotes up like for like.

What Determines Stairlift Cost?

Check these at home first

- 👁 How many turns and landings between the two floors?
- 👁 Is any part of the route open to the weather?
- 👁 Can the rider sit down and stand up without help?
- 👁 Is there a door or walkway at the bottom of the stairs?
- 👁 Where can the chair wait without blocking the way?
- 👁 Is there a power point near the stairs?

Then ask each installer whether they are registered with BCA.

Several of the things that set the price can be checked at home before anyone visits.

Eight things set the price. Several you can check at home before anyone visits, and the rest are questions to put to every installer you speak to.

Each line is a separate part of a stairlift quote. Two quotes compare fairly only when they price the same lines.

What sets the price	What changes it	What to check at home
Rail shape	One straight flight, or turns, a landing partway up, or a second flight to another floor	Count the turns and landings between the rider's two floors
Indoors or outdoors	An outdoor route needs a model built for rain and sun	Is any part of the route open to the weather?
The seat	A standard seat, or a perch seat for someone who finds bending the knees or hips hard	Can the rider sit down and stand up from a chair without help?
Powered extras	A powered swivel seat, powered footrest or a rail end that folds out of the way	Is there a door or walkway right at the bottom of the stairs?

What sets the price	What changes it	What to check at home
Where the chair parks	Extra rail at the bottom or top so the chair waits clear of the steps	Where can the chair wait without blocking a doorway or the stairs?
Installation work	Rail fixings on the treads, a power point near where it charges, and any handrail changes	Is there a power point near the top or bottom of the stairs?
BCA approval and permit	For a stairlift between floors, plans approved before work, testing and commissioning, a Permit to Operate before first use, and a yearly test and renewal	Is the installer registered with BCA?
Servicing and how you pay	The maker's service schedule, batteries and call-outs, and whether you buy new, buy reconditioned or rent	How long is the stairlift likely to be needed?

The rail is what ties the price to your home. [Stannah's straight rails are mass-produced and cut to length](#), while its curved rails are custom-made to follow each bend and turn of the stairs. So a curved stairlift can't be priced properly from photos. The rail has to be designed from the measured staircase first. Even for a straight flight, [Handicare gives an exact cost only after a home survey and an assessment of the rider](#), because the rider's needs decide the seat and extras.

A rough price over the phone can only be provisional until the rail, seat and extras are settled. If the rider needs to stay in a wheelchair, that calls for a platform lift rather than a chair, which is a different product with a different price. Our comparison of a [wheelchair platform lift and a stairlift](#) explains the difference.

An outdoor route, such as steps from the car porch up to the front door, needs a model made for the weather. [One maker's outdoor stairlifts are waterproof and come with a removable cover](#) and a lockable key switch. Our guide to [outdoor stairlifts](#) covers what else to check on an open route.

Why an average price won't help you

Searching for the average cost of a stairlift brings up figures from overseas guides, in other currencies, for other homes and without Singapore's BCA approval and permit. An average across straight and curved, indoor and outdoor, rented and bought stairlifts tells you little about your own flight of stairs. A price range is only meaningful for the same rail, seat, extras and after-sales work.

Consider the space left for other stair users as well as whether the chair can fit. [stairlift options for narrow stairs →](#)

Getting on and off a straight stairlift

At the top

The seat turns to face the landing

A handle on the seat, or a powered swivel

At the bottom

The rail runs past the bottom step

A hinged rail folds clear of a doorway

If the rider's strength may change, settle powered features now. Not every stairlift can add them later.

On a straight flight, look closely at the extras for getting on and off when two quotes for the same stairs don't match.

A standard straight stairlift between two floors is priced from the length of the flight, the seat and the extras the rider needs, plus the BCA approval, permit and servicing that go with it. The rail on a straight flight is the simpler part, so look closely at the extras when two quotes for the same stairs don't match.

Start with getting on and off. At the top, the seat turns toward the landing so the rider steps off onto the floor rather than the top step. Every Handicare stairlift has a manual swivel worked by a handle on the seat, with a powered swivel offered for riders who can't work the handle. The maker's perch seat is for someone with knee or hip problems who finds sitting down hard. The rider stays half standing, leaning on a higher, shallower seat. Our guide to perch and standing stairlifts covers who it suits.

Then look at the bottom of the stairs. For the seat to come down low enough to sit on, the maker's rail has to run past the bottom step onto the floor, and in a tight hallway that end can cross a doorway or walkway. A hinged rail folds that end out of the way. The maker offers a hinge you fold by hand on its straight models, and Stannah makes a folding rail for straight stairs that lifts clear at the push of a button. It's an optional extra, so ask for it as its own line in the quote and only where your hallway needs it.

If the rider's strength or balance may change, settle the powered features at the start. Not every stairlift can have powered features added later, so the cheaper chair today can turn out to be one you can't upgrade. Where possible, have the rider try the proposed seat and controls with the assessor, including getting on and off, before settling the configuration.

A reconditioned straight stairlift is another way people try to bring the price down. Check which parts are new, who refurbished it and what written warranty comes with it, because a maker's warranty can depend on who does the work. One maker, for example, says a used chair refitted with a different rail by anyone other than its certified dealers loses its warranty. Our checklist for buying a second-hand stairlift goes through the rest.

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Curved Stairlift Pricing

Two kinds of curved rail

Made to measure

Designed for your staircase

Rides more smoothly

May be the only fit on very tight turns

Modular

Ready-made sections

Can arrive sooner

Rides less smoothly

As one maker, Stannah, describes them. Compare a modular quote with another modular quote.

Ask which kind of curved rail a quote is for, and compare a modular quote only with another modular quote.

A curved stairlift is priced from the measured staircase, not from a catalogue. A curved rail is either made to measure or assembled from ready-made sections to follow the bends and turns while keeping the seat level, and a turning staircase often has wedge-shaped steps and changing widths that the rail must allow for. A landing partway up or a second flight to another floor means more rail and more bends.

Ask which kind of curved rail you're being quoted. Curved stairlifts come in two main types, a rail designed and made for your staircase or a modular one assembled from ready-made sections. By Stannah's account, the modular kind can arrive sooner but rides less smoothly, and on very tight turns a made-to-measure rail may be the only one that fits closely. They're different products, so compare a modular quote with another modular quote.

Where the rail starts and finishes changes the price too. A chair parked at the foot of the stairs can block the way, so this maker's curved rails can bend round at the bottom or run on past the top step to park the chair out of the way. That means extra rail and extra bends. The maker's curved rails also charge only at a point at the top or bottom of the stairs, so the parking spot has to be one where the chair charges.

On a curve, each option has to be checked against the others. On Handicare's curved models, a powered folding rail can't be combined with its perch seat, so the set-up has to be settled before the price is. For a fuller comparison of the two rail types, see straight vs curved stairlifts.

Don't count on a second-hand or rented curved stairlift to cut the rail cost. That maker also notes that curved units are made for one staircase and usually can't be moved to another home. Even if the chair is reused, expect the rail to be new, and ask the quote to show the rail and the chair separately.

From approval to the yearly test

- 1 Plans approved**
Before FI installation work starts

- 2 Installed and tested**
By a BCA-registered contractor, under supervision

- 3 Permit to Operate**
Valid before the first ride

- 4 Servicing**
To the maker's schedule, or every three months if none is given

- 5 Yearly test**
An inspection, a test and the permit renewed

For a stairlift between floors, plans must be approved before fixed installation work starts. Follow the maker's service schedule, or service it every three months if none is given. The yearly inspection, test and permit renewal are separate.

What the installation work covers

The installed price adds the rail fixings and any power point or handrail changes to the price of the chair and rail, and for a stairlift between floors, the BCA plans, testing and permit as well. [Stannah fixes its rail to the stair treads rather than the wall](#), and Handicare notes that [a multi-level staircase may need more supports than a straight flight](#). Ask how the rail is fixed, what your treads are made of, and who fills the fixing holes if the stairlift comes out one day.

Some homes need small changes before the rail goes in, and [one maker gives removing a handrail as an example](#). The stairlift also needs power, because its batteries are [topped up at a charging point or along a charging strip](#). Ask where the charger plugs in and whether a new power point is needed near the stairs. If one is, that's separate electrical work the quote should mention. Our explainer on [stairlift batteries and power cuts](#) covers how the charging works.

If the stairs are due for new treads or a new finish, do that first. The same maker says [many of its dealers charge to take a stairlift off and refit it](#) when flooring changes, and suggests laying new flooring before the stairlift goes in, as that can cost less. The same applies if you're planning a [staircase](#)

renovation.

BCA approval and the Permit to Operate

In Singapore, BCA regulates stairlifts as fixed installations, the same legal category as lifts. Owners should hire contractors registered with BCA to install and maintain them, and you can check an installer in BCA's directory of registered contractors before you sign. The approvals below are part of the cost here, and overseas price guides leave them out.

There is one narrow exception. An exemption order made by the Minister for National Development under the Building Control Act covers only a stairlift that serves a single home, rises less than 1,000 millimetres in height, and exerts a maximum downward force of less than 150 newtons as it moves down. The Act and its regulations don't apply to one that meets all three, so it needs none of the approval, permit, yearly test and regulated servicing below. The rise is the height the chair climbs, not the length of the rail, so a few outdoor steps at the car porch could qualify even on a longer rail. You can't check the force limit yourself, though, so ask the installer to confirm in writing which applies. A stairlift that rises a metre or more between floors doesn't meet the exemption.

Putting in a stairlift between floors is fixed installation work. The owner appoints an installation contractor, a qualified person to prepare and submit the plans, called the QP (Plans), and a qualified person to supervise the testing, called the QP (Supervisor), and gets the plans approved before the fixed-installation work starts. The contractor then tests and commissions the stairlift under that supervision, and you need a valid Permit to Operate before anyone rides it. If your building plans were submitted before 1 October 2025, have the QP confirm which submission route applies.

The permit fee is the small part. For one stairlift, BCA's circular of September 2025 puts the government's Permit to Operate application fee at S\$20. A permit only lasts 12 months under the Building Control (Fixed Installations) Regulations 2025, so you'll pay that S\$20 again each time you renew it.

The rest of the cost sits in the work around the permit. Every year after that, a registered service contractor has to inspect and test the stairlift with an independent specialist engineer or inspector present, and you can start the renewal three months before the permit expires. Ask each installer whether the plans, the first test and the permit are in the price, and who arranges the yearly renewal.

Servicing, batteries and the yearly test

Once it's in, a stairlift has a running cost. BCA's maintenance table sets servicing for a lift serving a single home at the maker's recommended frequency, or every three months where the maker gives none, and the table's stricter rule is for stairlifts that don't serve a single home. Unless the stairlift meets the small-stairlift exemption above, the servicing must be done by a BCA-registered service contractor, so the maker's schedule for your model decides how many visits you pay for each year. One maker's certified installers offer annual service visits, for example, but check what the maker of your model asks for.

On top of the service visits come the yearly inspection and test and the permit renewal. Batteries wear too. With one maker's curved rails, a chair parked away from its charging point beeps to warn you, and batteries that aren't kept charged may need replacing. A servicing quote should list the visits, the yearly test and renewal, call-out charges and parts such as batteries separately, so you can see what the yearly fee leaves out.

Ask, too, whether the service price changes once the warranty period ends, and who attends when the chair stops between visits.

Rental and Lease Options

Count the whole cost of renting

- ✓ The upfront payment
- ✓ The monthly charge
- ✓ The minimum term
- ✓ What servicing is included
- ✓ The removal charge at the end

Renting suits a limited time, and only if a rental unit fits your stairs. A rented stairlift between floors still needs a registered installer and a Permit to Operate.

Compare renting and buying over the time the stairlift is likely to be needed, counting every charge.

Renting can make sense when the stairlift is needed for a limited time, for example while someone recovers from an operation, and when a suitable unit fits your stairs. One maker says many of its dealers rent out stairlifts as a more affordable option, but that their rental stock may not fit a given staircase, and curved units usually can't be moved between homes. So rental is most likely to be available on a straight flight.

A rented stairlift between floors is still a fixed installation, so it needs a registered installer and a valid Permit to Operate just like one you own. Compare the full cost over the time you expect to need it, counting the upfront payment, the monthly charge, the minimum term, what servicing is included and the removal charge at the end.

If a rent-to-buy deal is offered, get the total payable, the date ownership passes and the cost of ending early in writing. Our guide to [renting versus buying a stairlift](#) shows how to compare the two over a short, an expected and a longer period.

Getting the Best Value

What a complete stairlift quote lists

- ✓ Make and model, new or reconditioned
- ✓ The rail, and where it starts and finishes
- ✓ The seat and each powered option
- ✓ Fixings, any power point and handrail changes
- ✓ BCA plans, testing and the permit
- ✓ Servicing, the yearly test and call-outs

If the BCA lines are missing, ask for the installer's written confirmation that the stairlift is exempt.

Lay two quotes side by side against this list before comparing totals.

The best value is the least expensive stairlift the rider can use safely every day, with the approvals and servicing counted in. A lower quote that leaves out the permit work or the first year's servicing only looks cheaper until those lines are added back.

What a complete stairlift quotation should list

Lines to look for in a stairlift quotation

- ☐ The make and model of the chair, and whether it is new or reconditioned
- ☐ The rail, whether straight, curved and made to measure, or curved and modular, plus where it starts and finishes

-
- ☐ The seat type and each powered option, such as a swivel seat, footrest or folding rail, as separate lines
-
- ☐ Installation, rail fixings, any new power point and any handrail or finish changes, plus handover and training for the household
-
- ☐ BCA plan approval, testing and commissioning, and the first Permit to Operate, with who arranges each, or the installer's written confirmation that the stairlift is exempt
-
- ☐ The warranty, including who gives it, how long it runs and what it covers
-
- ☐ Servicing after handover, with visits a year, the yearly inspection and test, permit renewal, call-outs and batteries
-
- ☐ Whether the site survey is charged, and removal at the end, including who fills the fixing holes

Use this blank checklist to record your project review.

If you're picturing a small lift in its own shaft rather than a chair on the stairs, that's a home lift, a different project with building work. Our [home lift cost guide](#) covers what that involves, and [stairlift vs home lift](#) helps you decide between the two.

For the wider decision, including fit, safety and the rider's daily routine, our [stairlift buying guide](#) goes through each step.

To see which of these lines apply to your home, send us photos of the staircase from the bottom and from the top, including any turns, doors or outdoor steps along the route. Tell us who will ride it and what they find hard, such as sitting down, turning or standing up. That's enough to talk through the likely set-up and what the free site assessment needs to confirm before we give you a fixed-price quote.

Common questions

How much does a stairlift cost in Singapore?

You pay for the chair and the rail your stairs need, straight or turning, indoors or out, plus any powered extras, the installation and servicing. For a stairlift between floors, [BCA's September 2025 circular puts the government's Permit to Operate application fee at S\\$20](#), and that fee doesn't cover the plans, testing and other work around the permit. To get a fixed price for your own stairs, we start with a free site assessment and then give you a fixed-price quote within 3 to 5 working days.

Why does a curved stairlift cost more than a straight one?

A curved rail has to be designed around the turns, landings and step shapes of one staircase, while a straight rail follows a single flight. Extra rail to park the chair clear of the stairs adds to it. There's no fixed multiple, so compare curved quotes only with other curved quotes.

Is a reconditioned stairlift worth buying?

It can be on a straight flight, if you know which parts are new, who refurbished it and what written warranty comes with it. On a turning staircase the rail still has to suit your stairs, so a new rail may be needed even if the chair is second-hand. Ask for the rail and the chair to be priced separately.

What does stairlift servicing cost each year?

For a stairlift between floors, the yearly cost is made up of the visits on the maker's service schedule for your model, the yearly inspection and test with an independent Specialist Professional Engineer or Fixed Installation Inspector present, the permit renewal, and what the contract leaves out, such as call-outs and batteries. Each permit renewal adds a government fee of S\$20 for one stairlift under the [Building Control \(Fixed Installations\) Regulations 2025](#), on top of the inspection and test that must come first. Ask for each cost as a separate line before you buy, not after.

Can I rent a stairlift instead of buying one?

It depends on whether a rental unit fits your stairs, which is more likely on a straight flight. Like a bought one, a rented stairlift between floors still needs a registered installer and a valid Permit to Operate. Compare the upfront payment, monthly charge, minimum term, servicing and removal with buying, over the time you expect to need it.

Is there a government grant for a stairlift in a landed home?

The [EASE \(Private\) fittings catalogue](#) for private homes covers items such as grab bars, a shower seat and a single-step ramp, and the [Seniors' Mobility and Enabling Fund device list](#) covers items such as wheelchairs, walking aids and hospital beds. Neither lists a stairlift, so budget without a subsidy unless a scheme administrator confirms support in writing. Our [guide to EASE and EASE \(Private\)](#) explains what each covers.

What is the cheapest type of stairlift?

The simplest set-up is a straight indoor rail with a standard seat and a manual swivel. A curved rail adds to the price, and so do optional extras such as a powered swivel or a folding rail. An outdoor model or a perch seat is a different set-up rather than an add-on, so ask for it to be priced as its own

option. The cheapest stairlift only saves money if the rider can get on, ride and get off safely every day.

More on stairlifts

[Article](#) [Can Two Family Members Use the Same Stairlift?](#)

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