STAIRLIFTS

Stannah vs Acorn Stairlifts: Models, Rails and Daily Use Compared

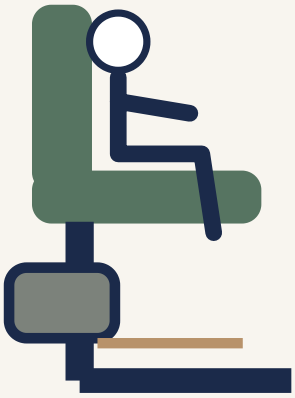
By DirectHome Team Updated 16 September 2026 8 min read Explore our stairlifts service ↗

Stannah's Siena is worth particular attention when the rider needs help turning the seat or folding the footrest, or needs more than the Acorn 180's 120 kg capacity on a curved staircase. Acorn's 130 offers a straightforward straight-stair option, while its 180 uses a modular curved rail. On a straight flight, Acorn's heavy-duty 130 and the straight Siena sit in a similar weight-capacity bracket. The useful choice depends on the person and the staircase; neither brand is automatically cheaper or quieter.

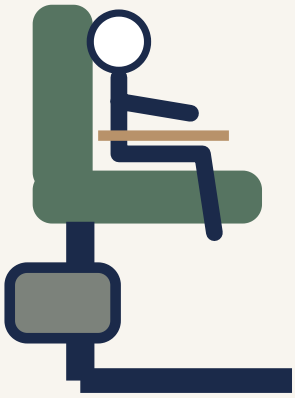
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The user needs to try the actual controls



Seat and transfer



Reach and controls

Assess the intended user on each model

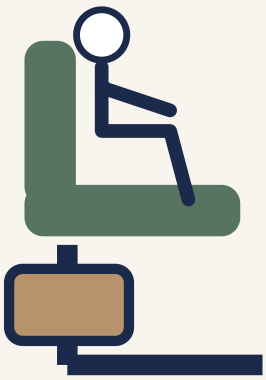
Not to scale

Seat space, transfer and control reach must suit the intended person.

The Models and Differences That Matter



Budget priority



Daily-use priority

Compare the full price with the intended user’s daily ride and comfort needs; the lower figure alone does not settle the choice.

For a stairlift installation, first separate straight stairs from stairs with bends or landings. The Siena chair is used with different Stannah rail systems; the Acorn 130 serves straight stairs and the Acorn 180 serves curved stairs. A straight-model capacity or price tells you little about the curved version needed in a house with winding stairs.

Manufacturer specifications, checked 16 September 2026. The local order must identify the exact chair, rail and options.

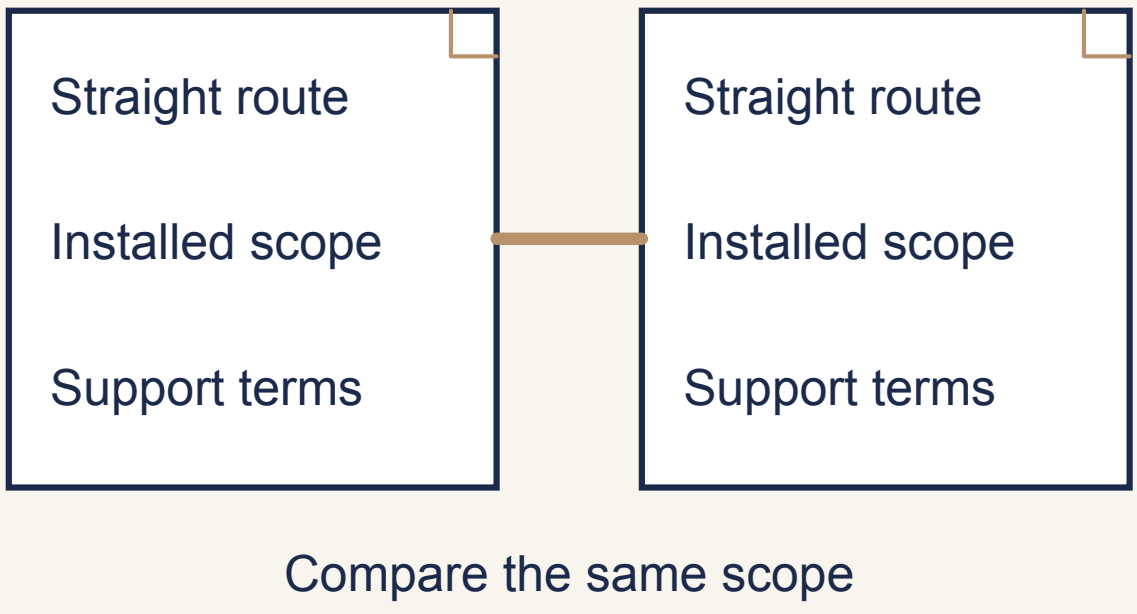
Staircase and feature	Stannah Siena	Comparable Acorn model
Straight flight: published maximum load	158 kg for the straight Siena	130: 127 kg; heavy-duty version: 159 kg
Curved flight: published maximum load	136 kg for the standard curved Siena	180: 120 kg
Curved rail construction	Individually made rail for the staircase	180: single rail assembled using the FastTrack modular system

Staircase and feature	Stannah Siena	Comparable Acorn model
Help with turning and folding	Powered Easy-Turn and powered footrest options	130: powered-swivel configuration listed; folding footrest on both 130 and 180
What separates the offers	Choice of assistance features and higher standard curved-model capacity	Straight heavy-duty option and modular curved rail

The capacities above are from Stannah's Siena specifications and Acorn's manufacturer pages for the 130 and 180. Stannah's country selector identifies Singapore distribution, but the Siena details here are manufacturer reference specifications, not confirmation that every option is supplied locally. Manufacturer listings do not establish local stock or an installation date.

For a rider weighing 130 kg who needs a curved rail, the published 120 kg Acorn 180 configuration is outside its rating. The standard curved Siena's published 136 kg rating makes it a candidate for assessment, provided the locally supplied configuration has that rating and the seat fits. On straight stairs, comparing Siena only against the standard 127 kg Acorn 130 would overlook Acorn's 159 kg heavy-duty version.

Price in Singapore



Price comparison requires matching route, installation scope and support terms across the two offers.

There is no defensible fixed Singapore price gap between these brands here. A curved rail, a heavy-duty version and a powered swivel are different purchases, so comparing a basic Acorn 130 with a curved Siena could make the brand appear to explain a difference that actually comes from the staircase and equipment.

For straight stairs, put the required load rating and turning assistance into both proposals before comparing price. For curved stairs, the rail drawing also matters: where the chair parks, where the rider gets off and whether the rail crosses a doorway can change the work. A cheaper layout is little help if it leaves someone struggling to stand at the top of the stairs.

Separate the chair and rail from powered options, mounting preparation, electrical work, installation, testing and PTO work. Include the same initial maintenance period and GST treatment. Only then does the difference between the two installed totals tell you what choosing one offer over the other will cost.

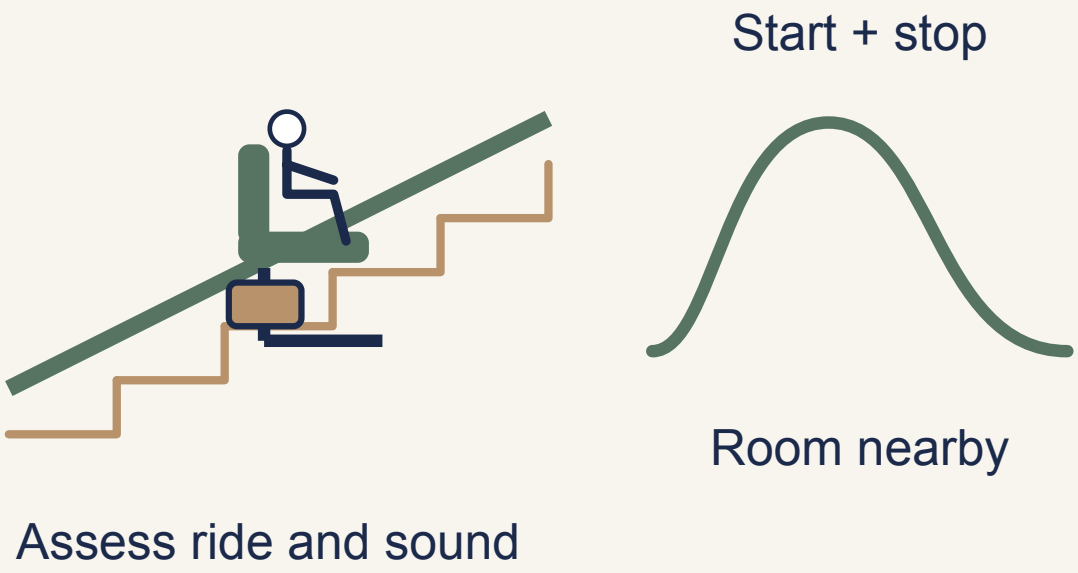
> Separate the equipment, installation and ongoing costs when comparing offers. stairlift costs in Singapore →

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Curved Rails, Ride Quality and Noise



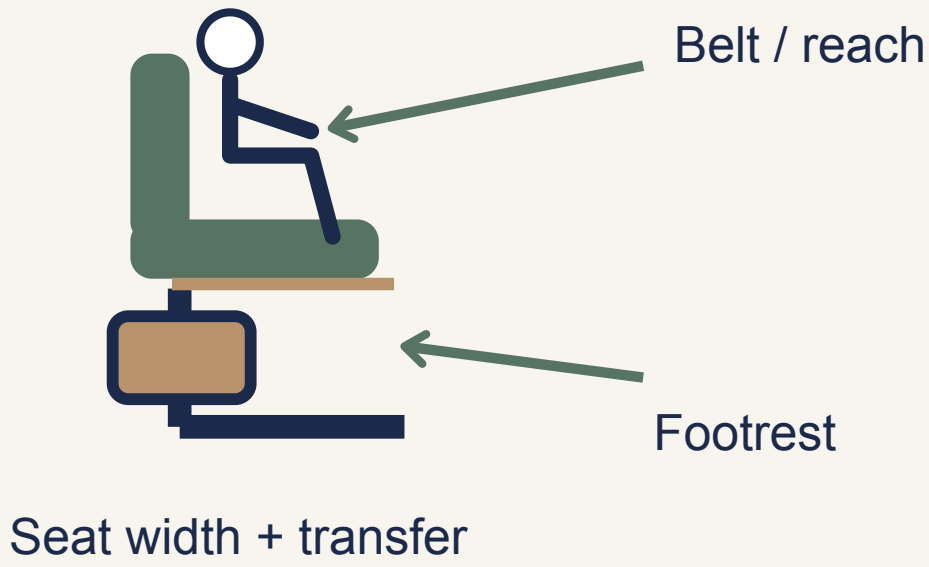
Judge the selected unit’s ride and sound in relation to the intended user and nearby rooms.

The clearest curved-rail difference is how it is made. Stannah makes its curved rails for each staircase; the Acorn 180 uses modular rail sections. Modules change how the route is assembled, while a made-to-order rail is produced for the surveyed layout. Neither method alone proves that a chair will leave more walking space or feel smoother around your particular bend.

In a landed home with a tight turn, the useful drawing shows the rider’s knees and footrest through that turn, as well as the rail against the stairs. At the lower landing, it shows whether the parked chair or rail obstructs the passage. A folding rail can help with a doorway, but its operation becomes part of every journey; a rail that needs handling must suit the person who will handle it.

Try starts, stops, bends and the last approach to the landing on the proposed model. A straight showroom run cannot demonstrate a curved journey. There is no verified like-for-like noise test here that establishes Stannah as quieter than Acorn. If a bedroom opens beside the stairs, discuss the mounting and the route with that room in mind, and agree how unexpected vibration will be investigated.

Seat, Seatbelt and Comfort



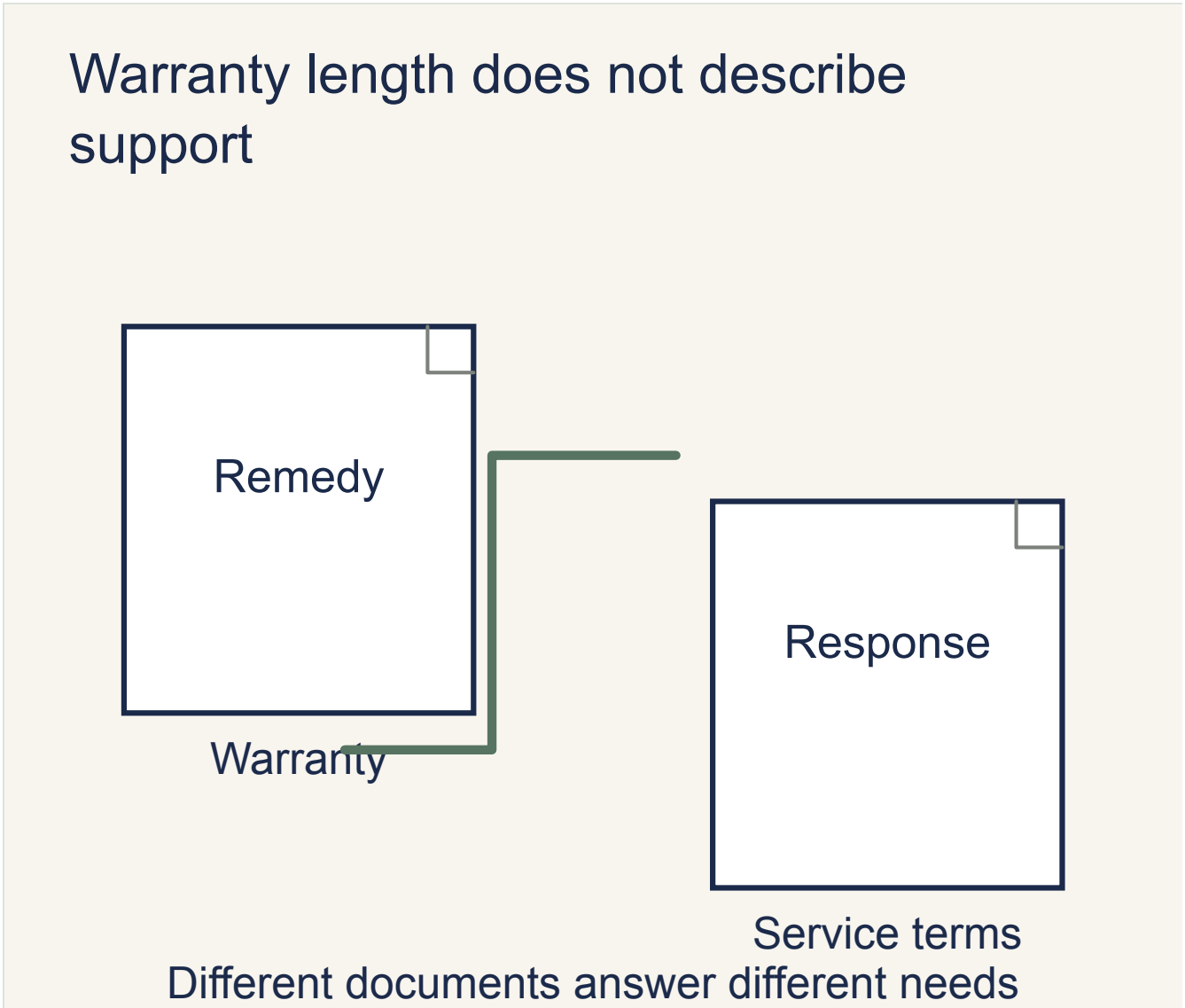
The seat comparison concerns body space, belt operation, foot support and transfer.

Siena's assistance options address two separate movements: turning the seat towards the landing and lifting the footrest out of the way. A powered swivel reduces the need to turn the chair manually; a powered footrest reduces reaching down. The straight Siena also has a linked seat-and-footrest fold, while the curved version uses a lever or powered option. This distinction matters if bending, twisting or reaching is the difficult part of using the stairs.

Acorn's 130 specification includes a powered-swivel version, so turning assistance is not exclusive to Stannah. Its published armrest spacing is 445 mm, with a 495 mm wide-arm version. The 180 lists 480 mm between its armrests. These are body-space measurements, not stair widths: a comfortable seat must also leave room for the rider's knees and feet along the route.

Have the intended user sit, fasten the belt, reach the control and practise the transfer at a suitable demonstration. A wider seat is useful only if the armrests still provide support and the controls remain within reach. If balance or transfers are uncertain, involve the care team or an occupational therapist before choosing the chair; powered movement does not by itself make an unsafe transfer safe.

Warranty and Service Network



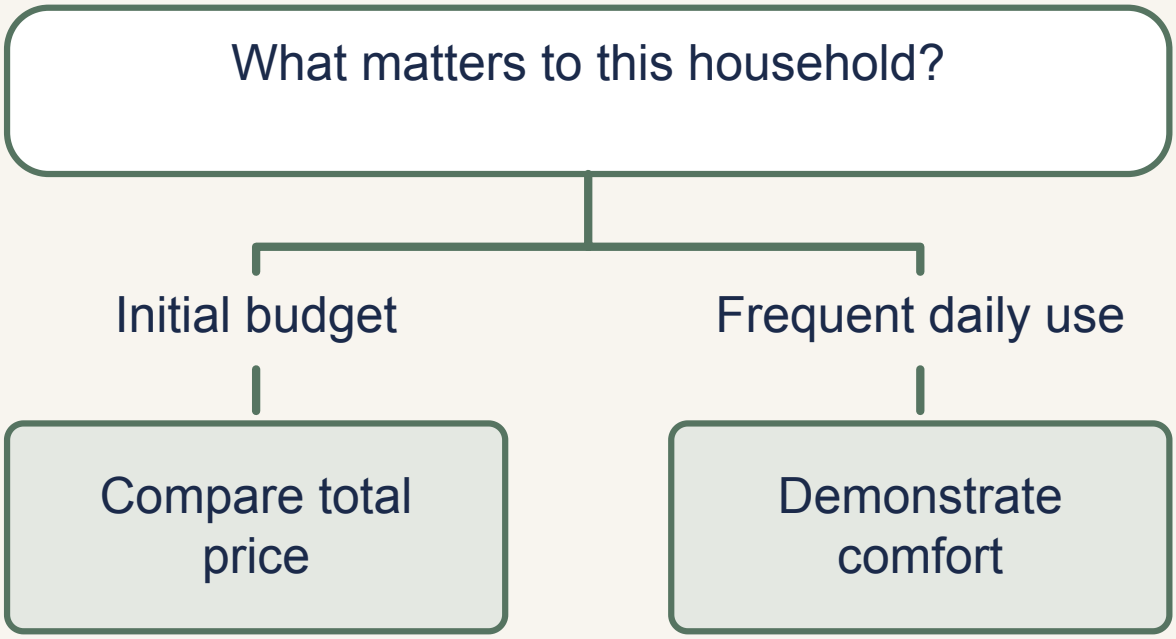
Warranty remedies and service response come from different terms. Read both documents to understand what happens after a fault.

A familiar manufacturer’s name does not tell you who comes to your Singapore home after a fault. The local purchase must name the warranty issuer and maintenance company, with covered parts, batteries, labour, travel and exclusions. Overseas warranty periods and service packages are not automatically the terms of a Singapore installation.

Distinguish answering the phone from attending the house and completing a repair. If this is how a parent reaches the only suitable bathroom, the practical issue is the household’s access during a breakdown. Compare the promised attendance arrangement and the support available for the exact

model; no verified evidence here establishes that one brand has faster local repairs or better parts stock.

Which Would We Choose for Your Situation?



Budget and frequent use lead to different comparison priorities; confirm suitability with the intended user.

Recommendations follow the stated ratings and mechanisms. The rider and staircase assessment still decides suitability.

Your household's situation	Our recommendation
Straight stairs, with no special turning or folding difficulty	Keep both Siena and Acorn 130 in the comparison. Choose the suitable configuration with the better complete local price and support terms.
Straight stairs and a rider above 127 kg	Compare straight Siena with the heavy-duty Acorn 130, not the standard 130. Confirm the supplied rating and seat fit.
Curved stairs and a rider above 120 kg	Prioritise a suitably rated Siena configuration over the published 120 kg Acorn 180. Do not exceed the chosen unit's rating.
Turning or reaching the footrest is difficult	Prioritise demonstrated powered assistance. Siena has published options for both actions; Acorn 130 also lists powered swivel.
Curved stairs and urgent access needs	Acorn's modular rail is a reason to discuss a firm delivery date. It is not proof of faster Singapore installation; compare written dates and the usable route.

Whichever model fits, BCA requires registered installation and maintenance contractors and a valid PTO before operation. Keep the final chair and rail specification, drawing, options, warranty and maintenance agreement together. For a new installation discussion, bring photos of the whole staircase and both landings, the rider's access needs and any existing proposals to DirectHome's stairlift team.

Frequently asked questions

How much cheaper is Acorn than Stannah in Singapore?

Only comparable current Singapore quotations can establish the price difference. Include the same user options, site work, testing and PTO-related scope.

Is the Stannah ride really quieter than the Acorn?

There is no verified brand-wide noise ranking here. Try the exact models and discuss the actual mounting and nearby rooms during the survey.

Do both brands come with the same warranty?

Read the warranties issued for the specific local purchases. Parts, batteries, labour, call-outs and extensions may differ between offers.

For a heavier or less mobile user, which is better?

For curved stairs, the standard Siena's published 136 kg capacity is higher than the Acorn 180's 120 kg. For straight stairs, compare Siena with Acorn's heavy-duty 130 where needed. The locally supplied rating, seat fit and transfer assessment still decide suitability.

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