

Crutch Walking

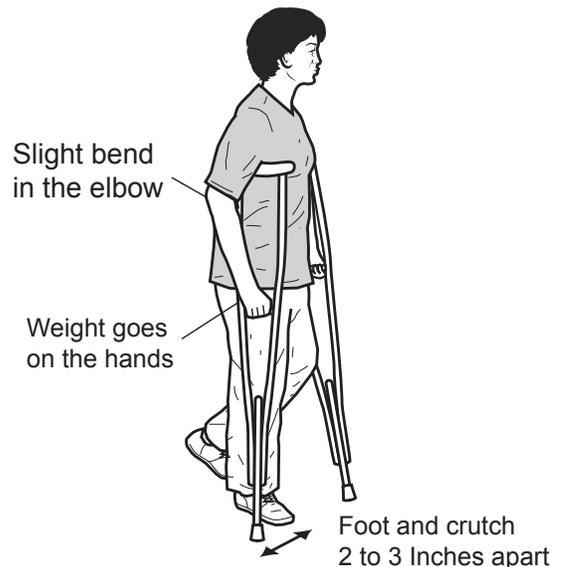
Using Your Crutches Safely

Crutches

- Adjust the crutches for your height. The top of the crutch should be 1 to 2 inches below your armpit.
- Be sure that the pads and grips are in place.
- Clean the tips of the crutches to make sure that they are free of dirt and stones.

Prevent Falls

- Keep your crutch tips about 2 to 3 inches (7.5 centimeters) away from the side of your feet so you don't trip.
- Wear supportive footwear that has non-slip soles. Do not wear slip on shoes.
- Remove throw rugs in your home to avoid falls.
- Pick up your crutches and injured leg higher walking on carpet than you do walking on tile or smooth floors.



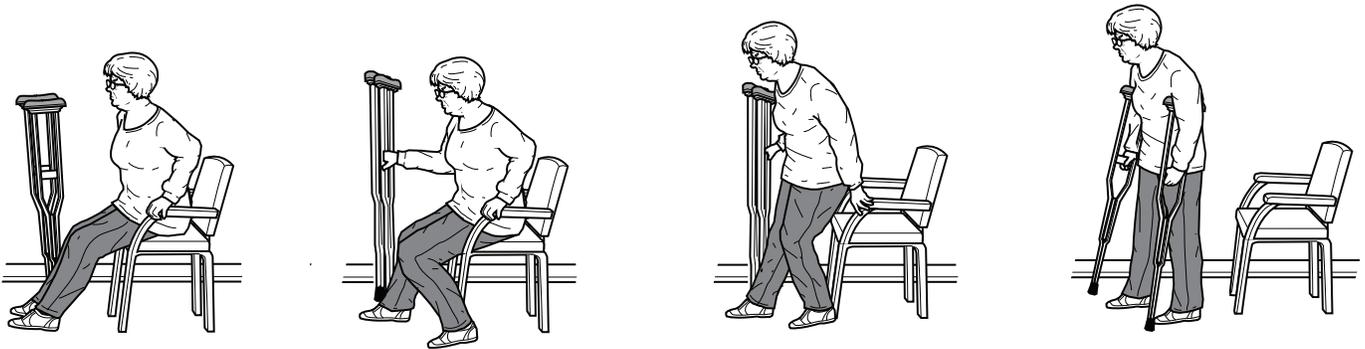
Safe Walking

- Carry your weight on your hands, not on your armpits.
- Keep your elbows close to your sides and slightly bent.
- Do not walk too fast.
- Keep your head up and look forward when you are walking. Do not look at your feet.
- Check your balance often.

The order from your doctor or therapist for your injured leg is (do only what is marked):

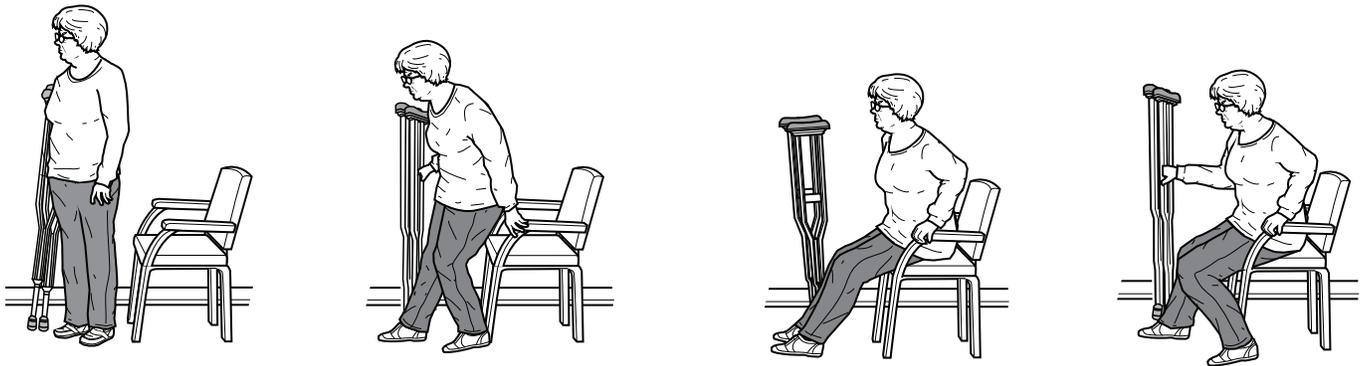
- Do not let your foot touch the floor when standing or walking.
- Touch your toe on the ground to help your balance but do not put weight on it.
- Touch your foot on the ground but do not put weight on it.
- Put as much weight on the leg as you can comfortably.
- Put all your weight on the leg.

Standing Up



1. Hold both crutches on your injured side.
2. Slide to the edge of the chair.
3. Lean forward and push down on the arm of the chair on your good side to stand up.
4. Check your balance. Follow instructions about how much weight to put on your injured leg.
5. Put the crutches under your arms.

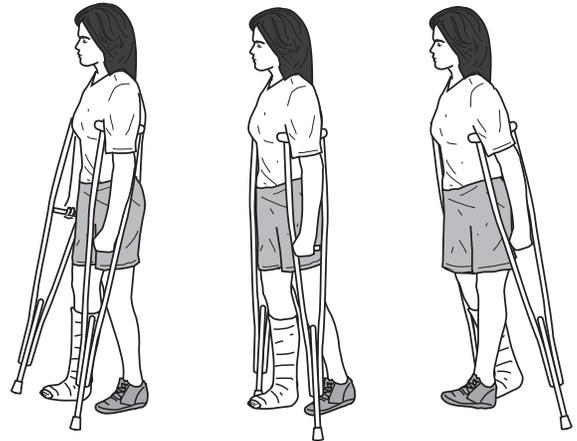
Sitting Down



1. Back up to the chair until you feel the chair on the backs of your legs.
2. Put both crutches in your hand on the injured side.
3. Reach back for the chair with your other hand.
4. Lower yourself slowly into the chair, bending at the hips.

Walking with Crutches

1. Put crutches under your arms and press them into your side. Do not put weight on your armpits.
2. Move the crutches ahead of you about 12 inches (30 centimeters).
3. Move your injured leg even with the crutches, pushing down on the hand grips as you step. **Only put as much weight as allowed on your injured leg.**
4. Finish the step by moving your strong leg forward.

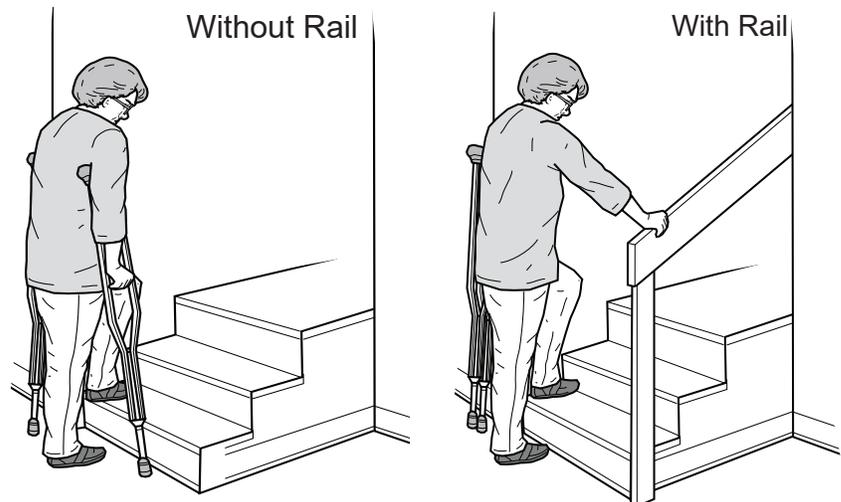


Stairs

- Do not try to climb stairs or curbs until you can use the crutches well.
- For safety reasons, you can sit down and scoot up and down the steps on your bottom if needed.
- If you have a rail, put both crutches under one arm and hold onto the rail for safety.

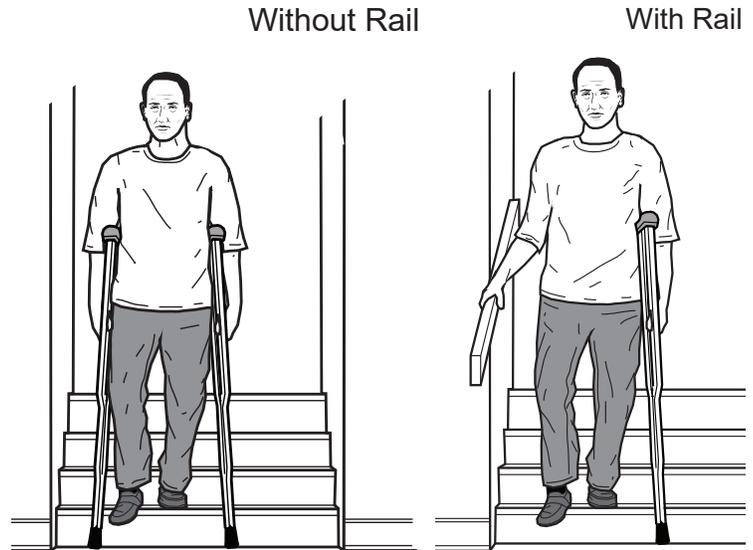
Going Upstairs

1. Have someone stand behind you to help you as needed.
2. Keep the crutches on the stair you are standing.
3. Support your weight between your crutches.
4. Bring your good leg up to the next step. Let the injured leg trail behind.
5. Straighten your good leg and bring the crutches and your injured leg up.



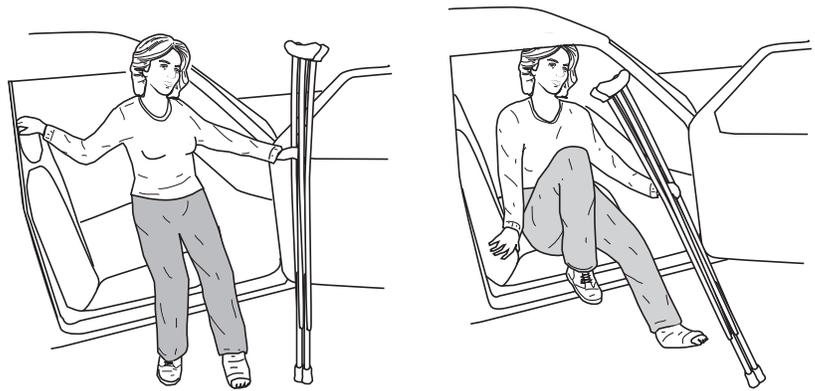
Going Downstairs

1. Put the crutches on the lower step while putting your injured foot forward.
2. Support your weight between your crutches.
3. Move your good foot to the lower step.



Getting into a Car

1. Have someone open the door and move the seat back as far as they can.
2. Back up until you feel the edge of the seat. Grab the seat with one hand and the hand grips of the crutches with the other.
3. Tip your head to avoid bumping it. Stand up or sit down using your good leg to bear your weight.
4. To sit down, put the heel of your good leg on the car frame and push back. Move across the seat until your injured leg can be swung into the car.



Getting Out of a Car

1. Open the door and move the seat back as far as you can. Put both crutches outside the car in one hand.
2. Hold onto the seat and slowly turn yourself toward the door.
3. Carefully take both feet out of the car. Hold onto the door frame or seat back with one hand and the hand grips of the crutches with the other. Tip your head to avoid bumping it.
4. Slowly stand up using your good leg to bear your weight. Move your crutches under both arms.