



# The Stayflex™ Anterior Trunk Support



## What is the Stayflex™?

The Stayflex™ Anterior Trunk Support is a dynamic postural support designed to combine the benefits of stability and movement in a single design.

## Need for a Better Dynamic Trunk Support

The need for anterior trunk support is well documented. Traditional static trunk supports are fabricated from materials that do not stretch and are used when the outcome goal is to stabilize the upper trunk and prevent unwanted movement.

Current flexible trunk support designs generally use elastic or neoprene materials and can allow significant trunk movement, but often allow excessive trunk flexion and may not provide adequate lateral stability.

When selecting a trunk support device, the clinician often has to pick between a rigid system that does not allow upper trunk movement and a system that may allow excessive or uncontrolled movement.

## Engineered for Controlled Movement

The Stayflex™ trunk support is engineered to combine the benefits of a rigid and flexible system in one device.



Unlike elastic or wetsuit materials, the Stayflex™ utilizes a special laminar pad which is engineered to function as a spring with a very deliberate rate-of-stretch, and a defined limit to prevent the user from leaning too far. In practice, this means that a medium Stayflex™ can stretch up to 7" (178mm) with increasing resistance, but cannot stretch further even under 200 lb loads (890N).

In many applications, the controlled movement afforded by the Stayflex will allow users with excessive movement more flexibility than they would have with a rigid system.

These stretch/non-stretch zones are what make the Stayflex different from anything else available on the market. This design is unique to the Stayflex and is patent pending.



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### Requirements for an anterior trunk support:

- Stabilize the trunk
- Support and provide trunk alignment
- Allow trunk movement as needed
- Improve upper extremity reach without a loss of control
- Prevent the user from slumping forward or falling out of the wheelchair

### Safety

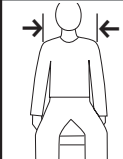
Anterior supports that are worn at sternum height present a choking hazard. In the Stayflex design, a stabilizing panel is incorporated into the lower pad to limit stretch in this critical area without inhibiting the elongation necessary above the shoulders.

In addition, elastic or neoprene harness designs suffer from a lack of stability, poor product life from tearing of the material or stitches, and can create a choking hazard as the material stretches up when leaning forward.

### Fit

The Stayflex size patterns were developed by measuring men, women and children and comparing their dimensions to anthropometric data taken from hundreds of subjects. Prototype sizes were then tested on dozens of users to verify size ranges. The result is a comprehensive range of sizes and shapes able to accommodate a wide range of body shapes.

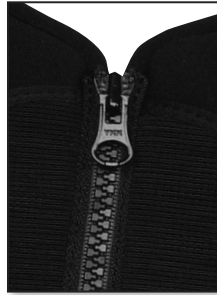
Bodypoint has also developed and tested a unique sizing chart for the Stayflex that makes selection of the proper Stayflex size quick and easy. Simply measure the shoulder width, outside-to-outside, and consult the chart. By measuring over the soft tissue, not simply to the shoulder joints, allowance is made for body type as well as skeletal structure. Adult sizes are made in both regular and narrow versions to accommodate both men and women as well as specific fitting preferences.

SIZE CHART		
	<b>S</b>	11" - 13" (279mm - 330mm)
	<b>M</b>	13" - 16" (330mm - 406mm)
	<b>L</b>	16" - 19" (406mm - 483mm)
	<b>XL</b>	19" - 22" (483mm - 559mm)

Measure shoulder width. If the shoulder width falls between two sizes, consider other factors such as growth, weight changes, and clothing.

### Ease of Use

Ease-of-use is always a concern among caregivers, and appearance matters on a product which will be worn prominently like an article of clothing. In the Stayflex, a number of ideas gathered over the last few years came together to meet these needs.



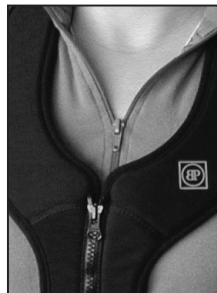
**Zippers** make it easy to open and close the front, without looking out of place. Leave it closed if you prefer to use the bottom buckles to remove it over the person's head or use the side buckles to pull it off to one side. The zippers are durable and tested to thousands of pulls.



**Swivel buckles**—to remove the Stayflex for washing, but without losing adjustment, the lower straps can be separated from the pads. By using a unique swivel buckle, the straps are free to pivot to follow the line of tension without puckering the pad. This design makes it possible for a caregiver to unlock these lower straps and lift the pad over the user's head for removal (this is also helpful when used on a stroller or if you prefer to leave the zipper in the closed position).



The patented **cinch-mount hardware** allows an infinite range of adjustment for fine-tuning the fit as well as enabling installation on a solid backrest.



**Brushed nylon edge** bindings are soft and rounded and offer a smooth, comfortable surface that does not feel abrasive against the body. The Stayflex pad edges are full thickness (not crushed for simpler manufacturing), and the soft, elastic edging is easy on the skin.



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