

Mobility aids

Mobility aids help you to be aware of your surroundings and keep you safe from obstacles.

Mobility canes

Most people are familiar with the white cane used by blind people. In 1976, a red and white cane was introduced to indicate that the user had both a sight and hearing impairment. This cane is used by deafblind people both as a mobility aid and a symbol of their disability.

Walking sticks

Walking sticks are intended as a means of support for people with sight loss and not as an aid to guidance. Please seek assistance from an occupational therapist or physiotherapist to ensure the stick is the correct length and can give the support required.

How to get a cane or a walking stick

If you think a cane would help you to get around, you should contact your local social services department for an assessment. This should always be your first step.

You are entitled to an assessment under the deafblind guidance which was introduced in 2001. The guidance was reissued in 2009. For more information, [read the the rights publications](#)

If you would like to get your own cane, you can contact the [RNIB](#), or [Guide Dogs for the Blind](#) who also provide training.

Tactile Maps



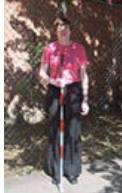

Tactile maps allow you to feel rather than read information. They are a great help in understanding the layouts of buildings and other areas.

Some businesses now provide tactile maps of their premises as part of Disability Discrimination Act, to ensure information is accessible to disabled people.

If you need more information on about tactile maps, please contact the [RNIB's transcription service](#), who also provide a service to create tactile maps.

Other sources of information

Describe Online provides text guides of London Underground and national rail stations. These include descriptions of layouts, exits and facilities. [Click here to visit Describe Online website.](#)

	Product	Supplier	Product code	Price	Price	Postage
	Red replacement tape for canes Red tape to be put on white cane for use by deafblind people.	RNIB	MP04	£3.64	Free	
	Palmsonar This handheld ultrasonic obstacle detector has five settings ranging from 1 metre to 4 metres. The device vibrates when an obstacle is detected.	RNIB	ME11	£367.19	Free	
	Red and White Branded TELEcane The TELEcane is RNIB's Symbol cane. The MS16 Telecane is specially banded in red and white to indicate that the user has both hearing and sight difficulties.	RNIB	MS16	£23.50	Free	
	Trekker GPS Trekker GPS from Humanware enables a person with visual impairment to locate their position and give location details on their route.	Humanware	N/A	£1145.00 +VAT	Free	