

— THE —  
**BATH BUDDY**  
COMPANY LIMITED



**Bath Buddy / Bathmate**  
Instruction Book

Thank you for purchasing the Bath Buddy / Bathmate portable bath lift. This simple bathing aid is designed to provide safe, comfortable bathing for people with limited mobility or disabilities affecting movement. The Bath Buddy/Bathmate is all that's needed to gently lower the bather into the water from a comfortable seated position. When it's time to get out, the system conveniently raises from the water, so you can simply transfer out of the bath. We hope you have many years of satisfied use from this excellent product. To help keep it in good condition, please refer to the following instructions. A handy operating guide is included to enable you to use the Bath Buddy / Bathmate as quickly as possible.

Page		Description
1		Inventory
2		Electrical safety Inventory
3		Setting up and putting cushion in bath
4		Filling and getting into bath
5		Leaving bath, disconnecting and cleaning
6		Technical specification
7		Trouble shooting guide
8		Routine maintenance and servicing
9		Safety Information
10-11		Appendices
12		Cautionary notes
13-16		Electromagnetic Emission Tables



## HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR GUARANTEE CARD?

**Please take the time to complete this important document. It's Free to post or Free to call if registering by phone.**



## Inventory - Upon opening the box, the following items should be included

### The Bath Buddy/Bathmate consisting of:

1. White cushion
2. Main blower unit
3. 4 white suckers
4. White hose
5. Mains lead & plug
6. Hand control unit

### Other items include:

7. Instruction booklet
8. Handy operating guide
9. Guarantee card
10. Carry case (optional) not shown

## Electrical Safety

The appliance is supplied with a power cord fitted with a 13 amp fuse for connection to a 230v AC 50Hz electricity supply.

### **WARNING**

- Should the power cord need to be replaced, this should be carried out by the manufacturer, his agent, or other qualified person
- This appliance required a 13 amp fuse. When changing the fuse ensure it is replaced with an identical rated (13A) Fuse, ASTA Approved to BS 1362.

If the fuse cover is damaged, the plug must not be used and should be replaced by the manufacturer, his agent or other qualified person.

## Setting Up

The appliance must be set up in the bathroom with a minimum distance of 60cm in all directions away from the bathtub or shower.

Any existing bathroom socket must be protected by an isolation transformer or a residual current device (RCD) with 30 mA. If this is not fitted, then the compressor must be plugged in outside the bathroom.

To ensure the cushion sticks to the bath surface correctly, both suckers and surface should be clean and free from deposits left by cleansers.

## Putting the Cushion into the bath

1. With the cushion deflated, place into the bath, making sure the sucker tabs are each pointing away from the cushion. Care should be taken not to twist, bend or crush the hose during this operation.

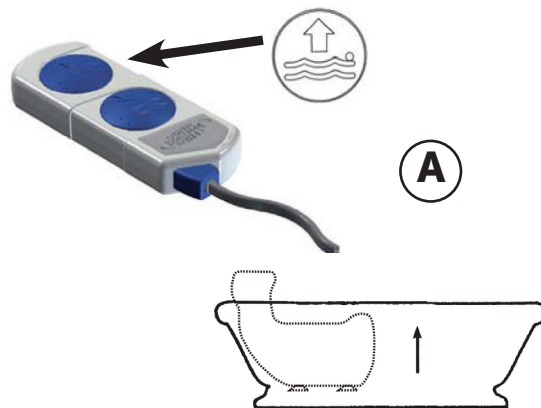
**IMPORTANT** Each sucker must be securely fastened to the bath surface, to check this pull gently on each sucker to establish adhesion.

2. Switch on the power at the mains supply, checking the green light on the blower unit is illuminated.

3. Take the hand control unit in either hand and gently depress the up button until the cushion is fully inflated (see diagram A). The machine is designed to stop once the correct pressure has been achieved. Releasing the button at any time will stop inflation (see note 1 in notes section).

**IMPORTANT - The up button should be depressed until the blower unit stops inflating automatically, failure to do so will cause the cushion to be under inflated.**

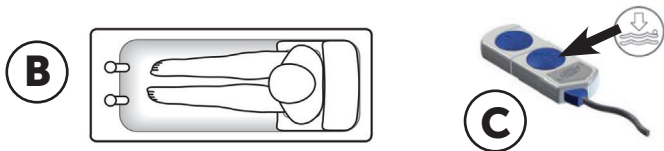
**Before use check for air leaks from the cushion and hose. Any air leaks will be visible in the form of air bubbles emitted from the hose or cushion. If any air leaks are present discontinue use and contact your supplier.**



## Filling the bath

Once you are sure the cushion is in the correct position water may be added to the bath. It is recommended that approximately 8 - 10 inches (20 - 25 cm) of water is added initially, however, this can be adjusted by the user according to individual needs and the size and depth of the bath being used. The water should be of an even mix of hot and cold water.

**Note: Temperatures in excess of 50°C (122°F) will distort the cushion. Remember, if the water is too hot for you it is probably too hot for the cushion.**



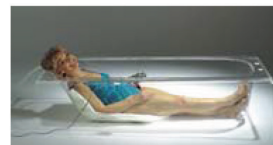
## Getting into the bath

The bather can enter the bath either by sitting on the edge of the bath and sliding onto the cushion swinging the legs over and into the bath, or by stepping into the bath and sitting on the cushion. You should be centrally placed within the coloured anti-slip seating area of the cushion, with your lower back positioned against the lumbar support\* (see diagram B). Sitting forwards or backwards of centre will cause an uneven descent. Sitting centrally the bather is now ready to be lowered into the bath. Taking the hand control unit in either hand, gently depress the down button (see diagram C). The cushion will gently deflate. Releasing the button at any time will stop this action, to continue depress the button again maintaining contact until right at the bottom of the bath. To aid stability a fixed grab rail should

available then RBF Healthcare or your dealer can supply one as an accessory. Please see appendix A for guidance on positioning of the grab rail. In addition the bather may also find it useful to rest one, or both hands on the sides of the bath to further aid balance.

During the deflate cycle the lumbar support and seat area of the cushion will slowly fold in and around the user, promoting a supported descent into the bath. The bather should always allow the front part of the cushion to fully deflate before attempting to lie back. By stretching out the legs when the cushion is approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  deflated, the air in the front of the cushion will be forced out. Once this has been achieved, the bather can recline against the back surface of the bath and bathe in the normal way. It is not recommended that the bather leave the coloured seating area of the cushion while bathing.

During the assessment for the Bath Buddy/Bathmate, special consideration should be taken when the potential user is a child or a severely disabled or infirmed user. In these instances it may be necessary for the user to bath with supervision or assistance from a carer.



## Getting into the bath - continued

### \*IMPORTANT

A central sitting position on the cushion is vital whilst being raised or lowered. Leaning forwards slightly will help maintain stability. Please do not lean backwards as this may result in an uneven descent or elevation. Should this occur during the deflate or inflate cycle, the bather should simply stop the cycle using the hand control and re-position so they are seated within the coloured seating area, before continuing.

## Leaving the bath

When the bather is ready to leave the bath they should sit upright and ensure a central seating position is achieved within the coloured anti-slip seating area of the cushion\*. This position will ensure maximum safety during the inflate cycle. Taking the hand control unit in either hand de-press the up button. The cushion will slowly inflate to bring the bather back level with the top edge of the bath. Continue to depress the button until the blower stops automatically. During the inflate cycle the bather should use the grab rail to improve balance. In addition the bather may also find it useful to rest one or both hands on the sides of the bath to further aid balance.

The bather can now exit the bath by either swinging the legs over the bath, moving sideways off the cushion or by stepping over and out of the bath.

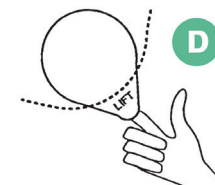
## Disconnecting

Please ensure the electrical supply is switched off and the green indicator light on the blower unit is off.

**THE EQUIPMENT SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED WHILST CONNECTED TO THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, AND THE BLOWER UNIT LEFT RUNNING FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD.**

After use the cushion should be deflated, at least partially to help remove it from the bath. To avoid putting undue strain on the cushion or suckers, the cushion should be removed from the bath by lifting the sucker release tabs. Do not pull the cushion (see diagram D). To fully deflate the cushion for storage simply disconnect the hose from the blower unit by depressing the button on the top of the connector and pulling it away from the blower. This will allow most of the air to flow quickly out of the cushion.

To remove the last of the air, apply gentle pressure to the cushion or roll the cushion into a cylinder, starting with the end furthest away from the hose.



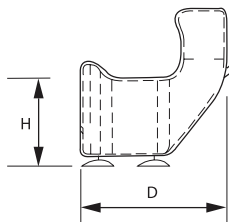
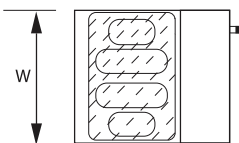
## Cleaning

The hand control unit, hose and cushion should be dried after use. In situations where there is a risk of passing infection, these components should be sanitised with water based disinfectants rinsed and thoroughly dried. It is particularly important to store the cushion dry.

The screw fixing suckers can be removed individually to be cleaned and then replaced.

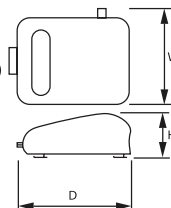
# Technical Specification

Cushion (ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES)			
	W	H	D
STANDARD	0.57	0.38	0.59
TALL	0.57	0.46	0.59



Blower Unit (ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES)		
W	H	D
0.35	0.18	0.33

Hose length: 3.0m



Cushion Stroke height (Tall)	1.5 to 380mm (455mm)	Operating pressure $\pm 5$	Normal to 105 mbar Maximum to 125 mbar
Air switch rating	21A 250Vac		
Pressure switch rating	10A 250Vac	Maximum Working Load	127Kg
Control valve rating	230Vac 50Hz	Hose length	3.00 Metres
Motor power rating	1000W $\pm 1.5\%$	Control lead length	3.00 Metres
Voltage	230Vac 50Hz	Weight	Blower Unit to 4.0 Kg Cushion & Hose to 1.9Kg
Fuse rating	13A		

## Mode of Operation

(ED 10%) Drive time to 2 mins. Stop time to 18 mins

Hand Control Operating Force - 0.2N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Transport & Storage Conditions		Operating Conditions	
Temperature	-20 to 50 Deg. C	Temperature	0 to 50 Deg. C
Humidity (non-condensing)	20% to 95%	Humidity (non-condensing)	30% to 95%
Altitude	795 hPa to 1060 hPa	Altitude	795 hPa to 1060 hPa
Classifications		Max. Noise Level	70 dB (A)
Protection Class	2	Note: The supplier agrees to make available upon request; certain technical information and documentation required, to assist an appropriately qualified technical person to repair those parts of the equipment that are designated by the manufacturer as repairable.	
Device Type	Applied Part Type B		
Water Ingress	IPX4		
Medical Device	Class 1		



## Trouble Shooting Guide

PROBLEM	SOLUTION/RECOMMENDATION
The cushion inflates in a stop and start fashion.	The hand control ON button is not being fully depressed, or the hose is kinked. Keep pressing the button until the motor stops automatically, check hose is not kinked.
The cushion is fully inflated but the motor is not cutting out.	Release the UP button, which will stop the motor running. The system is designed so that it cannot over inflate the cushion. Should the blower unit continue to operate for more than 20 seconds after the cushion is fully inflated, release the UP button and consult your dealer for advice.
The motor has stopped and will not start again.	If the light is out, check the fuse in the main plug. If the light is on wait 40 minutes for unit to cool down, and try to operate again. If fault continues consult your dealer for advice.
The cushion has distorted in places.	Distorted patches indicate an exposure to temperatures above 50°C. <b>DO NOT USE</b> Return for replacement.
The cushion appears to be over-inflating.	The cushion cannot over-inflate unless it has previously been in contact with water above 50°C.
The seams appear to be opening up slowly.	If the remaining seal is 3mm (1/8") wide or less, return the equipment for a replacement cushion.
Air bubbles are emitted from between the double seam at the base of the cushion.	This will only occur if the inner seam has failed. Return the equipment for a replacement cushion.
The area around the hose connecting flange has distorted.	<b>DO NOT USE</b> Return for replacement cushion.
The cushion does not appear to deflate fully.	Air must be forced out of the cushion, disconnect the hose from the blower unit, this will allow most of the air to flow out of the cushion. To remove the last of the air, apply gentle pressure to the cushion, or roll the cushion into a cylinder, starting with the end furthest away from the hose.
The cushion is sliding in the bath.	Ensure the suckers and the bath are free from powdery deposits or oils. Dry and clean before attaching the cushion.
Suckers have come off the cushion.	Contact the manufacturer for spares and screw these in.
Air is escaping into the bath water.	<b>DO NOT USE</b> There is a fault with the cushion or hose. Contact your dealer for advice.

## Routine Maintenance & Servicing

The following should be carried out at the intervals specified:

1. Remove the cushion from the bath after every use and clean the cushion and suckers as per the instructions on page 5.
2. Check the seams on the cushion after every use as detailed on page 12.
3. Change the fuse as required to the rating and specification on page 2.
4. The expected lifetime of this product is ten years under normal usage subject to routine maintenance and servicing. Servicing can simply be arranged by calling +44 (0)1268 983 841.

## Accessories & Spares

### Spares

PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
BB 0135	SUCKER
BB 0290	HAND CONTROL COMPLETE
BB 0208	OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
BB 0209	QUICK START INSTRUCTIONS

### Accessories

PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
BB 0221	CARRY CASE
BB 0222	GRAB RAIL

For all service or spares requirements please contact the service department at the Bathbuddy Company Ltd on +44 (0)1268 983 841.

Prices for spares available on request.

## Safety Information

1. This appliance is not intended for use by persons (including children) with severely reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities, unless they are supervised by a person responsible for their safety or fully understand the hazards involved when using the product.

This appliance is not intended for use by children unless they are continually supervised.

Children should not be allowed to play with, or undertake the cleaning and maintenance of the appliance.

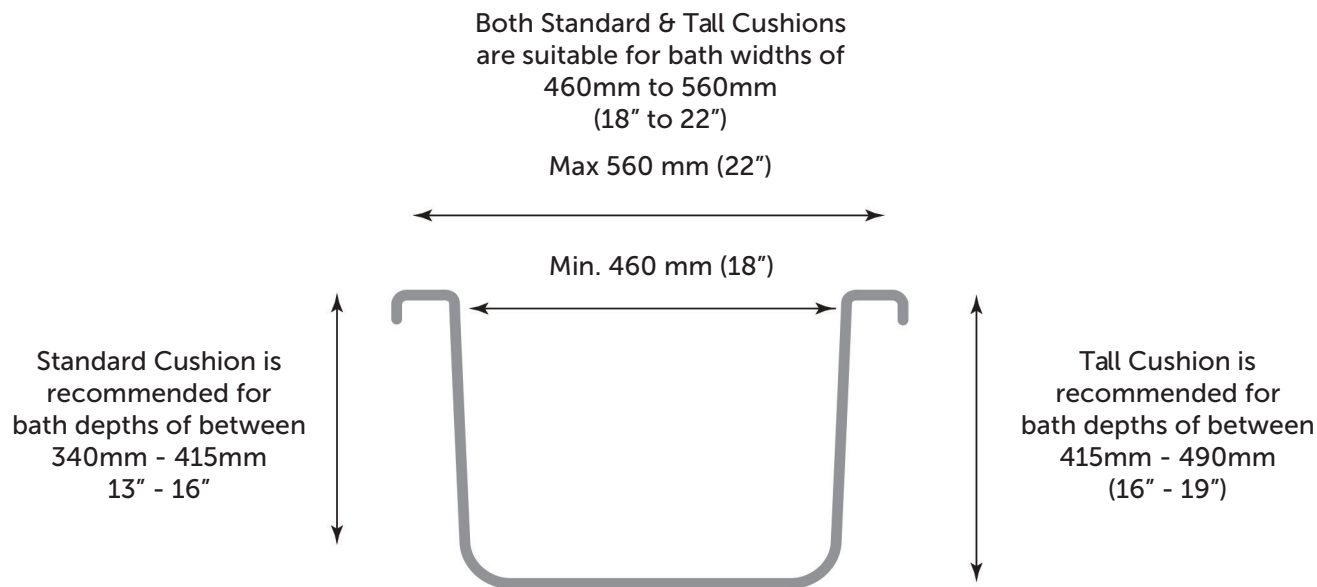
2. As a safety measure the blower unit will switch off once the correct pressure has been obtained. The cushion will no longer inflate even if the control unit UP button is continuously depressed. In the unlikely event of this failing air will automatically bleed back through the motor, thus ensuring over inflation does not occur. If the blower unit continues to operate for more than 20 second inflate the cushion has fully inflated, release the UP button and consult your dealer for advice.
3. For your safety, ensure that in the event of an electricity power failure, or the unlikely event of product failure, that an alarm system or telephone are conveniently placed in close proximity. The unit will NOT operate should this occur during use, therefore, assistance may be required to leave the bath.

4. Inflation and deflation can be interrupted at any time by releasing the appropriate button on the control unit. Please note that on inflation the UP button should be depressed until the blower unit stops automatically.
5. There is no electrical connection in or to the hand control unit. This unit is therefore safe to be operated by either user or attendant with wet hands. The blower unit, however is connected to the mains electricity and should not be handled with wet hand unless disconnected from the electricity supply.
6. Should the cushion slide even if the suckers and bath surface appear to be clean and dry please contact your supplier for advice.
7. An alternative method of placing the cushion in the bath for those having difficulty bending is to inflate the cushion fully outside of the bath. Position the cushion square in the bath in line with a flat surface. Deflate the cushion sufficiently so that all 4 suckers make contact with the bottom flat part of the bath. Press down on the semi deflated cushion checking that all four suckers are attached by gently pulling on the cushion.

## Appendix A

### Recommended Bath Sizes

The Bath Buddy/Bathmate lift is suitable for most baths. As a guide to whether a tall or standard cushion is required, please refer to the diagram below. If a bath falls outside of the guidelines below please contact your dealer or manufacturer for advice.



## Appendix B

### Grab Rail Fitting Instructions

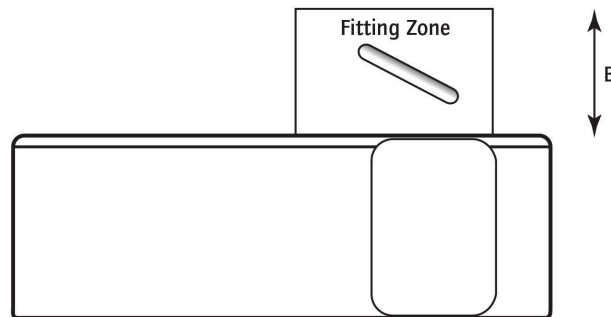
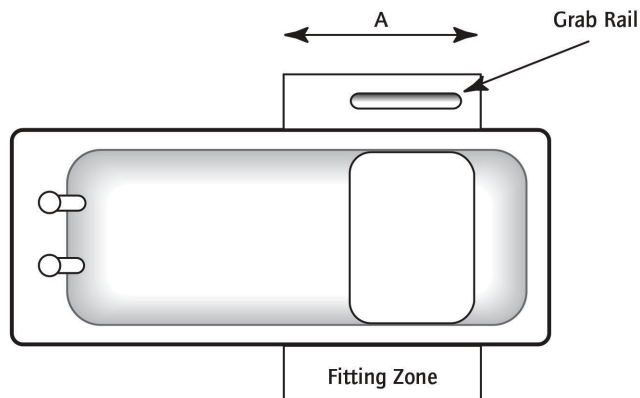
The following should act as a guide to positioning the grab rail when used with the Bath Buddy/Bathmate. A grab rail should only be fitted by a qualified workman in accordance with the manufacturers specifications.

All dimensions are approximate and are for reference only.

The grab rail should always be fitted to suit the individual needs of the user.

**POSITION A** from 300 to 900 mm (13 to 35 inches) from back edge of bath.

**POSITION B** from 100 to 600mm (4 to 24 inches) from the top edge of bath.



## Cautionary Notes

1. Temperatures higher than 50°C (122°F) will damage the cushion.

If the cushion becomes distorted and the distorted area changes colour or appearance do not use the equipment, contact your supplier for advice.


2. The product should be routinely serviced every two years.

3. Check the seams on the cushion regularly.

This is best carried out when drying the fully deflated cushion. The cushion for added reliability has a double seam. Should the first seam be compromised do not use the product further, contact the supplier.

4. In the unlikely event of water entering the system indicated by air bubbles emitting from the cushion or hose, discontinue use, contact your supplier.

5. Should the blower unit casing, cushion or hose become damaged, please discontinue, contact your supplier.

6.  The blower unit should be disposed at the end of its life separately from your household waste.

7. All repair work, servicing, modifications should be carried out by RBF Industries Ltd.

RBF Healthcare undertakes to repair or replace, free of charge, any unit that fails in normal domestic use within one year from the date of purchase, provided the product has been kept, used and maintained in accordance with the instructions.

RBF Healthcare may make any reasonable charge to cover the return of the product where no fault is found to exist, or the fault is the result of misuse of the product.

8. **WARNING:** To avoid risk of electric shock, this equipment must only be connected to a mains supply with protective earth

All the information in this instruction book, along with contact details, and other products in the RBF range, can be found on the following RBF Website: [www.rbfhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.rbfhealthcare.co.uk)

### General Information:

Abbreviations: **CE** Conformity marking for products sold within the European Economic Area  
ASTA – Association of Short-Circuit Authorities (BS 1362 - Specification for general purpose fuse links for domestic and similar purposes)  
IPX4 – Splash Proof Safety Rating

Unauthorised modification of Appliance could result in product failure. Hazards could include: Over inflation of cushion • Under inflation of cushion • Short circuit (Fire, Electrical shock)

Guidance and manufacturer's declaration – electromagnetic emission		
The Bath Buddy / Bathmate is intended for use in the electromagnetic environment specified below. The customer or the user of the Bath Buddy / Bathmate should assure that it is used in such an environment.		
Emissions test	Compliance	Electromagnetic environment - guidance
RF emissions CISPR 11	Group 1	The Bath Buddy / Bathmate uses RF energy only for its internal function. Therefore, its RF emissions are very low and are not likely to cause any interference in nearby electronic equipment. The Bath Buddy / Bathmate is suitable for use in all establishments, including domestic establishments and those directly connected to the public low-voltage power supply network that supplies buildings used for domestic purposes.
RF emissions CISPR 11	Class B	
Harmonic emissions IEC 61000-3-2	Class A	
Voltage fluctuations / flicker emissions IEC 61000-3-3	Complies	

### Guidance and manufacturer's declaration – electromagnetic immunity

The Bath Buddy / Bathmate is intended for use in the electromagnetic environment specified below. The customer or the user of the Bath Buddy / Bathmate should assure that it is used in such an environment.

Immunity test	IEC 60601 test level	Compliance level	Electromagnetic environment - guidance
Electrostatic discharge (ESD) IEC 61000-4-2	± 6 kV contact ± 8 kV air	± 6 kV contact ± 8 kV air	Floors should be wood, concrete or ceramic tile. If floors are covered with synthetic material, the relative humidity should be at least 30 %.
Electrostatic transient / burst IEC 61000-4-4	± 2 kV for power supply lines ± 1 kV for input/output lines	± 2 kV for power supply lines ± 1 kV for input/output lines	Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment.
Surge IEC 61000-4-5	± 1 kV differential mode ± 2 kV common mode	± 1 kV differential mode ± 2 kV common mode	Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment.
Voltage dips, short interruptions and voltage variations on power supply input lines IEC 61000-4-11	< 5 % $U_T$ (>95 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 0,5 cycle  40 % $U_T$ (60 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 5 cycles  70 % $U_T$ (30 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 25 cycles  < 5 % $U_T$ (>95 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 5 sec	< 5 % $U_T$ (>95 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 0,5 cycle  40 % $U_T$ (60 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 5 cycles  70 % $U_T$ (30 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 25 cycles  < 5 % $U_T$ (>95 % dip in $U_T$ ) for 5 sec	Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment. If the user of the Bath-buddy requires continued operation during power mains interruptions, it is recommended that the Bath buddy be powered from an uninterruptible power supply or a battery.
Power frequency (50/60 Hz) magnetic field IEC 61000-4-8	3 A/m	3 A/m	Power frequency magnetic fields should be at levels characteristic of a typical location in a typical commercial or hospital environment.


NOTE

$U_T$  is the a. c. mains voltage prior to application of the test level.



## Guidance and manufacturer's declaration – electromagnetic immunity

The Bath Buddy / Bathmate is intended for use in the electromagnetic environment specified below. The customer or the user of the Bath Buddy / Bathmate should assure that it is used in such an environment.

Immunity test	IEC 60601 test level	Compliance level	Electromagnetic environment - guidance
Conducted RF IEC 61000-4-6	3 V	3 V	<p>Portable and mobile RF communications equipment should be used no closer to any part of the Bath Buddy / Bathmate, including cables, than the recommended separation distance calculated from the equation applicable to the frequency of the transmitter.</p> <p><b>Recommended separation distance</b></p> $d \geq \left[ \frac{3,5}{V_1} \right] \sqrt{P}$
Radiated RF IEC 61000-4-3	3 V/m 80 MHz to 2,5 GHz	3 V/m	$d \geq \left[ \frac{3,5}{E_1} \right] \sqrt{P} \quad 80 \text{ MHz to } 800 \text{ MHz}$ $d \geq \left[ \frac{7}{E_1} \right] \sqrt{P} \quad 800 \text{ MHz to } 2,5 \text{ GHz}$ <p>where <math>p</math> is the maximum output power rating of the transmitter in watts (W) according to the transmitter manufacturer and <math>d</math> is the recommended separation distance in metres (m).<sup>b</sup></p> <p>Field strengths from fixed RF transmitters, as determined by an electromagnetic site survey,<sup>a</sup> should be less than the compliance level in each frequency range.<sup>b</sup></p> <p>Interference may occur in the vicinity of equipment marked with the following symbol:</p> 

NOTE 1 At 80 MHz and 800 MHz, the higher frequency range applies.

NOTE 2 These guidelines may not apply in all situations. Electromagnetic propagation is affected by absorption and reflection from structures, objects and people.

<sup>a</sup> Field strengths from fixed transmitters, such as base stations for radio (cellular/cordless) telephones and land mobile radios, amateur radio, AM and FM radio broadcast and TV broadcast cannot be predicted theoretically with accuracy. To assess the electromagnetic environment due to fixed RF transmitters, an electromagnetic site survey should be considered. If the measured field strength in the location in which the Bath Buddy/Bathmate is used exceeds the applicable RF compliance level above, the Bath Buddy/Bathmate should be observed to verify normal operation. If abnormal performance is observed, additional measures may be necessary, such as re-orienting or relocating the Bath Buddy/Bathmate.

<sup>b</sup> Over the frequency range 150 kHz to 80 MHz, field strengths should be less than 3 V/m.

### Recommended separation distances between portable and mobile RF communications equipment and the Bath buddy

The Bath Buddy / Bathmate is intended for use in an electromagnetic environment in which radiated RF disturbances are controlled. The customer or the user of the Bath Buddy / Bathmate can help prevent electromagnetic interference by maintaining a minimum distance between portable and mobile RF communications equipment (transmitters) and the Bath Buddy / Bathmate as recommended below, according to the maximum output power of the communications equipment

Rated maximum output of transmitter  W	Separation distance according to frequency of transmitter m		
	150 kHz to 80 MHz  $d \propto \left[ \frac{3,5}{V_1} \right] \sqrt{P}$	80 MHz to 800 MHz  $d \propto \left[ \frac{3,5}{E_1} \right] \sqrt{P}$	800 MHz to 2,5 GHz  $d \propto \left[ \frac{7}{E_1} \right] \sqrt{P}$
0,01	0,12	0,12	0,23
0,1	0,37	0,37	0,74
1	1,17	1,17	2,33
10	3,69	3,69	7,38
100	11,67	11,67	23,33

For transmitters rated at a maximum output power not listed above the recommended separation distance  $d$  in metres (m) can be estimated using the equation applicable to the frequency of the transmitter, where  $P$  is the maximum output power rating of the transmitter in watts (W) according to the transmitter manufacturer.

NOTE 1 At 80 MHz and 800 MHz, the separation distance for the higher frequency range applies.

NOTE 2 These guidelines may not apply in all situations. Electromagnetic propagation is affected by absorption and reflection from structures, objects and people.





**The Bath Buddy Company Limited**

Unit C1A, The Nore, Hovefields Avenue  
Basildon, Essex SS13 1EB

Tel: +44 (0)1268 983 841

Email: [sales@bath-buddy.com](mailto:sales@bath-buddy.com)

Why not visit our website at  
[www.bath-buddy.com](http://www.bath-buddy.com)