

# The Drink-Aide®



*The NEW look  
of independence*





# Introducing Drink-Aide®

## What is Drink-Aide®?

The Drink-Aide® is a water bottle that attaches easily to a wheelchair for use by persons with little or no upper body movement. It also can be attached to bedrails, walkers and chairs, and can function in a variety of settings.

The Drink-Aide® consists of an insulated water bottle, a vibration-resistant flexible drinking tube and holder, with a universal clamp for mounting to a wheelchair and other assistive equipment. The water bottle is made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE #2), a material also used in opaque plastic milk and water jugs, bleach, detergent and shampoo bottles.

## Who is Drink-Aide® for?

People who have mobility impairments, loss of strength, muscle control or range of motion. This product enables an individual with little or no upper body movement to drink fluids independently.

## What are the benefits?

The Drink-Aide®:

- Facilitates water intake essential to many normal body functions, e.g., good urine output and clarity.
- Decreases potential for urinary tract infection due to inadequate hydration.
- Promotes skin integrity.
- Promotes independence in drinking water.
- Improves the quality of life for the user.
- Frees the caregiver to attend to other needs.
- Reduces potential costs of hospitalization due to inadequate hydration.

Please see last page for  
precautions & recommendations

## Components

- Water bottle, lid, insulating sleeve
- White tube within its flexible gray tube holder
- White locking nut
- Black bottle holder with universal mounting clamp
- Packet of bolts, nuts and mounting-option attachments
- Two 1" washers

## Assembly Instructions

We recommend that you wash the Drink-Aide® before its first use. Please refer to the section entitled “Care for Your Drink-Aide®.”

1. Unscrew the lid and remove all contents from the bottle (the bottle is wrapped by an insulated sleeve).
2. Verify that the white tube extends at least six inches beyond the black threaded end of the gray flexible tube holder; adjust the length if necessary.
3. Hold the gray flexible tube so the black threaded end is pointing up. Slide 1" washer over the white tube onto black threaded end. With top of lid facing down, slide lid over the white tube onto the 1" washer, then slide the other 1" washer over the white tube onto the lid.
4. Face the flanged or flat side of the white locking nut toward the 1" washer and slide locking nut over the white tube onto the 1" washer.
5. Screw the locking nut onto the threads of the tube holder; tighten the locking nut finger-tight; the lid is now held tightly by the gray tube holder, 1" washers and white locking nut.
6. Put the long end of the white tube into the bottle (the end of the clear tube should at least touch the inside bottom of the bottle) and screw the lid to the top of the bottle.

The Drink-Aide® (without liquid contents) is now correctly assembled. The assembled Drink-Aide® may now be placed within the *bottle holder assembly* depending on your mounting of the complete device on a wheelchair, bed rail, etc.

# The Drink-Aide®

Patent applied for (Serial No. 80/832/946)



## **Mounting Instructions**

The *black bottle holder* must always be positioned vertically, whether it is mounted on a wheelchair, bedrail, chair, walker or intravenous pole. The vertical black bottle holder, therefore, will always ensure that the bottle, when filled with fluid, will be vertical also.

The universal mounting clamp can be mounted around tubing or on a flat surface. The tubing diameter can be 7/8" to 1-1/2"; the tubing may be vertical or horizontal. The flat surface must be vertical and will require at least 1" x 3" of area.

Tube mounting requires only one tool: a screwdriver. Flat surface mounting will also require a drill and 3/16" drill bit.

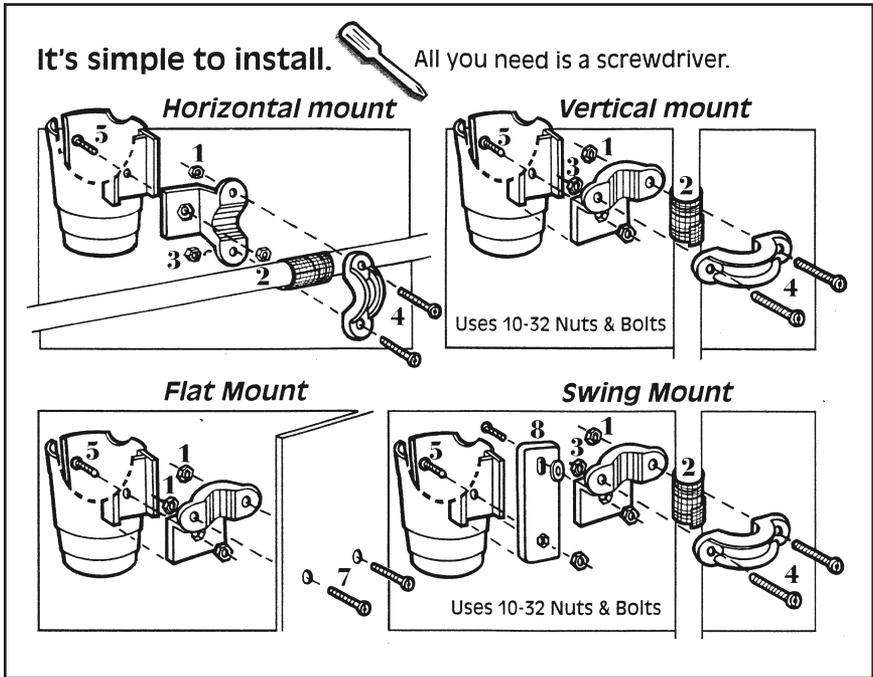
When mounting the Drink-Aide®, locate it in such a way that it will not be inadvertently damaged by contact with other objects or strikes by passers-by.

When completely filled with fluid, the Drink-Aide® weighs about 2.5 pounds.

### **(The numbers in the following directions refer to the diagram at right)**

1. Place a hexagon nut into nut cavity at hole of large clamp section, then put a long bolt through the small clamp section hole and start the nut in the large section cavity.
2. When clamping the assembly to tubing, use the grip strip (included in the packet of mounting-option attachments). First, wrap the grip strip around the tube at the desired location.
3. Place the two-part clamp over the grip strip, holding it against the strip. Repeat step 1 in the other hole and tighten nuts 1/2 to 1/3 of the way by spinning with finger tip.
4. From the small clamp side, tighten both bolts equally with screwdriver while holding in desired position.

**To install, all you need  
is a screwdriver.**



5. Attach the Drink-Aide® container holder to the clamp with the short bolt and nut. Tighten firmly.
6. Adjust the clamp to desired location and angle on the tube. Tighten evenly and snugly.
7. For flat surfaces, drill holes in position. Insert bolts and nuts, and tighten (small clamp and grip strip not required).
8. For swing mount:
  - a) Slide supplied flat extension bar into cup's side slot.
  - b) Insert screw from inside cup through extension bar. Add nut from outside and tighten firmly.
  - c) Insert screw through top hole of extension bar. Add washer, clamp and nut. Tighten so that unit pendulates. Proceed to Step 2.

# White Tube Replacement

1. Straighten the gray flexible tube holder segments as best as possible.
2. Grasp the gray segments of the flexible tube holder with one hand, and with your other hand pull the long length of the white tube until the two tube parts are separated. Dispose of the old white tube.
3. Roll the gray flexible tube segments on a flat surface to maximize the straightness of the combined segments.
4. Using a pair of scissors, cut one end of the white plastic tube to a point.
5. Holding the straight gray tube segments with one hand, insert the white tube into the narrow black nozzle end of the flexible gray tube segments with your other hand. Push with a twisting motion with the hand holding the white tube.
6. The gray segments must be straight. When inserting the white tube, most difficulties will occur as the front edge of the white tube encounters an unstraightened lip of one of the segments.
7. With a twisting motion, continue to insert the white tube into the gray segments. The components are positioned properly when about one inch of white tubing extends beyond the small black end segment, and at least six inches of the white tubing extends beyond the large threaded black end segment.

*Note: Should one or more of the gray segments become detached, reattach by pushing the rounded end of the segment into the opening of the next segment.*

*For assistance, parts or service, call*  
**Drink-Aide® Customer Service**  
**at 800-336-7022,**  
**9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST,**  
**Monday, Tuesday or Thursday**  
**email us at [drinkaide@inglis.org](mailto:drinkaide@inglis.org)**  
**or visit our web site**  
**[www.drink-aide.com](http://www.drink-aide.com)**

## **Care for Your Drink-Aide®**

Consider where to mount your Drink-Aide®. For example, when mounting it on a wheelchair, it will be safer to mount the Drink-Aide® inboard, rather than let it protrude beyond the confines of the wheelchair. (The Drink-Aide® may come into contact with walls, corners or other protrusions of your environment, or be brushed by passers-by and so forth.)

The cleanliness of your Drink-Aide® is of utmost importance. Obviously, some fluids will have more or less residue or “stickiness” than others. A visual inspection of your Drink-Aide® will provide important clues, but the best procedure will be to have a regular schedule for cleaning all parts, regardless of outward appearance.

### **WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU WASH THE DRINK-AIDE® AFTER EACH USE.**

Your Drink-Aide® is dishwasher-safe. Leaving the black bottle holder and the universal mounting clamp where you have mounted them, regularly remove the bottle (with its lid and gray tube) from the holder for washing.

Leave the insulating sleeve around the bottle, or remove if desired (the insulator is closed cell and will not absorb soapy water or rinse water). Unscrew the lid from the bottle and place the bottle, the lid and its attached assembly on the upper shelf of the dishwasher.

The white tube is a special case. Do not expect the dishwasher to do a good cleaning job on the inside of the white tube. Rather, submerge the tube and its gray flexible holder (with lid still attached if so desired) in warm, soapy water.

The idea is to soak the inside of the tube with a cleansing agent - so leave it submerged for a reasonable period of time.

Then, let it soak again, this time in clean rinse water. After soaking, hang the tube to air dry.

### **REGULAR REPLACEMENT OF THE WHITE TUBE WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF INFECTION.**

## Product Precautions & Recommendations

- Because of the risk of choking or aspiration, the Drink-Aide® should not be used by persons with swallowing dysfunction or those who need supervision while drinking.
- The Drink-Aide® is not recommended for individuals with visual impairments, especially when cognitive and/or communication deficits are present.
- To minimize the amount of residue build-up in the white vinyl tubing, we recommend that the Drink-Aide® *be filled with water only*.
- To maintain cleanliness, change the white vinyl tubing frequently. A spare white vinyl tube is included with your new Drink-Aide®.
- Individuals using the Drink-Aide® in bed should be positioned with their head as upright as possible for safety while swallowing. It is not recommended that individuals use the Drink-Aide® when lying flat in bed or in any other position that may impair their ability to swallow safely.
- The Drink-Aide® is not intended for use with thickened liquids.
- The Drink-Aide® is not intended for use with hot liquids.





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