

## All Merry Walkers Are Constructed from Steel, NOT PVC.

In 1990 the Merry Walker was created. The original Merry Walker was fabricated from PVC plastic tubing, but in 1993, the whole design was changed from PVC to **STEEL**. Any walker/chair combination that is made from PVC is NOT a Merry Walker. The positive aspects and reasons for steel fabricating Merry Walkers are listed below:

1. **Merry Walker is fabricated from 16 gauge 1 inch steel. Steel does not break.**

*PVC copycats break down where the fittings are attached and cannot be replaced. PVC was designed to move liquids inside the tubing, not people.*

2. **Merry Walker is small in size as the device is bottom weighted and tip resistant due to the unique design.**

*PVC copycats are very large in size and often have anti-tip extenders on the sides, which makes the devices even larger.*

3. **Merry Walker folds for convenience of storage and transport.**

*None of the copycats are able to fold for storage and transport.*

4. **Merry Walker's front arm opens outwardly, as in a swinging gate, not upwardly, so that the end user will not be hit in the face when entering or exiting the device.**

*Due to patent infringement issues, the copycats must have their gates open upwardly, so danger of hitting the end user in the face is an issue.*

5. **Merry Walker is powdered coated in black to address the probable losses in spatial perception.**

*All copycats are basically made of white PVC, with a few exceptions of copycats made in gray PVC. The white PVC does not address spatial perception losses.*

6. **Merry Walker's seat is filled with layers of closed foam and polyester fiber fill and is covered in black washable vinyl, making seating very comfortable for the end user and is totally immersable in water for easy cleaning.**

*The seats of the PVC copycats come in a variety of styles, from sling seats, to cushioned seats which have staples in them and are not fully washable.*

7. **Merry Walker is available in 13 different sizes, able to fit any person who is 4' 0" tall to 6'6" tall and will carry people whose weight is from 80 pounds to 600 pounds.**

*PVC is not available in all the sizes and if a person is not fitted properly in the correct size, accidents may happen.*

8. **End user autonomy is preserved as the size of Merry Walker is very small.**

*PVC copycats are “so big” that the end user is often lost in the device.*

9. **Merry Walkers are all professionally welded and come with lifetime guarantees on all welds.**

*PVC copycats are glued.*

10. **Merry Walker is designed to have a specific amount of walking space, just enough for safe walking, yet the seat is readily available for sitting as necessary.**

*There are some PVC copycats that have the seat placed so far from the end user’s walking space that the end user must step back a few steps in order to engage with the seat, when sitting is desired.*

11. **For Alzheimer’s and related dementia people, the Merry Walker can be fitted with a Vee belt for added cueing, safety and assurance.**

*There are no Vee belts available for PVC copycats.*

12. **Steel is not toxic to end users.**

*PVC is well documented to be toxic when it burns.*

13. **Merry Walkers fabrics are all striped acrylic fabrics which are used in making the side pouches and fabric backs which are California fire rated, and totally washable.**

*PVC copycats use fabrics that are also PVC mesh, also toxic when they burn.*

14. **Merry Walkers do not have the “institutional look”.**

*Due to large size of PVC, they look like institutional devices*

15. **Merry Walkers have no sharp edges that would cause skin tears.**

*Some of the PVC front gates have sharp edges.*

16. **Merry Walkers have a secure locking mechanism that is tension adjustable.**

*PVC copycats do not have adjustable secure locking mechanisms.*