

## Preparation for Custom-shoe Orders

In order to make best-fit custom-made shoes, we need the following items to be submitted with your order. Please remember, cast is very important, but **cast is not everything**.

### 1. Casts

Casts must be semi-weight-bearing, i.e., patient needs to be in seating position. And casts should cover the entire foot, i.e., ankles, toes, bottom and top.

Preferable casting materials are:

- Fiber-glass casting tapes
- Plaster 2-shells
- Plaster bandage
- Carved positive casts
- Digitized cast files



However, sock casts are not recommended.

When using fiber-glass casting material, please pay attention to the following problems:

- The most common problem with fiber-glass casts is that the cast does not show the end of the longest toe. Proper wrapping around the end of the longest toe will eliminate this kind of problem. Most practitioners wrap the toes first, then the rest of the foot.
- The other common problem with fiber-glass casts is that the wrapping is too tight, which makes the cast narrower and longer than the actual foot.

When sending plaster casts, please wait until they are completely dry. Wet casts may collapse or change shape during transportation.

### 2. Foot Tracing

Please provide weight-bearing foot tracings so that we can know how much the foot spreads sideward and forward. Weight-bearing tracing is done while patient is in standing position. If the patient has difficulties to stand up, then just do the semi-weight bearing tracings. Please always indicate whether the tracing is weight-bearing or semi-weight-bearing.

### **3. Foot Impressions**

Foot impressions on foam are optional, but they are very helpful. Foot impressions provide better definition of the bottom of the foot, and relieves can be made easily by pressing down the foam material.

### **4. Foot Pictures**

Foot pictures are also optional. But in case of any ulcerations/callusing, amputations, or severe foot deformities, pictures can provide better understanding of the foot condition.

### **5. Custom-shoe Order Form**

Please always use the Custom-shoe Order Form. Some important information like patient's weight and height, the rigidity of the foot, foot problems, shoe and foot orthotic specifications, etc., can only be recorded in written form. Forms and sizing chart can be downloaded from <http://www.bignwideshoes.com/customshoes.htm>.