



ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR TOILET ROOMS

KEY REQUIREMENTS + UNIVERSAL DESIGN

§ numbers refer to both ADA-2010 & A117.1-2017, unless otherwise noted. See Resources on Page 4.

Layout

1. Ensure all toilet rooms are accessible, with an accessible route into the room, connecting to clear floor spaces at the accessible fixtures, and a 60 in. by 64 in. min. turning space in the room. If single-user toilet rooms are clustered in a single location, only 50% must be accessible. This generally means they are adjacent to each other and a waiting person can see all doors from a single vantage point (ADA§213.2).
2. At least one compartment must be accessible in each multi-user toilet room. If there are 6 or more toilet fixtures (includes urinals) in the room, then also provide an ambulatory compartment (ADA§313.3).

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- Provide either: 1) clusters of single-user rooms for all users, 2) a multi-user room with shared lavatories and all-user toilet compartments with walls to the ceiling and floor, or 3) clusters of 3 or more rooms consisting of men's, women's, and all-user.
- In multi-user rooms, provide walls extending to the ceiling and floor (these do not have toe space which increases min. size).
- Provide devices to prevent views through gaps at corners and doors.
- Always provide an ambulatory compartment in addition to the accessible compartment.

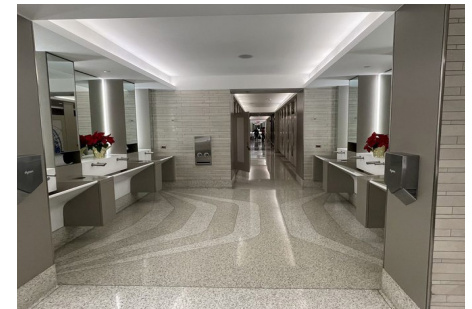
3. In addition to door requirements of §404, door swings cannot overlap clear floor space at fixtures, except in single-user rooms, where they may if a clear floor space is provided outside the swing (§603.2).

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- Locate doors to avoid views (including reflections) of toilet fixtures.
- Provide fixtures, accessories, and trash bins organized by order of use, or that are usable from one location.



Full-height partitions provide privacy.
Recessed fixtures reduce obstructions.



All sinks are accessible, and fixtures and accessories are organized by use-order.

Doors

1. Provide a door with 32 in. min. clear width, accessible threshold, 5 lb. max. opening force, and door-pulls on each side operable without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist (§404). At toilet compartments, use self-closing hinges (ADA§604.8.1.2).
2. Provide a door that does not swing into toilet clearance (§603.2).
3. Provide maneuvering clearance on the exterior side of compartment (§404.2); except a reduced 42 in. clearance is allowed outside the compartment for pull side, latch side approaches (ADA§604.8.1.2).

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- Provide only latch-side or forward approaches.
- Provide full 48 in. for exterior pull side, latch side approach.

4. Offset the door so it is not directly in front of toilet, and 4 in. max. from partition on far side of toilet to door opening (ADA§604.8.1.2).

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Provide an in-use indicator that activates when locked.

Accessories

1. If mirrors are provided at sinks, provide one at the accessible sink 40 in. max. measured from floor to bottom of reflecting surface (§603.3).

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Provide mirrors at all sinks, as close to the sink as possible and provide a full-height mirror visible to users before they exit.

2. Provide at least one of each type of dispenser/disposal with operable parts in reach range, typically 15-48 in., but 44 or 46 in. max. if over an obstruction (§604.7).

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- Provide automatic soap dispensers and hand-drying equipment.
- Provide towel dispensers or dryers at the sink location.
- Provide side approach to at least one of each dispenser/equipment.

3. If anything protrudes from a wall more than 4 in., either the bottom is 27 in. max. in height, or a barrier is provided underneath (§307.2).
4. If provided, ensure coat hooks are in reach range, and shelves are 40-48 in. high (ADA§604.8.3).

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- Provide hooks and shelves in all toilet compartments.
- Ensure hooks do not obstruct grab bars when in use.

5. Changing tables should meet work surface requirements (§902), including 28-34 in. height when open, knee/toe clearance, and operable parts and handles within reach range.

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- Provide changing tables in areas open to both men and women.
- Provide an adult-sized changing table.
- Provide changing tables that do not disrupt circulation when in use, and would not block the accessible route if left open.

Sinks

1. At least one sink must be accessible.
2. Provide a clear floor space for forward approach with knee/toe clearance under the sink (§606.2).
3. The higher of the sink rim or counter must be 34 in. max.
4. Faucet controls must not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist (typically, lever-style or automatic) and the max. Operating force is 5 lb. (§606.4).
5. The faucet cannot be beyond the end of the toe clearance (§306).
6. Plumbing must be insulated or otherwise protected against contact with no sharp or abrasive surfaces (ADA§606.5).

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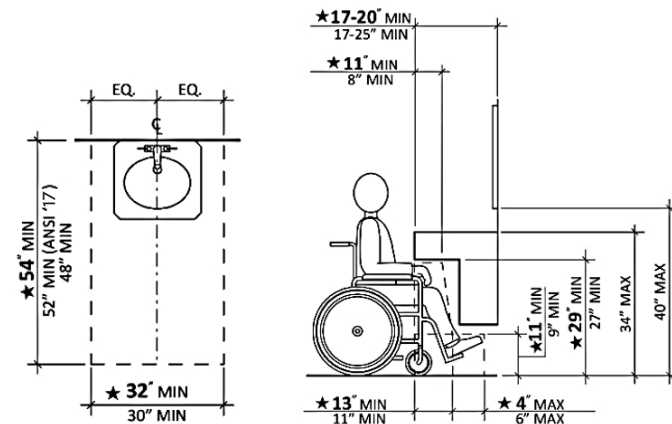
- Provide increased space clearances for knee/toe clearance.
- Provide sinks at more than one height, or adjustable in height.
- Provide automatic faucets that give users temperature control.
- Provide storage adjacent to sinks where items will not get wet.



An adjustable-height adult-sized changing table is provided.



Multiple sink heights fit users of different heights.



Clear floor space and knee/toe clearance dimensions (★=universal design)

Toilets

1. Provide a 60 in. wide by 56 in. deep (59 in. at floor-mounted toilets) toilet clearance. Only grab bars and toilet-related dispensers may overlap the clearance. Additional space is required depending on toe clearance availability as per the chart on the right (§604.3).
2. In accessible compartments, toilet centerline must be 16-18 in. from wall. Ensure baseboard heaters do not reduce dimension. (§604.2). Dimensions vary for children's use and ambulatory compartments.
3. Toilet top of seat is 17-19 in. high in accessible compartment (§604.4).

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Make at least 2 differing toilet seat heights available.

4. Provide flush controls on open side (non-wall side) of toilet (§604.6).

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Provide touch-less flush controls.

5. Provide toilet paper dispensers such that they do not obstruct use of grab bars. Refer to dimensions and diagrams in §604.7.

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Ensure no dispensers protrude above the horizontal grab bar.

6. In accessible compartments, provide a horizontal side wall grab bar and horizontal rear wall grab bar 33-36 in. high (to top of bar) and vertical grab as depicted in §604.5. In ambulatory compartments, provide a horizontal side wall grab bar on both sides (ADA§604.8.2).
7. Grab bars must be 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 in. in diameter and 1-1/2 to 2 in. from the wall (§609).

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Provide disposable seat barriers mounted forward of toilet bowl, automated protective seat barriers, or automatic sanitizing systems.

Urinals

1. If 2+ urinals in a room, at least one must be accessible (ADA§213.3.3).

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Ensure all urinals are accessible.

2. Provide a urinal 13-1/2 in. deep min. with max. rim height of 17 in. (§605.2).
3. Provide urinal with a 30 in. wide clear floor space for forward approach. If in an alcove deeper than 24 in. (e.g., modesty panels), then provide a 36 in. min. width (§605.3, §305.7).

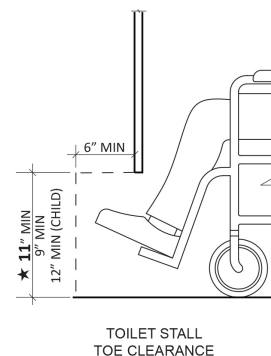
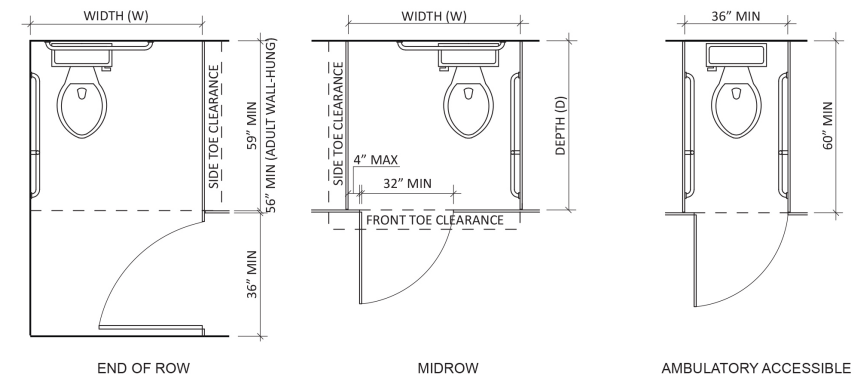
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Provide a wall/modesty panel on each side of all urinals.

4. If flush controls are manual, they must be 15-48 in. high (§605.4).

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- Provide touch-less flush controls.
- Position urinals so the clear floor space does not obstruct routes.
- Consider providing grab bars at some urinals.



Minimum Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Stall Size			
6" Toe Clearance Location	MIN Stall Width (W)	MIN Stall Depth (D)	MIN Stall Depth (D) if Wall-Hung Toilet in Adult Stall
No Toe Clearance	66"	65"	62"
At Front Only	66"	59"	56"
At Side Only	60"	65"	62"
At Both Side and Front	60"	59"	56"

Toilet compartment and toe clearance dimensions (★=universal design)

Signs

1. Provide the International Symbol of Accessibility and directional signs to for all accessible toilet rooms, unless all are accessible (ADA§216.8).
2. Provide tactile sign on latch side of toilet room doors at a height of 48-60 in., as measured from the baselines of the lowest and highest tactile characters and Braille. Ensure there is at least an 18x18 in. clear space centered on the sign, outside the swing of the door (ADA§703.4.2).
3. Key components of accessible signs include:
 - Characters must have a conventional form, not be italic, oblique, script, highly decorative, or unusual (ADA§703.2.3).
 - Characters must be light on dark or dark on light (ADA§703.5.1). There are free color contrast checking tools available on-line.
 - Characters must be a non-glare finish (ADA§703.5.1).
 - Refer to §703.2 for additional requirements on width of characters, stroke lines, character spacing, line spacing, and min. letter height based on viewing distance.
 - Provide raised characters and Braille (ADA§703.2, ADA§703.3).

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- Provide signs that use high-contrast colors, are readable from the expected viewing distance, and unobstructed.
- Use pictograms (complying with ADA§703.5 where applicable).
- Provide information in more than one language.
- Indicate presence of changing stations, child or companion seating, and other convenience features.
- At all-gender toilet facilities, provide a sign with text and pictograms representing the toilet and/or fixtures in the room, instead of conventional representations of men and women.



This bathroom sign provides an innovative way to help the visually impaired with a tactile room layout.



Overhead signs oriented in the direction of travel provided in addition to required Braille signs.



Individual compartments are labeled where partitions are full-height.



This sign uses pictograms of the features in the room rather than stereotypical representations.

Disclaimer: This guide highlights key accessibility requirements only. It is not intended as a comprehensive substitute for applicable laws, regulations, or codes. Refer to such applicable requirements for details. Resources are for informational purposes only. The IDEA Center does not endorse any products, services, or opinions therein.

RESOURCES

Universal Design - Books

- Inclusive Design: Implementation and Evaluation (2017)
- Universal Design: Creating Inclusive Environments (2012)

Universal Design - Websites

- IDEA Center: idea.ap.buffalo.edu
- Innovative Solutions for Universal Design: thisisUD.com
- All-Gender Toilet Room Guide: www.stalled.online
- All-Gender Toilet Room Article: architectmagazine.com/design/buildings/unstalled-inclusive-bathroom-design_o

Accessibility

- A117.1 Standard (Referenced by Building Code): webstore.ansi.org/standards/icc/ICCA1172017
- ADA Standards: access-board.gov/ada/
- ADA Guides: access-board.gov/ada/guides (See Chapter 6)
- ADA Checklists: adachecklist.org/checklist.html
- Bobrick Planning Guide: bobrick.com/pgar
- Training Video: accessibilityonline.org/ao/archives/111060