

The recommendations for an accessible toilet are as follows:

Outside:

Door springs: Ideally there should be none. Document M of the UK Building Regulations specifies a maximum of 20 Newtons. Fire doors often have much stronger springs. Larger organizations may install powered door openers. Loo doors will normally have doorsprings where they open onto a corridor. Preferably there should not be multiple doors with lobbies.

Route to loo: in shops and petrol stations, extra merchandise or routing devices can sometimes be too narrow for wheelchairs.

Internal steps: access should be one level. Some places have portable ramps but this is obviously not ideal.

Signage: clear signage and directions are necessary.

Distance: the loo is supposed to be less than 50m inside the premises. Longer distances or outside loos should be avoided.

Inside:

Size: older rooms were a minimum 1500mm x 2000mm but the 2000mm was extended to 2200mm more recently. There should be 1500mm turning space clear of any obstruction (eg hand driers, heaters, baby changing tables, bins). If a larger room is provided, builders are sometimes tempted to site the basin out of reach of the pan. Occasionally a smaller one will work where there is a folding door.

Door arrangement: loo doors should ideally open outwards to help a person to be removed if they fall behind the door.

Door lock: the door should be openable from outside when locked (by Radar key, coin, screw driver) in emergency. Note that a Radar key will open an occupied loo so there needs to be an indicator of whether the loo is occupied to avoid embarrassment. A venue should have their own radar key to gain access in an emergency.

Light switch: should be near to the opening edge of the door at about waist height. An automated light switch is desirable.

Basin: should be smaller than standard size and reachable when sitting on the pan.

Soap dispenser: should be present

Water temperature: mixer lever-controlled taps are desirable, but hot water temperature should not scald. (A plug is desirable for ostomists but they can carry a universal plug.)

Toilet paper: should be available.

Electric hand drier should be available but paper towels should be available for ostomists. Some electric driers can switch on accidentally and burn bare shoulders when one sits on the pan so care should be taken.

Baby changing: facilities may be provided but note that this could reduce the cubicle size unacceptably.

Shelf: for handbag is useful.

Coat hook is useful.

Pan height: is specified at 18.5" (480mm) to top of seat. (Previously 450mm). This is partly to aid rising from the seat but also to allow horizontal transfer from a wheelchair because lateral transfer is difficult to a high level. Standard toilets are now only about 15" to the seat.

Emergency cord: should be present, hanging free, with 2 red toggles and alert system to fetch help. In some places this might mean a buzzer or flashing light directly outside the cubicle. In other places an attendant's office. It should be reachable from the pan.

Grabrails: a standard arrangement has 6, 5 as shown in the following diagram plus a horizontal one on the inside of the door. Colour contrast is desirable. The drop-down rail should be manageable.

Flush: should be on open side of cistern and preferably with a paddle handle. Many cistern flushes can be reversed but this can be easily corrected. There should be a cover button on opposite side.

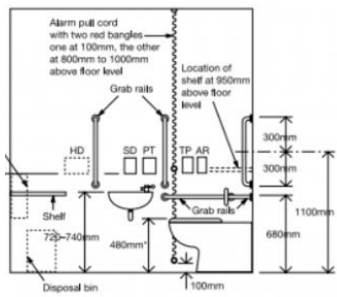
Transfer space: the width of a wheelchair should be free beside the pan to allow sideways transfer direct to pan. The pan should be forward of the wall to allow wheeling back to wall. Pipework at floor level may obstruct.

Bins: there should be a lidded bin for soiled rubbish and wet pads. This will be more hygienic if lined with plastic. Unlidded bins are suitable for handtowels. Bins must not obstruct emergency cord or transfer space. Bins should be regularly emptied and certainly before they overflow.

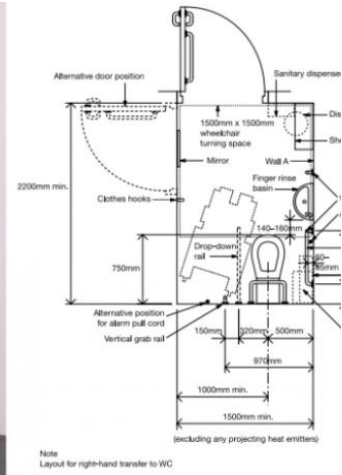
Mirrors: one over the sink is usual but those in wheelchairs have low line of sight. There also needs to be a lower mirror, if possible, to allow wheelchair users to check their clothing before leaving the cubicle.

Dimensions of a Disabled Toilet Room

April 30, 2018



*Height subject to manufacturing tolerance of WC pan
 HD: Possible position for automatic hand dryer (see also Diagram 20)
 SD: Soap dispenser
 PT: Paper towel dispenser
 AR: Alarm reset button
 TP: Toilet paper dispenser
 Height of drop-down rails to be the same as the other horizontal grab rails

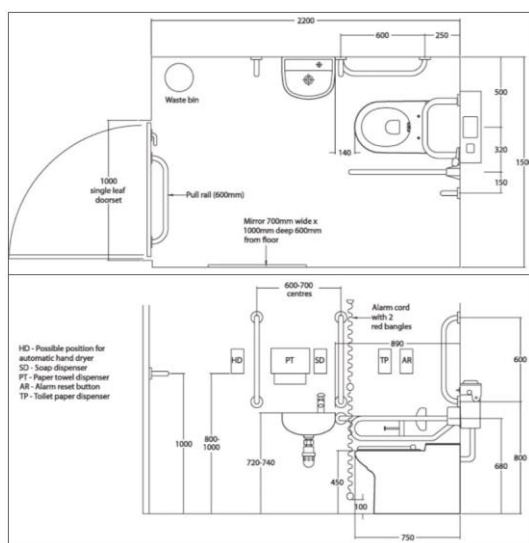


Note
 Layout for right-hand transfer to WC

The question of what size the modern Disabled Toilet Room within a commercial use building should be is a common one. The following article sets out to explore the required dimensions.

According to Document M (Doc M) of the UK building regulations access to and use of buildings other than dwellings, wheelchair users should be able to comfortably approach, transfer to and use the sanitary facilities provided within a building. This requires the provision of a wheelchair-accessible unisex toilet.

The Recommended Dimensions of a Disabled Toilet Room are:



At Least 2200mm Deep x 1500mm Wide

Rooms larger than these dimensions will provide a larger turning circle for use by wheelchair users, which in turn will provide additional comfort and ease.

The minimum disabled toilet room dimensions are to *exclude any items installed which are not required or mandated as part of a document M compliant disabled toilet room.*

Therefore if there are any items projecting into the room such as heat emitters (radiators), or baby changing tables the measurement of the room for the purpose of establishing if the room meets the minimum dimensions should be taken from the narrowest point between any wall and one of these fixtures.

Other design considerations for a disabled toilet room include:

- Doors should preferably be outward opening and are fitted with a horizontal closing bar fixed to the inside face.
- An emergency assistance alarm system should be provided.
- Mixer taps with an easy to grip lever should be installed to assist users with limited dexterity.
- Blue colour contrasting grab rails should be installed against white background walls for the visually impaired. Alternative colour grab rails are permissible provided there is adequate tonal contrast between them and the surface they are mounted upon.
- Suitably manufactured toilet pans and hand wash basins specially designed for use in a disabled toilet room should be installed.
- The correct number, size, and positioning of grab rails should be installed within the room.
- Toilet flush handles should be of a paddle type design to assist users with limited dexterity.