



Figure 1 Toilet used as storage

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Inclusive Design Corner: Toilets

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Accessible Toilets

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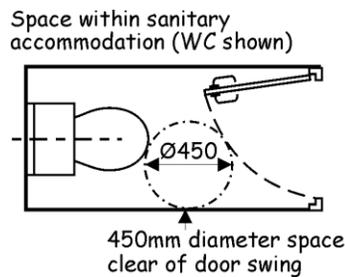
Everyone needs to use a toilet in one way or another but for some people access, the dimensions and layout are vitally important and can determine whether or not they can use the facility.

The recommendations within the Building Standards state that toilets should;

- for personal hygiene, have a wash hand basin within either the *toilet* itself or in an adjacent space providing the sole means of access to the *toilet*; and
- assist in general hygiene, be separated by a door from any *room* or space used wholly or partly for the preparation or consumption of food. However this need not be provided to a WC in a place of lawful detention, such as integral *sanitary facilities* within a prison cell; and
- meet food hygiene regulations, not open directly on to any *room* or space used wholly or partly for the preparation or consumption of food on a commercial basis. This is most commonly addressed by providing an intervening ventilated space between a *toilet* and such a space; and
- give variety in provision, including at least one enlarged WC cubicle, as shown opposite, where *sanitary accommodation* contains four or more WC cubicles in a range.

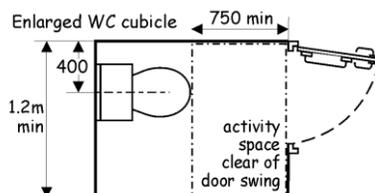
Standard WC Layout

A standard WC layout meets the needs of some people but not all with a minimum 450mm space between the edge of the WC and the door swing.



Enlarged WC Layout

An enlarged WC aids some people in maneuvering due to the additional space provided by the 750mm space between the edge of the WC and the door which opens outwardly. The overall width of 1.2m is also helpful.



Accessible Toilets

The provision of an accessible toilet within a building benefits many people. There is a myth that an accessible toilet is only used by individuals who are wheelchair users but many others choose this type of toilet for reasons not limited to but including mobility and hygiene issues.

Changing Places Toilets

A Changing Places (CP) toilet is one with enough space and the right equipment including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist. Many families have to plan days out in relation to the proximity of a CP toilet.



Changing Places

Accessible Toilets

The toilet shown on the right is an older style and has many flaws that would make it inaccessible to many people.

Layout

The layout is vitally important in relation to the placement of the sanitary ware and the associated grab rails. Other items such as toilet paper / soap dispenser etc are also important in terms of individuals being able to reach them whilst sitting on the toilet. A 1500mm x 1500mm maneuvering space is required within the toilet and this should be measured from the edge of the horizontal grab rail and edge of WC; therefore the minimum dimensions will be greater than 1.5m in width and may be greater than 2.2m in length.

Wash Hand Basin

The recommended distance the wash hand basin should be from the edge of the WC is between 140mm and 160mm. This allows someone (if they wish) the option of washing their hands whilst sitting on the toilet.

WC

The recommended height for the WC is 480mm from the floor to the top of the seat. This height allows most people to transfer over from their wheelchair and also to transfer easily back over. If the seat is lower than this then someone may be able to transfer over and drop down onto the toilet, however it may be difficult for them to lift themselves back up to transfer back to their wheelchair. The WC should never be fitted with a seat lid.

Contrasting Colours

Individuals who have a visual impairment require a good contrast between the sanitary ware and surrounding areas to be able to see the fittings etc. A good contrast is also required so that the grab rails stand out against the background on which they are placed. It is also good practice for the toilet seat to contrast with the sanitary ware. Another area which should contrast appropriately is the floor and walls.

Alarm Cord

The placement of the alarm cord is also important if someone needs to use this to summon help. You will note opposite that the cord is located on the wrong side.

Toilet Door

The clear width of the door should be 800mm and open outwards. If the door has a slow action self closer there is no need for a grab rail on the back of the door. Accessible ironmongery should also be fitted in terms of profile and contrasting colour.

Mirror and Hooks

The inclusion of a mirror in an accessible toilet is just as important as in a regular toilet and should be located at a height that a wheelchair user can use. Similarly any coat hooks should be located at an accessible height.

Bins

The placement of bins within this space is important in terms of not interfering with maneuvering space for any wheelchair users.

Pipework

This photograph shows quite a lot of pipework which can sometimes be boxed in. Care should be taken when boxing in pipes and similar items that the maneuvering space is not compromised



Figure 2 Accessible toilet?

Colostomy Shelf

The provision of a colostomy shelf is again an important issue for many people who use an accessible toilet and who may not be a wheelchair user. BS 8300 states that the top of the cistern on a close coupled WC can remove the requirement for a separate shelf (if space is limited). Obviously for high level cisterns a colostomy shelf will be required.

Back Rest

Where high level cisterns are used a back rest is important and should always be fitted.

Paddle Handle

The design and location of the flush handle is really important on an accessible toilet. If a traditional flush handle is provided this should be a paddle design which can be operated by an individual's elbow whilst they are still on the toilet. The flush handle should always be located on the transfer side.

Radiators

The location of radiators should not interfere with the transfer to and from a wheelchair and the surface temperature should be controlled.

THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Figure 4 Accessible Toilet

The Good

Good placement of sanitary ware and grab rails but poor contrasting colour. No impingements on maneuverability area. Full size mirror on opp wall.

The Bad

Labeled as an accessible toilet but not correct layout for sanitary ware / grab rails placements.



Figure 3 Incorrect Layout



Figure 7 Sink not in correct location



Figure 9 Toilet used as storage



Figure 5 Insufficient Grab Rails

The Ugly

Labeled as an accessible toilet but not correct layout for sanitary ware / grab rails and overall size.

Layout

The location of the sink needs to allow someone sitting on the toilet to wash their hands.

Bin

A foot pedal bin in an accessible toilet is not ideal due to the small size, some wheelchair users might not be able to bend down to operate it. Note also the toilet roll placed on the end of the horizontal grab rail – no use if it falls on the floor.



Figure 10 Toilet used as storage



Figure 8 Waste Bin and Toilet Roll Holder

Storage

Accessible toilets are quite often used as storage facilities but this then makes them redundant for wheelchair users or individuals who require a bit more space e.g. guide dog owners or individuals with a zimmer frame or crutches.



Figure 6 Incorrect layout

Peninsular Toilets

A peninsular style accessible toilet is one which allows someone to get help and allows space for someone either side of the WC. The recommended dimensions for this type of toilet are 1.0m from the wall to the centerline of the WC and 1.4m from the other wall to the centerline of the WC.

One of the important items in this layout is the location of the toilet roll holder and this should be incorporated within one or both of the hinged grab rails.

Two alarm cords are recommended in this layout; one adjacent to the hinged grab rail and another adjacent to the wash hand basin.

Peninsular toilets are often used in health care settings where people can be helped to use the toilet. Some individuals who do not require help often find difficulty in using this toilet due to the lack of the fixed horizontal grab rail and distance from the side wall.

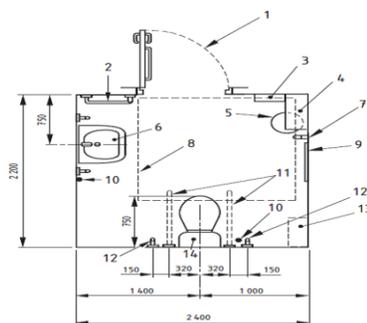


Figure 11. Peninsular Layout

Changing Places Toilets

A Changing Places or CP Toilet is one which has sufficient space and the right equipment including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist. Many families have to plan days out in relation to the proximity of a CP toilet.

Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability – or their carers.

People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as other serious impairments such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis or an acquired brain injury, often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets comfortably. Changing Places toilets are different to standard toilets with extra features and more space to meet these needs.

Each Changing Places toilet provides:

The right equipment:

A height adjustable adult sized changing bench and a track and hoist system

Enough Space:

Adequate space in the area for the disabled person and up to 2 carers, a peninsular toilet and a privacy screen

A Safe and Clean Environment

Wide tear off paper roll to cover the bench, a large waste bin for disposable pads and a non-slip floor

<http://changingplaces.uktoiletmap.org/>



Figure 12 Changing Places Toilet