



## RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND SAFETY APPLICATIONS FOR AN ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM

*These are general guidelines.  
You must consult your local building  
codes for Americans with Disabilities  
Act (ADA), locality, and state  
requirements.*



- There should be at least one accessible restroom in the building with access signs showing the location of this restroom. Restrooms should be accessible to the church sanctuary, classrooms and meeting rooms.
- It is good if there is at least one accessible restroom provided for each sex on each floor. If it is technically infeasible to provide an accessible restroom for each sex, at least one accessible unisex restroom should be provided within the building.
- All restroom doors and toilet stall doors should swing out to allow sufficient clear floor space for maneuvering of canes, crutches, wheelchairs, and walkers. Lever handles are recommended for the outside door along with a 12-16" high kick plate.
- There needs to be an accessible route of travel around any privacy partition inside the restroom door.
- The restroom door should be at least 36 inches (3 feet) wide. The minimum clear opening is 32 inches.
- There should be floor space within the restroom with a 5-foot-diameter minimum turning radius for wheelchairs
- Stall size should be 36" wide x 66" deep for wall-mounted fixtures and 36" wide x 69" deep for floor-mounted fixtures in front-transfer stalls or 66" wide x 60" deep for side-transfer stalls.
- Stall designs that are 36" wide should have handrails mounted on both sides of the staff at 33-36" from the finished floor. For side-transfer staff, handrails should be mounted behind the fixture and on the wall next to the toilet.

- Handrails must be securely mounted to the wall and able to sustain a weight of 300 pounds.
- Flush controls must be easy to operate with one hand. Lever-operated, push-type, touch-type, and electronically controlled mechanisms are recommended. Flush control leavers are now available on the left or right side of the toilet water tank.
- Toilet paper dispensers should be mounted in a manner that provides front and side access.
- The top lip of an accessible urinal should be mounted no higher than 17 inches above the floor. If the urinal is floor-mounted, the mounting should be smooth and level with the restroom floor. The flush control should be mounted no higher than 40” above the floor. Clear space should be provided at least 18” from the center to either side of the urinal. Handrails should be mounted on the wall on both sides with at least 1 1/2” of clearance.
- A sink needs a 30-inch-wide, 29-inch-high, and 19-inch-deep space provided underneath to accommodate a wheelchair user’s knees. There should be a minimum space of 9” for toe clearance. Faucet controls must be easy to operate, requiring no difficult finger or hand action. Wrist blade handles and a gooseneck spout are recommended.
- Hot water and drain pipes should be insulated to prevent them from burning the legs of wheelchair users.
- A facial mirror should be mounted in the restroom with the bottom reflecting edge no higher than 40 inches from the floor.
- A full length mirror should be provided to allow persons in wheelchairs to check their clothing.
- The following should be mounted 40” or less above the floor: paper towel dispensers, towel racks, paper waste disposals, soap dispensers, and electric hand dryers.
- All switches, controls, and outlets should be mounted at the same height above the floor (40” minimum, 48” maximum).
- Install a privacy deadbolt with “VACANT” and “OCCUPIED” message.
- Lighting in the restroom should be bright enough for people with visual impairments to feel safe and be able to see themselves in the mirror.
- At least one restroom should be free of perfumed or chemical air fresheners/deodorizers and scented soaps.

**For additional information, consult the *Accessibility Audit for Churches: Creating Access for Persons with Physically Challenging Conditions*.** This workbook helps local churches discover barriers which make church buildings inaccessible to persons with disabilities. It includes a question and answer survey, methods for modification, a supplementary resource and architectural diagrams that are easy to read. Available from the Virginia Conference Commission on Disabilities at no charge to local churches or by contacting the Service Center, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45222-1800, 1-513-761-2100, <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store/> Price: \$5.95 (Publication #3810)