

Contact Us

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This document is also available, on request, in Braille, audio, large print, computer disk, or as a pdf document



Will U-Bend over backwards to improve accessibility for all?

Accessible Toilet Provision



The Reasons WHY you should

- ✓ The provision of accessible toilet facilities helps all people, including older people, disabled people and parents with small children.
- ✓ People with disabilities in the UK spend approximately £50 billion a year on goods and services. More than 21% of adults in Northern Ireland have at least one disability and amongst children, 6% are affected by a disability.
- ✓ Lack of public toilet facilities can cause loss of dignity, frustration, inconvenience and difficulty to a disabled person.
- ✓ Disability Action recommends provision of toilet facilities as good practice in design, including retail, commercial and industrial projects; they should be integrated as early as possible in the design process.
- ✓ It is a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to improve access to services.

The Benefits

By taking a good practice and positive approach you will:

- ✓ Address staff and visitor requirements
- ✓ Enhance the quality of shopping experience for visitors and customers
- ✓ Boost visitor satisfaction
- ✓ Attract disabled customers' friends, relatives, carers and colleagues
- ✓ Encourage return visits
- ✓ Create a positive tourist image

General Issues to Consider

Accessible toilets must **never** be used for storage purposes.

Red alarm cords **must** be left untied for ease of use.

Where more than one accessible toilet is provided, a choice of left and right hand transfer is recommended.

It is recommended that baby change facilities are not incorporated within an accessible toilet, as this can impede transfer and manoeuvrability.

Consideration should be given to the installation of a 'Changing Places Toilet' which includes an adult changing bench.

Where toilets need to be kept locked, they should use a RADAR key system.

Toilets should be able to be kept locked when in use, but able to be opened from outside in an emergency.

Toilets should be well lit, including those available after hours.

Technical Design Guidance

Technical Booklet R of the Building Regulations NI 2006, Section 6 Sanitary Accommodation

BS8300: 2001, Section 12.4 Lavatories

www.changing-places.org