



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Purpose	2
2. Application	2
3. Disclaimer	2
4. Washroom Facilities	2
4.1. All-Gender Washroom Facilities	2
4.2. Signage	3
NBC(AE) Div. B:3.7.2 Water Closet Count Tables and Articles	3
4.3. Reading the Tables	4
A Occupancy - General Assembly	5
A2 Occupancy - Daycare & Primary School	5
A2 Occupancy - Places of Worship & Funerals	6
B1, B2 Occupancies	6
B3 - Care Occupancy (care wards, group homes),	6
B4 - Home-type Care Occupancy (custodial/convalescent homes),	6
C - Non-Dwelling-Unit Residential Occupancy (dormitories)	6
C Occupancies - Dwelling Units	7
D Occupancy - Business and Personal Services	7
E Occupancy - Mercantile	7
F Occupancy - Industrial	8
5. National Building Code - Alberta Edition 2023 References and Links	9

1. Purpose

This guide is intended to provide information regarding the design and review of all-gender washroom facilities in accordance with the National Building Code - 2023 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)).

2. Application

This guide applies to the design and evaluation of all-gender washroom fixture accounts, including accessibility requirements.

- Gender-Separated Washrooms: This guide provides general reference only. The current building code must be consulted for complete gender-separated requirements.
- Occupant Counts: Total building occupancy determines the water closet requirements. If staff and patron facilities are physically separate, calculate their occupant counts independently.

3. Disclaimer

This document was produced for information purposes only. Guide users are solely responsible for assessing and determining whether the information is appropriate for their own use. The City of Edmonton and its agents, employees and contractors, do not make any warranties or guarantees as to the accuracy or completeness of the contained information and accept no liability whatsoever for any defect, deficiency, error, or omission in any statement or information contained in, or in any way related to, the use of the information contained in this guide.

The information in this guide is not intended to provide legal or other professional advice. If legal or other professional expertise is required with respect to a specific issue or circumstance, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

Refer to the [NBC\(AE\)](#), available at no charge, from the National Research Council, for exact wording and compliance requirements.

Any questions, errors, omissions, or general guide feedback may be brought directly to our attention by email to: buildingsafetycodes@edmonton.ca.

4. Washroom Facilities

The minimum number of water closet fixtures based on the occupancy type and occupant load are regulated by Div.B: Article 3.7.2.2. for water closets, and 3.8.2.8. for barrier-free plumbing facilities.

4.1. All-Gender Washroom Facilities

All-gender facilities use single-user rooms to improve privacy, choice, and efficiency. Conventional gender-separated facilities often lack privacy, creating barriers for gender-diverse individuals,

people with disabilities, and those requiring assistance. Consequently, achieving compliance requires a deliberate design approach rather than simply changing the signage on existing multi-stall washrooms; these spaces must be physically configured to meet the requirements of the NBC(AE).

Total fixture counts must meet the minimum requirements of the NBC(AE) unless an alternative solution is proposed. To ensure safety and compliance, these single-user rooms must meet the following criteria:

- **Structural Enclosure:** Each single-user room must feature lockable, floor-to-ceiling walls and a full-height door to separate fixtures, preventing physical contact and unwanted visual surveillance. Any modification to full-height doors requires an alternative solution accepted by the City.
- **Dedicated Utilities:** Each single-user room must be properly lit, mechanically ventilated directly to the exterior, and sprinklered where applicable.
- **Layout Proximity:** Rooms must be next to or within sight of a universal washroom. If a room does not have its own sink, it must sit directly next to shared sinks.

Where an owner's site-specific review or hazard assessment determines that active single-user room monitoring is required, door latches as described in Subclause 3.8.3.13.(1)(b)(i) and distress alarms may be considered.

4.2. Signage

Each single-user room must feature unambiguous signage, focusing on the specific features provided, rather than gender. Signage must clearly indicate 'WC' OR 'urinal' OR 'WC + urinal' in appropriate graphical or textual form.



See CSA B651-18 for visual information signs (4.5.2, 4.5.3 and 4.5.4) and tactile/braille characters (4.5.6.2 and 4.5.6.3).

NBC(AE) Div. B:3.7.2 Water Closet Count Tables and Articles

The following tables state the minimum water closet requirements to comply with Article 3.7.2.2. and Section 3.8, including proposed construction within existing facilities. Rules are categorized by project scope:

- **New Construction & Additions:** If a barrier-free path of travel is required, washrooms must be barrier-free under 3.8.2.8. Provide minimum fixture counts using the primary all-gender table selections.
- **Existing Buildings & Alterations:** If an altered building has a barrier-free path but no change to occupancy, use, or intensity, existing non-barrier-free washrooms may remain. If

the water closet count is adequate for the occupant load, adding an additional universal washroom for every 10 existing water closets (or portion thereof) complies.

- **No Barrier-Free Path:** If a barrier-free path is neither present nor legally required, use the non-barrier-free baseline metrics to determine the minimum fixture count.

In all-gender designs, urinals inside single-user rooms may either be added to the minimum water closet count or substitute up to two-thirds of the required male water closets per Sentence [3.7.2.2.\(3\)](#).

4.3. Reading the Tables

Each table is for a specific occupancy type. Acronyms are used throughout for simplicity and readability. See the acronym key below.

Table Acronyms			Ratios (generally noted)	Code Provision
UW	Universal Washroom	→	1 in each location of washrooms	3.8.2.8.(1)
LM	Limited Mobility Water Closet	→	1 in 10, or part thereof	3.8.2.8.(7)
LMU	Limited Mobility Urinal	→	1 in 10 urinals, or part thereof	3.8.2.8.(6)
AWC	Accessible Water Closet	→	1 in 10, or part thereof	3.8.2.8.(5)
WC	Water Closet	→	private water closet stall	3.7.2.
UR	Urinal	→	2 in 3, of mens' wc - private urinal stall	3.7.2.2.(3)

Occupants are the total number of persons expected to be in the space, which could include employees, customers, teachers, students, caregivers, care receivers, patrons, and staff, etc.

The total number of occupants shown in the tables assumes an equal distribution of males and females per [3.7.2.2.\(1\)](#).

The left side of the table shows the minimum required number of water closets when fixture count is separated by sex. This portion of the table is for general reference only, and does not account for any required universal washrooms, accessible stalls, limited mobility stalls or urinals. Please refer to NBC(AE) Sections 3.7 and 3.8 for complete information.

The right side of the table provides fixture counts when all-gender design is proposed. This part is sub-divided into all-gender design that either does or does not propose the installation of urinals. Where urinals are proposed, fixture count and type from column WC in the 'without urinals' section should be replaced with fixture count and type from columns **WC**, **LMU** and **UR** in the 'with urinals' section.

All tables assume that all fixtures are installed in one location to which a barrier-free path of travel is required. See [3.8.2.8.\(1\)](#) for where additional universal washrooms may be required.

A Occupancy - General Assembly

except as further specified in tables below

NBC 2023 (AE) Table 3.7.2.2.-A

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
≤10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
50	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
100	1	2	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
150	2	3	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	-
200	2	4	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	-
250	3	5	8	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	1
300	3	6	9	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	4	1	1
350	4	7	11	1	1	2	8	1	1	2	5	1	2
400	4	8	12	1	2	2	7	1	2	2	4	1	2
500	5	9	14	1	2	2	9	1	2	2	6	1	2
600	5	10	15	1	2	2	10	1	2	2	7	1	2
700	6	11	17	1	2	2	12	1	2	2	8	1	3
800	6	12	18	1	2	2	13	1	2	2	9	1	3
1,000	7	13	20	1	2	2	15	1	2	2	10	1	4
1,200	7	14	21	1	3	3	14	1	3	3	9	1	4
1,400	8	15	23	1	3	3	16	1	3	3	11	1	4
1,600	8	16	24	1	3	3	17	1	3	3	12	1	4
1,800	9	17	26	1	3	3	19	1	3	3	13	1	5

A2 Occupancy - Daycare & Primary SchoolSee [3.7.2.2.\(5\)](#)

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
50	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
60	1	2	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
100	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
120	2	3	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	-
150	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
180	3	4	7	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	1
200	4	4	8	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	2	1	2
240	4	5	9	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	3	1	2
250	5	5	10	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	4	1	2
300	5	6	11	1	2	2	6	1	2	2	3	1	2
>300	5, + 1 for every increment of 30 additional males	6, + 1 for every increment of 25 additional females	-	"Extrapolate per 3.7.2.2.(5), 3.8.2.8.(1), (3), and 3.8.2.8.(5), (6), (7)"									
								And, extrapolate per 3.7.2.2.(3), and 3.8.2.8.(6)					

A2 Occupancy - Places of Worship & FuneralsSee [3.7.2.2.\(6\)](#)

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
300	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
600	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
900	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
1200	4	4	8	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	1

B1, B2 Occupancies

See 3.7.2.2.(7)

The number of water closets required for treatment or detention occupancy shall be determined on the basis of the special needs of the occupancy.

**B3 - Care Occupancy (care wards, group homes),
B4 - Home-type Care Occupancy (custodial/convalescent homes),
C - Non-Dwelling-Unit Residential Occupancy (dormitories)**

See [3.7.2.2.\(8\)](#)

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
≤10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
30	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
40	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
50	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1

C Occupancies - Dwelling Units

See 3.7.2.2.(9)

At least one water closet shall be provided for each dwelling unit.

D Occupancy - Business and Personal ServicesSee [3.7.2.2.\(10\)](#)

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
≤10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
50	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
100	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
200	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
300	4	4	8	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	1
400	5	5	10	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	4	1	2
500	6	6	12	1	2	2	7	1	2	2	3	1	3

E Occupancy - MercantileSee [3.7.2.2.\(11\)](#)

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
≤10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
50 staff	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
100 staff	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
300	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
600	1	2	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
900	2	3	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	-
1,200	2	4	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	-

F Occupancy - Industrial

NBC 2023 (AE) Table 3.7.2.2.-C

Max. total # occupants	Water Closet Count - When Separated by Sex			Fixture Count - with All-Gender Design.									
				without urinals				with urinals					
	Male	Female	Total	UW	LM	AWC	WC	UW	LM	AWC	WC	LMU	UR
≤10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
50	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
100	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
150	4	4	8	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	1
200	5	5	10	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	4	1	2
260	6	6	12	1	2	2	7	1	2	2	3	1	3
320	7	7	14	1	2	2	9	1	2	2	4	1	4

5. National Building Code - Alberta Edition 2023 References and Links

3.7.2.2.(1) Except as permitted by Sentence (2), water closets shall be provided for each sex assuming that the occupant load is equally divided between males and females, unless the proportion of each sex expected in the building can be determined with reasonable accuracy. (See Note A-3.7.2.2.(1).)

3.7.2.2.(2) Both sexes are permitted to be served by a single water closet if the occupant load in an occupancy referred to in Sentence (4), (8), (10), (11), (12) or (14) is not more than 10.

3.7.2.2.(3) Urinals are permitted to be substituted for two thirds of the number of water closets required by this Article for males, except that if only 2 water closets are required for males, one urinal is permitted to be substituted for one of the water closets.

3.7.2.2.(4) Except as permitted by Sentences (2), (5) and (6), the number of water closets required for assembly occupancies shall conform to Table 3.7.2.2.-A.

3.7.2.2.(5) The number of water closets required for primary schools and daycare centres shall be at least one for each 30 males and one for each 25 females.

3.7.2.2.(6) The number of water closets required for places of worship and undertaking premises shall be at least one for each 150 persons of each sex.

3.7.2.2.(8) Except as permitted by Sentences (2) and (5), the number of water closets required for a care or residential occupancy shall be at least one for each 10 persons of each sex.

3.7.2.2.(10) Except as permitted by Sentence (2), the number of water closets required for a business and personal services occupancy shall conform to Table 3.7.2.2.-B.

3.7.2.2.(11) Except as permitted by Sentences (2) and (14), the number of water closets required for a mercantile occupancy shall be at least one for each 300 males and one for each 150 females.

3.7.2.2.(12) Except as permitted by Sentence (2), the number of water closets required for an industrial occupancy shall conform to Table 3.7.2.2.-C.

3.7.2.2.(14) The number of water closets required in a suite of mercantile occupancy whose area is not more than 500 m² is permitted to be determined in accordance with Table 3.7.2.2.-B based solely on the total number of staff.

3.7.2.2.(15).(a) If a room contains not more than one water closet, the doorway to the room shall be provided with a full-height door that is capable of being locked from the inside or,

b) no fewer than two water closets or at least one water closet and one urinal, the room shall be designed so that water closets and urinals are not visible from the entrance to the room.

3.8.2.8.(1) Except as permitted by Sentence (3), at each location where washrooms are provided in a *storey* to which a *barrier-free* path of travel is required in accordance with Article 3.8.2.3., at least one universal washroom complying with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided. (See Note A-3.8.2.8.(1) to (4).)

3.8.2.8.(3) Washrooms located within a suite of residential occupancy that has not been designated by Sentence 3.8.1.1.(3) to be accessible or a suite of care occupancy need not conform to the requirements of Sentence (1) or (2).

3.8.2.8.(5) Where a barrier-free washroom is required, at least one accessible water-closet stall conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided for every 10 stalls or part thereof.

3.8.2.8.(6) Where urinals are provided in a barrier-free washroom, at least one urinal for persons with limited mobility conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided for every 10 urinals or part thereof.

3.8.2.8.(7) Where a barrier-free washroom is required, at least one stall for persons with limited mobility conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided for every 10 stalls or part thereof.