

CITY OF EDMONTON

Edmonton

# ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN GUIDE



COE-IM-GUIDE-0015 V05



# Land Acknowledgement

The City of Edmonton acknowledges that the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Nay-hee-yow) / Cree, Dene (Deh-neyh), Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-in-ah-bay) / Saulteaux (So-toe), Nakota Isga (Na-koh-tah ee-ska) / Nakota Sioux (Na-koh-tah sue), and Niitsitapi (Nit-si-tahp-ee) / Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' (May-tee) homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all people who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

# Message from the Accessibility Advisory Committee

As members of the City of Edmonton's Accessibility Advisory Committee, we know that accessibility is not theoretical; it's personal. Accessibility shows up in the everyday moments that determine whether someone can participate fully in community life or be quietly excluded. The City of Edmonton Accessibility Design Guide is one of the most impactful tools the City has to influence those moments.

This guide has a rare and powerful ability to shape lived experiences in immediate and tangible ways, unlike many policies and strategies that operate at a distance from daily experience. When applied as intended, it can directly influence an individual's ability to move safely through public spaces, access basic needs like washrooms, attend and actively participate in events, take transit, and navigate their neighbourhood with confidence and dignity.

For people with disabilities, older adults, families with young children and others who experience barriers in the built environment, the details in this document are not minor; they are essential. A few centimetres, a slope, a surface, a door operator or a line of sight can be the difference between inclusion and exclusion.

This guide provides City staff, designers, planners, and decision-makers clear, practical guidance for improved consistency and intentionality in their work. Accessibility is about designing environments that recognize human diversity as the norm. When accessibility is built-in from the beginning, it benefits everyone and reduces the need for retrofits, workarounds and costly corrections later. If you are using this guide, you should know that your work matters. Each project informed by these guidelines contributes to a more equitable city, and reflects Edmonton's commitment to universal design, age-friendly planning and inclusion. The decisions made using this document ripple outward to families, caregivers, elders, people with disabilities, children and future generations.

This guide is not only a technical standard; it is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. The Accessibility Advisory Committee encourages all City staff and partners to approach this document with a clear understanding of the impact your work has on real people, every day.

# Preface

## Introduction

A city that prioritizes accessibility understands the importance of belonging and in doing so, considers the needs of everyone regardless of their age and ability in the planning, design and construction of its infrastructure. The City of Edmonton is committed to providing equitable access and opportunities for everyone. This commitment strives to improve the quality of life and well-being of residents and visitors by creating opportunities for everyone to participate in and engage with all the city has to offer.

For people with disabilities, participation is informed by how easily they can travel from one place to another, how accessible a space is so they can enjoy a program, service or experience, and the amenities in place to support their needs.

The City of Edmonton aims to be an accessible city and believes that a well designed city is inclusive and safe for all. The Council Policy [Accessibility for People with Disabilities C602A](#) and corresponding [Procedure C602A - Accessibility for People with Disabilities](#), when referenced together are referred to as “the Policy”, provide a framework that guides the development and implementation of accessible infrastructure, programs and services for the City of Edmonton. The Policy ensures that the diverse needs and abilities of individuals, including those with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities are accounted for and met through accessible design.

## About the Guide

The City of Edmonton Accessibility Design Guide, previously known as the Access Design Guide, and referred to as “the Guide” or “this Guide”, outlines the accessibility requirements for infrastructure and facilities that are owned, operated or leased by the City of Edmonton. This updated version of the Guide builds on the requirements set in previous versions, exceeds the minimum standards set forth by the 2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition and draws upon best practices, recommendations and requirements from the sources listed below:

- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Universal Design Guide](#)
- [City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)
- [Clearing our Path 2.0](#)
- [CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible Design for the Built Environment](#)
- [CSA/ASC B62:23 Accessible Dwellings](#)

The Guide aligns with strategic level, planning and design documents produced and issued by the City of Edmonton including but not limited to:

- [Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy](#)
- [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards \(CSDCS\)](#)
- [Downtown Streetscape Design Manual](#)
- [Landscape Design and Construction Standards](#)
- [Zoning Bylaw](#)

Version 5 represents a significant evolution from Version 4 adopting a more comprehensive accessible design that addresses sensory, cognitive and physical inclusivity. The Guide has been reorganized to improve usability and technical clarity.

## Composition of the Guide

The Guide is composed of three chapters – Exterior, Interior and Housing. The **requirements** in these chapters are drafted to ensure consistent progress towards the collective goal of becoming an accessible city.

In addition to requirements, **Best practices** are included throughout the Guide. Best practices are details that have been shown by research and lived experience to produce the optimal experience for users with different abilities. Where reasonable and practical, the City of Edmonton intends to incorporate best practices into its standards, however, additional assessment is required to understand the impacts of incorporating these details into formal practices including but not limited to: climate, environmental impact, constructability, resourcing and operational impacts.

To help users of the Guide better understand the requirements and best practices:

- **Notes** are included to provide additional context, rationale and details.
- **Figures** or drawings provide visual representation of key concepts and technical requirements. If there is any discrepancy between the text and a figure, the text must take precedence.
- **Images** or photos showcase the application of requirements in built infrastructure.
- **References** with links to additional information are provided in the Reference Links section.
- **Source** indicates where a requirement was derived from.
- **Adapted from** means an existing information source was used as a foundation, but the final requirement was modified or customized to fit this Guide.

## Application of this Guide

This Guide must be followed when planning, designing and constructing infrastructure either owned or occupied by the City of Edmonton as outlined in the [Procedure C602A - Accessibility for People with Disabilities](#). Infrastructure is defined as facilities owned and operated by the City, as well as those built on City-owned land and operated by another organization subject to lease and/or license agreement terms.

This Guide applies to:

- new development and projects that focus on the repair, replacement and rehabilitation of building components where accessibility is impacted and can be improved;
- large construction projects completed by community groups that receive funding from the City of Edmonton;
- new neighbourhoods and, to the extent possible, neighbourhood redevelopments; and
- all public and administration spaces.

**Note:** Select operational spaces, for example vehicle maintenance and repair garages, may be subject to an exemption based on operational safety requirements.

Designers are encouraged to consider the **Seven Principles of Universal Design** when applying this Guide (see Glossary).

This Guide is available to anyone interested in contributing to making Edmonton an accessible city. The City of Edmonton is committed to creating awareness, encouraging, and collaborating with community groups, businesses, institutions and organizations to incorporate accessibility in their programs, services, practices, developments and infrastructure.

A cost model completed in January 2026 for a recreation centre designed to meet City's current functional program identified an incremental construction cost of approximately 0.6% of the total baseline value to implement this Guide (version 5). This indicates that enhanced accessibility can be integrated without a materially significant increase to the project budget. This reinforces that creating welcoming City spaces for everyone is affordable and delivers social benefits that far exceed the nominal increase in capital cost.

## Disclaimer

This version of the Accessibility Design Guide (the Guide) was developed for establishing accessibility requirements to be used in the planning, designing and construction of infrastructure and facilities owned or operated by the City of Edmonton. Care has been taken to confirm the accuracy of the information contained within this Guide. The views expressed throughout do not necessarily represent those of any individual contributor.

Accessible design continually evolves, and best practices change and improve over time, so it is necessary to regularly consult relevant technical standards, codes, and other publications rather than relying on this publication exclusively. The City of Edmonton, authors and members of the review committee want to convey that this document does not constitute a project-specific design. As such, no part of this guide alleviates the responsibility of the professionals retained to design and construct specific projects, and the professionals remain fully responsible for authenticating their designs as required in accordance with AALA, APEGA, AAA, Alberta Building Code and any other statutory or safety requirements.

Any drawings provided are to communicate the requirements and general arrangement. Representations may not be to scale but are substantially schematic in nature and require further elaboration and development. As such, those drawings are not suitable for integration into a specific implementation without review and modification and are only intended for use by a competent designer exercising professional judgement.

The designer shall modify and supplement as necessary to provide a complete, properly functioning design that conforms in all respects to the City's functional requirements. When actualized in a particular implementation, it is the designer's responsibility to ensure the size, location and spacing of all elements are suitable and safe for the intended use. They must also ensure that all components and specifications adhere to all applicable codes, legislative and authority requirements. In addition, any operational and maintenance requirements must be met.

Deviations from the represented nominal design parameters, questions of intent or accuracy, or any other apparent conflicts, shall be reconciled with an appropriate City representative. Finally, when employing any aspect of these documents, the ultimately responsible professional designer shall remove any authentication of the original author(s), note any provenance as appropriate and apply their own authentication as required.

## Conflicts And Regulatory Hierarchy

The requirements in this Guide are in addition to the minimum requirements of the 2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition. Should a conflict arise between the requirements of this Guide and those detailed in the current National Building Code – Alberta Edition or current City standards, the requirements of the National Building Code – Alberta Edition or City standards shall take precedence.

## Copyright Permissions

This Guide builds upon several foundational resources with permission from their respective publishers. The initial version was based on the City of Calgary's Access Design Standards (2016). Version 4.0 later incorporated best practices from the Safety Codes Council's Barrier-Free Design Guide (2017).

This current edition further integrates insights from CNIB's Clearing Our Path (Version 2.0) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Universal Design Guide.

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Web: [www.edmonton.ca/accessibility](https://www.edmonton.ca/accessibility)

# Authentication Table

Authenticated By	Section's Authenticated	Responsible Member
	Sections A.1 to A.5	

## Version History

Ver.	Published Date	Revision Summary	Author	Reviewer	Checker
05	2026-06-15	Refer to CHANGE HISTORY	Yogi Subramonian	Matthew Ivany	Natalie Lazurko
04	2021-11-29	Authentication added	Yogi Subramonian	Matthew Ivany	Natalie Lazurko

# Change History

Version	Description of Change	Date
05	Updated title of the Guide from "Access Design Guide" to "Accessibility Design Guide"	April 2026
05	Reorganized the Guide to enhance usability and improve technical clarity	April 2026
05	Expanded from two chapters to three chapters with Housing now elevated to its own chapter	April 2026
05	Renamed "Inclusive Design for Dwelling Units" to "Housing"	April 2026
05	Removed requirements that are already included in the 2023 National Building Code - Alberta Edition	April 2026
05	Revised the term "barrier-free" to "accessible" throughout the Guide	April 2026
05	Enhanced requirements within all sections and subsections to align with current accessibility standards and research	April 2026
05	"Park Master Planning" subsection now integrated into "Neighbourhood Design" and "Open Spaces"	April 2026
05	Added new subsections in Exterior chapter for boardwalks, outdoor fitness areas, off-leash dog parks and accessible boat docks and launches.	April 2026
05	Added "Active Pathway Network" section introducing specific subsections for "Pedestrian Crossings" and "Vertical Circulation".	April 2026
05	Added new section "Exterior furniture" to integrate requirements for outdoor seating, picnic and warming shelters, benches and bike racks	April 2026

<b>Version</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>	<b>Date</b>
05	Expanded requirements for passenger pick-up and drop-off zones to include both on-street and off-street areas.	April 2026
05	"Exterior Signs and Wayfinding" subsection elevated to a new section "Signage and Wayfinding" in the Exterior section	April 2026
05	Added new subsections in the Interior chapter for access controls gates, ramps, quiet rooms, indoor playgrounds, sports fields and courts, standard water-closet stalls, long term bike parking, exterior building signage and finishes.	April 2026
05	Added a new section "Workspaces" outlining requirements for workstations, meeting rooms, now rooms, lunchrooms and kitchenettes.	April 2026
05	"Interior Signs and Wayfinding" subsection elevated to a new section "Signage and Wayfinding" in the Interior section	April 2026
05	"Gender inclusive self-contained changerooms" revised to "Universal Dressing and Shower Rooms"	April 2026
05	"Interior Paths of Travel" section renamed to "Circulation" section	April 2026
05	Expanded Housing section including requirements for three distinct levels - visitable, adaptable and accessible housing.	April 2026
05	"Edmonton Transit" section now separated into "Edmonton Transit Service" section in Exterior chapter and "Transit Facilities" section in Interior chapter	April 2026

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# Glossary

The terms and descriptions below define the key concepts as they are specifically applied within the context of this Guide.

**Access aisle:** Designated no parking space adjacent to an accessible parking stall or passenger loading area that provides the necessary clearance for individuals using mobility devices to enter or exit their vehicles.

**Accessibility:** Accessibility refers to the absence of barriers that prevent individuals and/or groups from fully participating, contributing and benefiting from all social, economic, cultural, spiritual and political aspects of society. The term also refers to rights to access, and to universal design characteristics of products, devices, information, programs, services, practices and spaces that enable independent use, or support when required, and access by people with a variety of disabilities, both visible or invisible.

**Accessible:** An accessible site, building or facility is one that has the required characteristics to allow all individuals, including those with physical, sensory, communication or cognitive disabilities, to enter, exit and use the space.

**Accessible height:** The vertical range within which controls, operable parts, or surfaces must be positioned to ensure they are reachable and usable by individuals with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.

**Accessible route:** A continuous unobstructed pedestrian path in the interior or exterior environment. Unlike an accessible path of travel, it does not require paving, provided the surface remains firm, stable and slip-resistant.

**Accessible path of travel:** A continuous and unobstructed pedestrian path of travel that has a level, firm and stable surface located within the interior or exterior environment providing access to elements and spaces. Exterior accessible paths of travel include sidewalks, shared pathways and boardwalks. Interior accessible paths of travel include corridors, hallways, aisles, ramps and elevators.

**Accessible pedestrian signal:** Accessible pedestrian signals provide non-visual information about crossings to pedestrians with low or no vision.

**Adult-sized change table:** A height adjustable platform that provides a safe and dignified space for adolescents and adults who require assistance with personal care.

**All ages and abilities:** A design standard used to create infrastructure that is safe, convenient and comfortable for the widest possible range of users including children, seniors and people with varying physical, sensory, or cognitive abilities. This approach prioritizes low-stress environments, such as physically protected paths and intuitive wayfinding, to remove barriers to independent mobility.

**Amenities:** Items that provide conveniences or services for public use including washrooms, playgrounds, picnic areas, bicycle racks, seating areas, lockers and drinking fountains.

**Barriers:** Barriers are elements that make it difficult for some to easily access a place. They can be objects or structural elements in a path of travel that restrict movement or pose a safety hazard. Examples include steps, steep inclines, uneven surfaces, utility poles, street signs or permanent fixtures that protrude into the path of travel.

**Bevel:** A small slanted transition used to soften the level difference between two non-continuous surfaces such as floors ensuring that wheels of mobility devices can roll over the change in level smoothly while preventing trip hazards.

**Braille:** A system of raised dots that are read using the fingertips. There are two main types of Braille: uncontracted and contracted. Uncontracted Braille (grade 1) represents every individual letter of a word. Contracted Braille (grade 2) utilizes a system of shorthand cells to represent common words or letter combinations. In this Guide "Braille" indicates uncontracted braille.

**Cane-detectable:** The sweep of a cane used by people with low or no vision normally detects protruding building elements that are within 680 mm of the floor. Any protruding element above this height would not normally be detected and can, therefore, create a hazard if it projects more than 100 mm into the path of travel. [2023 Alberta Building Code]

**Clear floor space or Clear floor area:** An unobstructed level floor area required to accommodate a person using a mobility device such as a wheelchair or scooter. Clear floor space should be treated as a three-dimensional volume rather than a two-dimensional surface. This ensures that the space remains free of wall-mounted obstructions that could interfere with a person's movement.

**Clear opening:** A clear opening refers to the minimum width of an opening such as a doorway or access control gate that is free from any obstructions, allowing for continuous and unobstructed passage. Clear opening measurement of a door is taken from the face of the door to the opposite doorstep.

**Control:** A component of a building system that requires physical interaction to activate, deactivate or adjust. This includes items such as door handles, light switches, elevator buttons, thermostats and intercoms.

**Cross slope:** Cross slope is the slope perpendicular to the direction of travel.

**Curb ramp:** A solid (usually concrete) ramp graded down from the top surface of a sidewalk to the surface of an adjoining road.

**Disability:** Disability means any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society [Accessible Canada Act, 2019].

**Dwelling unit:** A self-contained set of rooms used as a single housekeeping unit for one or more people. It must include dedicated space for living, sleeping and sanitation (a bathroom), as well as permanent facilities for cooking.

**Furnishing zone:** The furnishing zone provides an area for signs, street light poles, street trees or landscaping, transit stops, benches and seating for patios associated with adjacent businesses, in addition to underground and surface utilities and concrete curb.

**Glare:** Is a visual sensation caused by excessive light and uncontrolled brightness. Light can be from a direct source or be reflected from a surface, creating a range of responses from visual annoyance or discomfort to visual loss.

**Lavatory:** A sink or wash basin located in a washroom or bathroom.

**Long white cane:** A mobility tool used by individuals with low or no vision to detect hazards and changes in surface texture such as tactile strips along their path of travel. The cane is used in a sweeping or tapping motion to identify a safe, clear area for walking and to locate landmarks like doorways or stairs.

**Luminance contrast:** The difference in light reflectance value between adjacent surfaces, e.g. light on a dark background or dark on a light background. Refer to [CSA/ASC B651:23 section 4.2](#) for minimum luminance contrast requirements of different surfaces.

**Mobility Device:** Refers to a range of assistive equipment used by persons with disabilities to assist with mobility. Examples include crutches, canes, manual or powered wheelchairs, scooters and walkers.

**Off-leash dog park:** A secure, designated space where dogs are permitted to move freely without a leash. These areas are typically enclosed by fencing and include specific entry/exit gates to ensure the safety of both the animals and the public.

**Open spaces:** Open spaces are publicly accessible outdoor public lands with multiple uses, including recreation, nature preservation and passive outdoor enjoyment, as well as serving as venues for public gatherings. This definition encompasses a variety of areas, such as public parks, gardens, nature reserves, squares, plazas, streetscapes, cemeteries and school yards.

**Pedestrian:** A pedestrian is any person on foot or who uses a personal mobility aid such as wheelchair, scooter, walking frame, cane, crutches and related. This guide uses the word pedestrian to include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of their speed or method of non-vehicular movement.

**Power door operator:** An electromechanical device that automates the opening and closing of a door eliminating the need for a person to push or pull against the weight of the door.

**Ramp:** A sloping walkway leading from one level to another, which has a running slope with a ratio steeper than or equal to 1:20 (5%).

**Running slope:** A slope that is parallel to the direction of travel.

**Senior:** Refers to individuals generally aged 55 years and older.

**Senior centre:** A type of community centre where older adults can congregate to fulfill many of their social, physical, emotional and intellectual needs.

**Service dog:** A dog that has been trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. Service dogs are legally recognized as essential medical supports and are permitted access to all public areas where the general public is allowed.

**Service dog handler:** The individual who manages and is assisted by a service dog.

**Sidewalk:** The paved area, typically constructed parallel to roadways that allows for pedestrian travel.

**Shared pathway:** Paved two-way off-street paths designed for use by people walking, wheeling and cycling.

**Stair lift:** A motorized chair that travels along a rail system mounted to a staircase to transport a person between different floor levels in a seated position.

**Street furniture:** A variety of elements and amenities installed in the public right-of-way for use by and convenience of the public. Examples include benches, garbage receptacles, bike racks, sign posts and newspaper stands.

**Tactile Walking Surface Indicator (TWSI):** A standardized surface feature installed on walking surfaces to provide non-visual information. TWSIs use a combination of texture and high visual contrast to alert individuals who are blind or have low vision to potential hazards or to provide directional guidance along a path.

**Tonal Contrast:** The difference in the amount of light reflected by two adjacent surfaces. Luminance Contrast is the mathematical measurement used to verify that Tonal Contrast is sufficient.

**Trail:** A multi-use pathway located in a park, greenway or natural area designed for both recreation and active transportation.

**Universal Design principles:** The concept of universal design was developed by Ronald Mace, the founder and former program director of The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University. Universal design can be thought of as a living, evolving approach to design that considers the varied abilities of users. A working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental designers defined seven principles of universal design in 1997. The seven principles are:

- 1. Equitable Use:** The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- 2. Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- 3. Simple and Intuitive Use:** Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or current concentration level.
- 4. Perceptible Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of surrounding conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- 5. Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- 6. Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimum fatigue.
- 7. Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation and use regardless of the user's body size, posture or mobility.

**Universal washroom:** A fully enclosed individual washroom that is accessible to people of all genders and abilities. It is equipped with accessible fixtures including a toilet, sink and grab bars, and provides a larger turning diameter to accommodate caregivers, service dogs or large mobility devices such as scooters.

**Visual Contrast:** Perceptible difference in brightness or luminance between an element and its adjacent background surface. It is the essential quality that allows people with low vision or colour vision deficiencies to distinguish key features of a space for safety and wayfinding.

**Washroom:** A washroom is a room containing at least one toilet and one sink.

**Water closet:** A toilet

**Water-closet stall:** A partitioned enclosure within a multi-user washroom that contains a water closet (toilet).

**Wheeled mobility device:** A collective term used to describe a range of wheeled personal transportation devices, including manual wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters.



**ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN GUIDE**

# **EXTERIOR**

# A. Exterior

A pedestrian is any person on foot or who uses a personal mobility aid such as a wheelchair, scooter, walking frame, cane, crutches and/or any related devices. This guide uses the word pedestrian to include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of their speed or method of non-vehicular movement.

Overall design considerations for exterior spaces must consider these elements as well as the specific requirements that follow in each section:

- Ensure stable, level and firm paths of travel that are clear and unobstructed with adequate manoeuvring space for people using mobility devices.
- Provide strong visual contrast in colours, materials and textures to help people with low vision to identify barriers, changes in elevations and important features.
- Create pathways and open spaces that are easily navigable and as logical as possible to improve safe navigation and wayfinding for all users, especially those with low or no vision or cognitive disabilities.
- Ensure accessibility for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing by providing wide pathways for signing, maximizing sightlines and strategically applying tactile cues and luminance contrast for safe navigation and communication.

In addition to the guidelines already established in the previous version of the City of Edmonton's Access Design Guide, this section draws upon best practices, recommendations and requirements in the sources listed below:

- [Clearing our Path Version 2.0](#)
- [City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)
- [CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible Design for the Built Environment](#)

The following City of Edmonton standards and guidelines were referenced to ensure alignment:

- [Breathe: Green Network Strategy](#)
- [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards Version 6](#)
- [Design & Construction Standards Volume 5 Landscape COE-IM-GUIDE-0010 v02](#)
- [Edmonton Zoning Bylaw](#)
- [Open Space Consultant Manual – Volume 1 – Design Process and Guidelines COE-IM-GUIDE-0022 v05](#)
- [Playspaces and Wheeled Sport Facility Design and Construction Standards](#)

## A.1 Neighbourhood Design

This section provides requirements to be considered in the planning of neighbourhoods and public spaces to ensure they are designed for people of all ages and abilities. The [Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy C602A](#) states, Edmonton aims to be an accessible city by developing communities and employment areas that are accessible for everyone through their built form and range of mobility choices including transit (i.e. buses and LRT) and active transportation (i.e. walking, wheeling and cycling).

Refer to '[Breathe - Green Network Strategy](#)' and '[Designing New Neighbourhoods - Guidelines for Edmonton's Future Residential Communities](#)' for additional policy guidance pertaining to connectivity and integration of open spaces at the neighbourhood, municipal and regional level.

1. Accessible connections from neighbourhoods must be provided to the following:
  - a. Transit facilities
  - b. City facilities and attractions
  - c. Senior centres
  - d. Shopping areas
  - e. Educational institutions and facilities

**Note:** An accessible connection refers to paths or routes that are safe, continuous and usable for people of all ages and abilities, including those using mobility devices.

2. Parks and shared pathways must be connected to adjacent communities by an accessible path of travel.

**Note:** An accessible path of travel is usable by all persons, including those with physical, sensory, communication or cognitive disabilities. A level, stable and firm surface that is a minimum of 1,800 mm width and free of obstructions is considered an accessible path of travel. The preferred layout of the path provides clear and direct access to and from a destination.

3. Metropolitan, District, School and Community Parks, civic spaces, and other public open spaces must be located along an accessible path of travel and, where applicable, within 400 m of a transit stop.

**Note:** Metropolitan parks are large, feature parks that have a variety of functions and uses such as William Hawrelak Park and Rundle Park.

District Parks are designed to meet the needs of multiple communities or a collection of neighbourhoods. Examples include Castle Downs Park and Argyll Park.

Community parks are the basic units of the green network intended to meet the social and recreational needs of most people in their catchment area. Some Community Parks are co-located with community leagues or schools. Examples include Laurier Heights Park and Cumberland Park.

## A.2 Active Pathway Network

The active pathway network, referred to as **Active Transportation Network** in the City Plan, is the network of paths and trails used by people walking, wheeling or cycling, and creates critical connections to destinations, amenities, daily needs and recreational opportunities.

This section includes requirements for the various exterior paths within Edmonton such as sidewalks, shared pathways, pedestrian bridges and trails that are designed to offer a rich diversity of trail types and experiences. While full compliance with accessible paths of travel is the goal and generally achievable on relatively flat tablelands, a more thoughtful approach is required in the river valley. The river valley's unique, sensitive and often steeper terrain demands balancing an accessible and well-connected trail system with the desire to accommodate more challenging experiences. The goal is to create an integrated and accessible network that offers diverse experiences to all Edmontonians.

This section provides additional accessibility requirements to be followed alongside the [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards](#) and [Design & Construction Standards Volume 5 Landscape](#).

## A.2.1 Paths of Travel

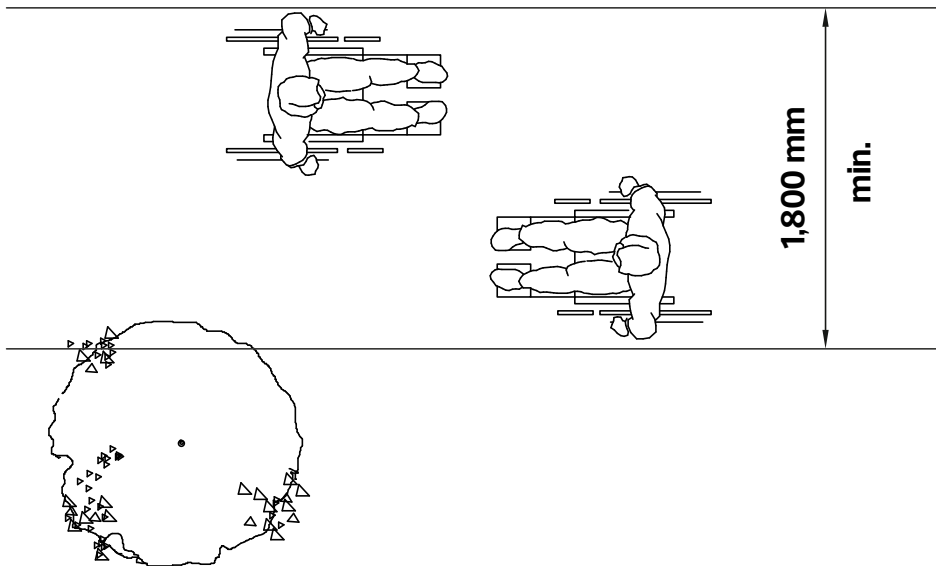
A path of travel represents the route an individual is reasonably expected to take between two or more specified locations. An accessible path of travel is essential for all individuals, including those with physical, sensory, communication or cognitive disabilities.

In order to be considered accessible, paths of travel must meet the requirements in this subsection.

1. Paths of travel must have a clear width of at least 1,800 mm.

Refer to figure A.2.1(a).

**Note:** This width allows two mobility device users to pass each other or two people walking side by side to converse in sign language. For specific requirements on the minimum widths of sidewalks and shared pathways relative to their location, refer to Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards.



**Figure A.2.1(a)**  
**Minimum path of travel width**

2. Paths of travel must have a firm, level, stable and slip-resistant surface.

**Note:** An irregular surface is generally considered a surface that is not smooth, flat or uniform, exhibiting variations in its texture, shape or topography. This may include materials such as natural stone/flagstone or loose aggregates.

3. Paths of travel should have a cross slope of no more than 1:50 (2%).

**Note:** Cross slope is the slope perpendicular to the direction of travel. This is to prevent wheelchairs and mobility devices from drifting sideways. Where the required cross slope cannot be achieved due to constrained situations, the extent of the steeper cross slope must be minimized along the path of travel.

4. Paths of travel must not be steeper than 1:20 (5%). Paths steeper than 1:20 should be designed as a ramp. Refer to subsection A.2.3.2 Ramps for detailed requirements.

**Note:** This makes the path easier to navigate, especially for people using manual mobility devices and those with respiratory, cardio-vascular issues or pain-related disabilities.

5. Paths of travel must be free of temporary or permanent obstructions and barriers.

**Note:** Obstructions pose significant challenges for individuals with physical disabilities or a safety hazard for people with low or no vision. Examples of common obstructions include street signs, hydrant valves, uneven signal pole bases, patio umbrellas, planters, overhanging guardrails, folding window panels, shutters or any other type of feature that extends. Examples of barriers can also include steps, steep inclines and trip hazards caused by uneven concrete joints or cracks. Special consideration should be taken during the design of open spaces to allow for temporary snow storage.

6. Where a barrier exists in a path of travel, signage directing users to an alternate path of travel that meets the requirements of this subsection must be provided.

**Note:** If a primary route to an amenity or destination is not accessible, it is important to clearly indicate the location of the nearest accessible route. For example, stairs may be the primary route to a destination. The directional sign helps people to know where the alternate accessible route is and how to get to it.

7. Guy-wires, chains or cables must not be installed in paths of travel.

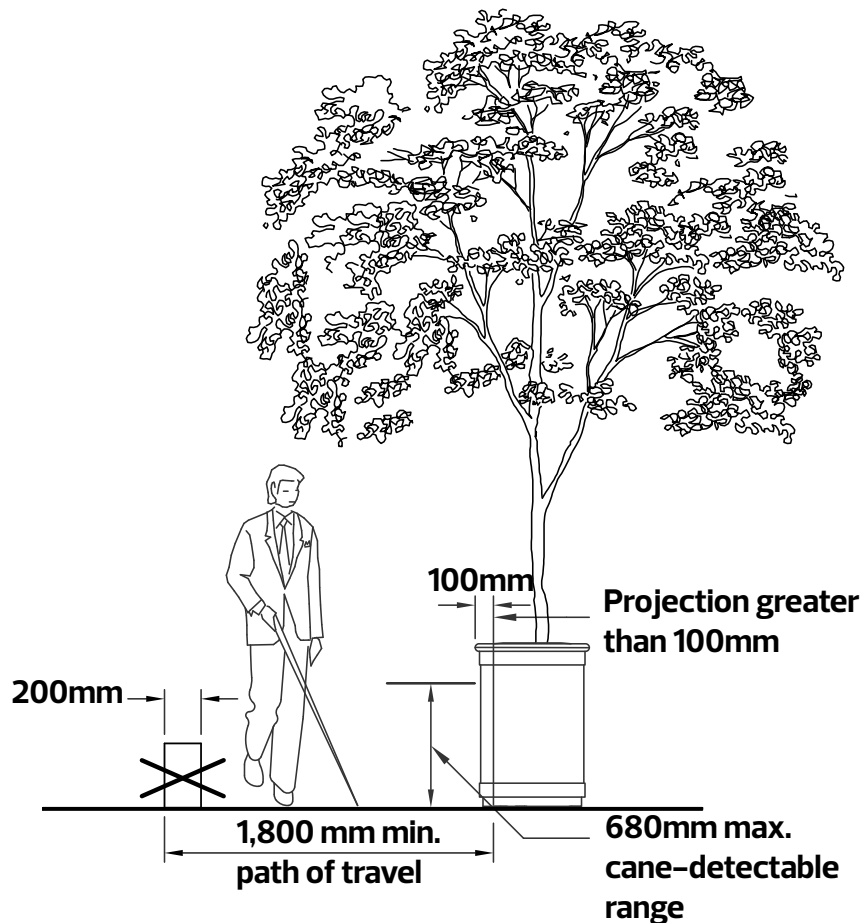
**Note:** A guy-wire is a tensioned cable designed to add stability to a freestanding structure.

8. Objects or signs that are mounted lower than 2,050 mm above the ground that protrude more than 100 mm into the path of travel must:

- a. be cane-detectable
- b. have visual contrast with surroundings

Refer to figure A.2.1(b).

**Note:** To be cane-detectable, a protruding object must be located with its leading edge no higher than 680 mm above the ground.



**Figure A.2.1(b)**  
**Dimensions for cane-detectable obstructions**

9. Every effort must be made to place manhole covers, tree grates, electrical vaults and other access covers/grates outside of the minimum required width of the path of travel. If no other options exist due to site constraints, they must meet the following requirements:
  - a. The long dimension of the openings must be perpendicular to the path of travel.  
 Refer to figure A.2.1(c).
  - b. The maximum clear opening of gratings must not exceed 13 mm.  
 Refer to figure A.2.1(d).

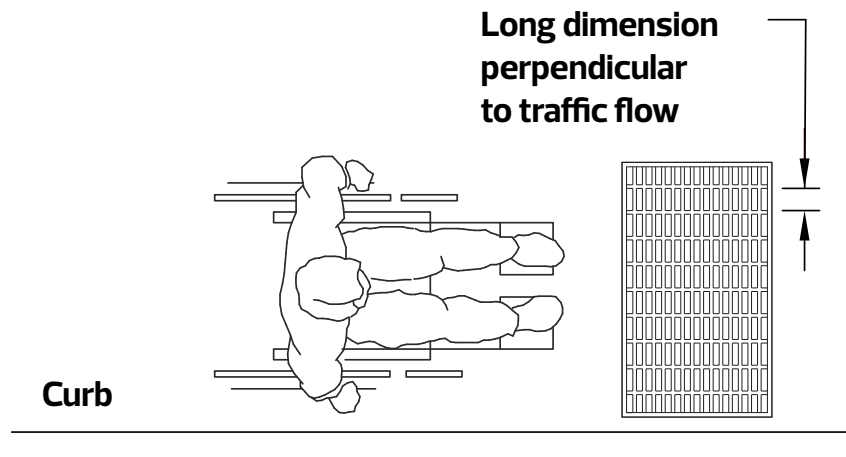


Figure A.2.1(c)  
Grating orientation

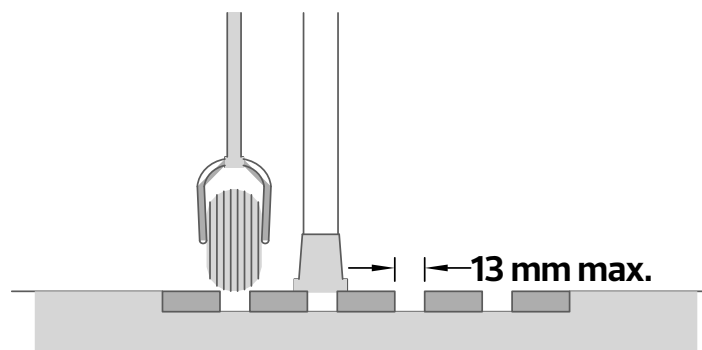


Figure A.2.1(d)  
Maximum width for grate openings

- 10.** Posts, bollards, maze gates or other elements designed to prevent or restrict vehicular access must have a minimum clearance of 1,200 mm to allow the passage of people using mobility devices.

Refer to figure A.2.1(e)(i) and (ii).

**Note:** A 1,200 mm clearance allows access for wheelchair users and adapted or tandem bikes used by people with physical disabilities and/or low vision.

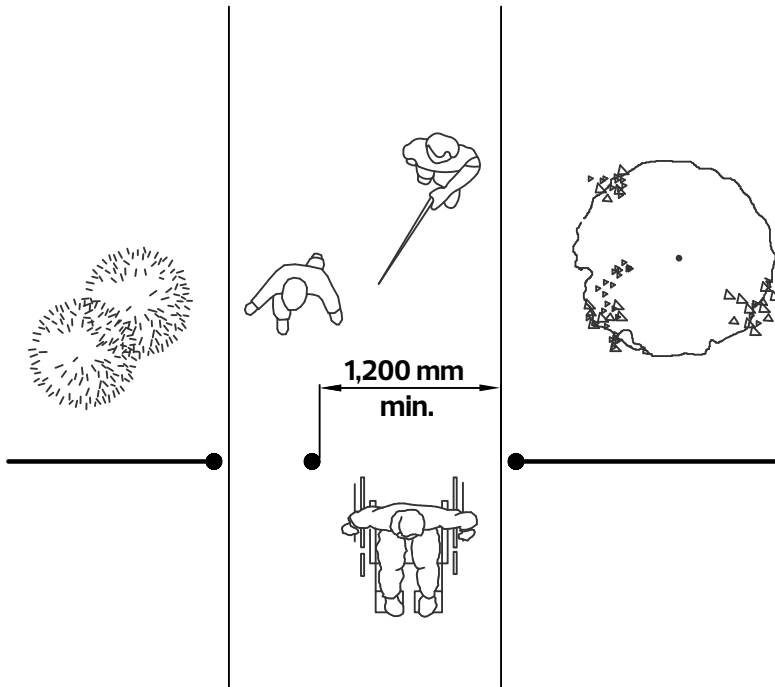


Figure A.2.1(e)(i)  
Minimum clearance for maze gate

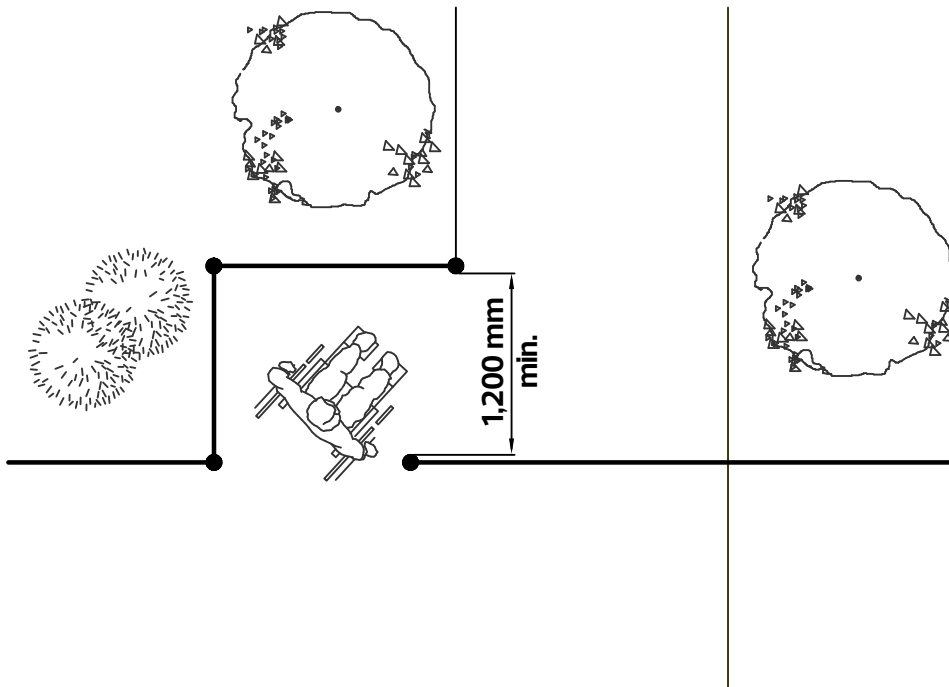
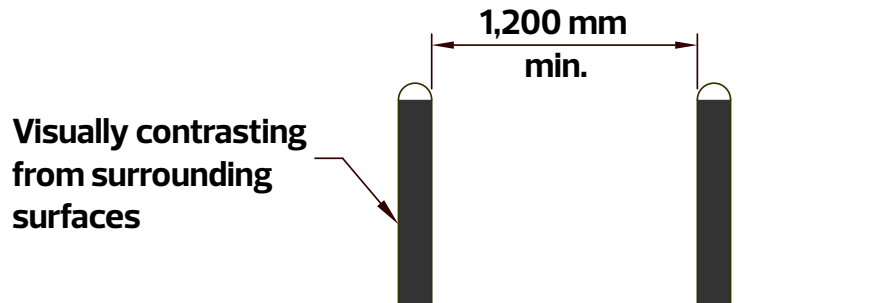


Figure A.2.1(e)(ii)  
Minimum clearance for maze gate

- 11. Bollards located adjacent to pedestrian paths of travel must be visually contrasting from the surrounding surfaces.

Refer to figure A.2.1(f).

**Note:** Visual contrast improves visibility ensuring the bollard or post is not a hazard for people with low vision.



**Figure A.2.1(f)**  
**Minimum clearance between bollards**

- 12.** Parking stalls must be designed so that vehicles or other obstructions do not encroach on the path of travel. Provide wheel stops to ensure adequate vehicle set back so that no part of the vehicle or fixture encroaches into the path of travel.
- 13.** Placement of parking sign posts must not obstruct the path of travel along sidewalks.
- 14.** Paths of travel that are at the same level and flush with adjacent finished surfaces such as furnishing zone, ancillary zone and frontage zone must be delineated by either:
  - a.** a different surface texture that is detectable underfoot or with a cane
  - b.** a luminance contrast with adjacent ground finishes

**Note:** This helps with wayfinding and safe navigation for all users, especially for individuals with low or no vision or cognitive disabilities by reducing confusion and improving ability to navigate independently.



**Image A.2.1(a)**  
**Pedestrian path and furnishing zone**

**15.** Shared streets are primarily designed for people walking, wheeling and cycling with significant limits on motor vehicle traffic and speed. Shared streets are designed and built without raised curbs, making the entire width of the street the same level. This design feature may present challenges for some users, particularly those with low or no vision, so it is critical to provide the following elements:

- a.** An accessible route, also known as a pedestrian through zone, on both sides of the street.

**Best practice:** Maintain a vehicle-free accessible route of minimum 1,800 mm width that is clear of obstacles and street furniture.

- b.** Shared zones for activity spaces that have texture and luminance contrasting ground finishes. Activity space or shared zone include elements such as landscaping, seating areas and site furnishing.
- c.** A shared zone for circulation of vehicles.

- d. A tactile delineator strip of minimum 600 mm width between the pedestrian through zone and adjacent areas to warn users of the possibility of street furniture, moving vehicles and other potential hazards.

Refer to figure A.2.1(g).

**Note:** Tactile delineator strip is a band of material that differs significantly in texture and luminance contrast from the adjacent surface, for example, textured pavers. For individuals with low or no vision, the luminance and texture contrast helps to define the path from the shared roadway. People with cognitive disabilities benefit from the clear visual separation, which reduces confusion and improves independent navigation in shared spaces. This delineation also helps individuals with low mobility by clearly defining the safe walking and wheeling zone, reducing anxiety in areas without traditional curbs.

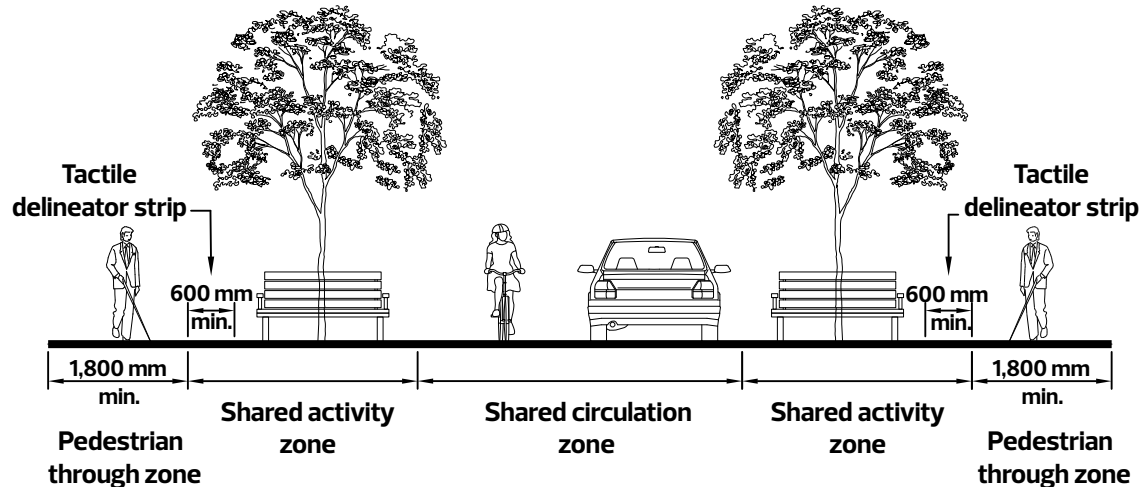


Figure A.2.1(g)  
Curbless shared street cross section

16. Shared pathways are off-street, two-way paths designed for use by people walking, wheeling and cycling.

**Best practice:** Provide segregated pathways for pedestrians and cyclists that are clearly demarcated. Refer to Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards for guidance on facility selection.

**Note:** This reduces the risk of collisions between cyclists and people with low or no vision, low mobility or hard of hearing. In addition to this, the noise and speed of cyclists in a shared pathway can interfere with the wayfinding techniques used by people with low or no vision. While etiquette signage and warning strategies such as using bells are helpful, they are less effective at mitigating risk than having segregated pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.

17. Pedestrian bridges must have a smooth and even transition from the bridge deck to the adjacent path of travel or abutment wall.

**Note:** Special consideration should be taken to allow for independent movement of the bridge and to ensure the level difference between the bridge and the adjacent connections are kept to a minimum, i.e. not more than 13 mm.

18. Tactile Walking Surface Indicators must be installed where a path of travel includes an abrupt or significant elevation change such as vertical drop or single step. The Tactile Walking Surface must be located at least 600 mm back from the edge of the elevation change and must extend its full width. Refer to subsection A.2.2.4 for more details on Tactile Walking Surface Indicators.

**Note:** This serves as a warning for hazardous elevation changes like a single large drop into a sunken area, that pose a fall risk and are undetectable to users with low or no vision.

## A.2.2 Pedestrian Crossings

Well-designed pedestrian crossings direct pedestrians safely across a road, preventing them from walking or wheeling into traffic. Features such as accessible pedestrian signals, traffic islands, curb ramps and tactile walking surface indicators provide navigational cues to enhance safe crossing for all pedestrians.

This section applies to crossings at controlled and uncontrolled intersections and must be used alongside the [City of Edmonton's Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards](#).

### A.2.2.1 General Requirements

1. All pedestrian crossings must be designed to facilitate a direct and perpendicular path of travel across the roadway.

**Note:** Diagonal and angled crossings are difficult and dangerous for people with low or no vision to navigate. It can also be challenging for wheelchair users to manoeuvre.

2. The entire length of pedestrian crossings must be free of any obstacles to ensure a clear accessible path of travel.
3. The location of pedestrian actuated push buttons must be free of obstructions or barriers that may prevent someone from accessing the button.
4. The pedestrian clearance interval timing must be calculated using a pedestrian walk speed of no more than 1.0 metre per second.

**Note:** Traffic signals must be set to allow sufficient time for pedestrians to complete the crossing safely, especially for those who use mobility aids.

5. Accessible pedestrian signals and countdown timers must be installed and activated as required, at all new signalized intersections that accommodate pedestrians.

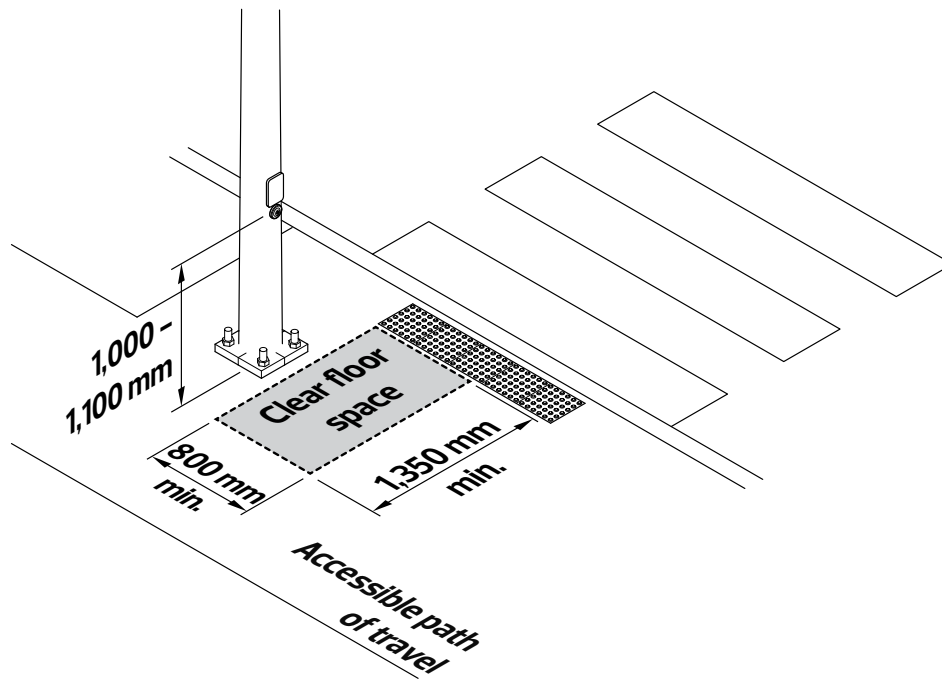
**Note:** Accessible pedestrian signals provide non-visual information about crossings to pedestrians with low or no vision.

6. Pedestrian actuated push buttons for conventional pedestrian signals must have a clear floor area of 800 mm by 1,350 mm in front of the push button.

Refer to figure A.2.2.1(a).

7. The push buttons must be located at a height of 1,000 mm and 1,100 mm above the ground.

Refer to figure A.2.2.1(a).



**Figure A.2.2.1(a)**  
**Accessible push button dimensions**

8. Raised or continuous crossings must provide a luminance contrasting material which clearly delineates the path of travel for pedestrians and the ramps that are used by vehicles to move through the crossing.

**Note:** Providing a luminance contrast along the edges of the raised crosswalk guides pedestrians across a street and signals the change in elevation to vehicles as they approach the crossing.

### A.2.2.2 Accessible Pedestrian Signals

Well-designed signalized intersections play a critical role in pedestrian safety, guiding individuals across roads. For people with low or no vision, the accessible pedestrian signal (APS) acts as both a clear confirmation of traffic flow and a crucial directional indicator, while also communicating when it is safe to initiate a crossing.

1. Install accessible pedestrian signal push buttons in standardized and consistent locations at all crossings.

**Note:** Consistent placement increases predictability and enhances the ability of people with low or no vision to easily and reliably locate the push buttons.

2. Accessible pedestrian signals must either be automatically activated or if manual activation is required, by a single press or hold of the push button.

**Note:** A single press removes the need for pressing and holding the activation button.

**Best practice:** When pedestrian signals are activated, the corresponding audible and tactile indicators of the accessible pedestrian signal are simultaneously activated.

3. Instructions such as "Hold for audible signal" must be in tactile lettering and have Braille.

**Note:** Instructions are typically displayed visually on the pushbutton or pole. Having tactile lettering and Braille helps a person with low or no vision, who relies on accessible pedestrian signals, to read these instructions. In addition, complex activation sequences introduce barriers and confusion.

4. Accessible pedestrian signal push buttons must have a tactile arrow that is aligned with the direction of the pedestrian crossing.

**Note:** This helps pedestrians, especially those with low or no vision, to locate the crossing and align themselves correctly with the crossing direction.

5. The ground surface directly in front of the accessible pedestrian signal push button must be level, stable, firm and slip-resistant. This area should extend a minimum of 300 mm outwards from the base of the pole on which the signal push button is located.

**Note:** This clear level space may be adjacent to or part of the pedestrian sidewalk. This ensures pedestrians have a safe and level surface to stand or position their mobility device when pushing the button. Push button poles must not be located on curb ramps.

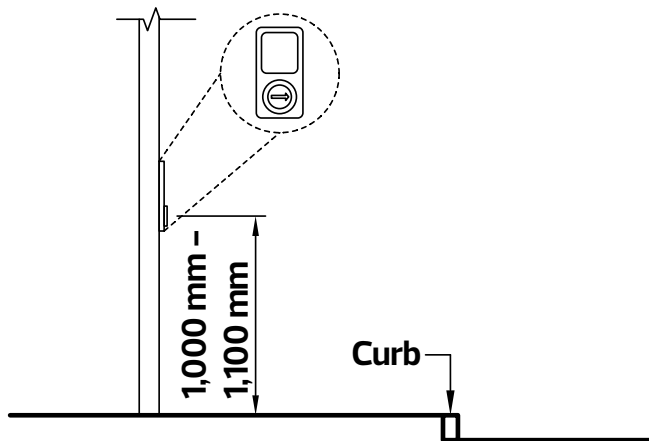
6. If an accessible pedestrian signal pole has a mounting base that is not flush with the adjacent ground surface, the base must not protrude more than 100 mm into the clear space required for a person to reach and operate the push button.

**Note:** Excessive protrusion of the mounting base creates an obstruction that can prevent individuals, especially those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids, from getting close enough to the push button to activate it.

**Best practice:** Mounting base of pole is at the same level as the adjacent ground surface.

7. Accessible pedestrian signal push buttons must be located:
  - a. along an accessible path of travel
  - b. at a height of 1,000 mm – 1,100 mm above the ground.

Refer to figure A.2.2.2(a).



**Figure A.2.2.2(a)**  
Push button mounting height

8. If an accessible pedestrian signal push button cannot be installed on the primary traffic signal pole, a separate shorter pole must be installed to locate the button.
 

**Note:** This is to ensure that the push buttons are easy to find and located as close to the pedestrian waiting area as possible.
9. Push buttons must have:
  - a. the ability to be activated using a closed fist and any part of the arm or hand
  - b. luminance contrast with adjacent surfaces
10. Accessible pedestrian signals must give sensory feedback to the user upon activation. This means that when the push button is pressed, the system should clearly indicate via a sound, light, or vibration that the button press has been successfully registered.
 

**Note:** Without sensory feedback, pedestrians, especially someone with low or no vision, wouldn't know if their button press registered. This is crucial for individuals who are DeafBlind or in extremely noisy environments.
11. The sound cue must be clearly audible above the ambient noise of the signalized intersection area.
12. One audible sound unit must be installed at each end of a crosswalk which sounds for the full duration of the walk.

13. Accessible pedestrian signal buttons must continually emit a slow, intermittent locator tone that is distinct from the primary 'Walk' signal.

**Note:** This unique sound serves as an auditory beacon, guiding people with low or no vision to the location of the crosswalk and the specific push button. It also helps them identify the pole's location on the opposite side of the street, assisting with alignment and orientation during their crossing.

### A.2.2.3 Curb ramps

1. Curb ramps must be installed wherever an exterior accessible path of travel encounters a curb, such as a roadway.

**Note:** Curb ramps provide a smooth access across a roadway, and are an essential connection and transitional point between sidewalks and roadways.

2. Curb ramps at intersections must be aligned to be across from each other to ensure a direct pedestrian path of travel.

Refer to figure A.2.2.3(a).

**Note:** This ensures a clear, straight and predictable path of travel across a roadway. If curb ramps are misaligned, people may be incorrectly directed into the middle of traffic.

3. Curb ramps must be aligned with crosswalks.
4. Curb ramps must include luminance contrasting Tactile Walking Surface Indicators in high pedestrian volume areas. Refer to A.2.2.4 Tactile Walking Surface Indicators for detailed requirements and Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards for more information on locations.
5. At intersections, a minimum of 1,500 mm by 1,500 mm level surface must be maintained on the sidewalk behind the curb ramps.

Refer to figure A.2.2.3(a).

**Note:** 1,500 mm x 1,500 mm allows adequate space for a wheelchair user to wait for foot traffic to clear, before entering the curb ramp.

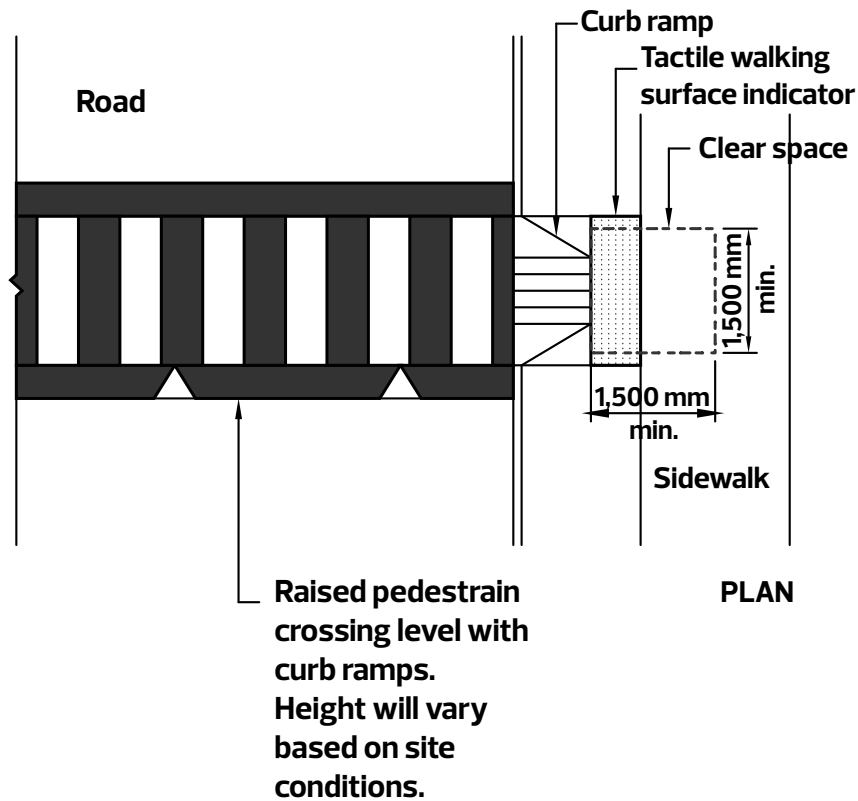


Figure A.2.2.3(a)  
Raised pedestrian crossing plan

6. Drainage must be designed to prevent water and snow accumulation at the bottom of curb ramps. Ensure catch basins are not located in front of curb ramps.

**Note:** Having a location for water to drain adjacent to a curb ramp is helpful to clear snow and water from the walking path. However, catch basins themselves can be challenging to navigate because they can have grate openings that can catch wheels or cane tips. Water can accumulate at these locations potentially making curb ramps inaccessible to many users.

## A.2.2.4 Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSIs)

(Source: [Safety Codes Council – Barrier-Free Design Guide – Fifth Edition – Summer 2017](#) and [Clearing our Path Version 2.0: Creating accessible environments for people impacted by blindness](#))

Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSIs), also known as detectable warning surfaces or tactile attention indicators, are used to communicate potential hazards to pedestrians through both visual cues and distinct textures felt underfoot or with a cane. Selection criteria for Tactile Walking Surface Indicators should include an assessment of potential wear, particularly in high traffic areas, or in exterior applications where snow and ice clearing equipment is used.

There are two types of Tactile Walking Surface Indicators:

- Attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicators
- Guidance Tactile Walking Surface Indicators

### A.2.2.4.1 Attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicators

(Source: [Clearing our Path Version 2.0](#))

Attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicators, also known as warning TWSIs, call attention to potential hazards such as a change in elevation, vehicular traffic area, train tracks, etc.

1. Attention TWSI must have a high luminance contrast with the adjacent ground surface.

**Best practice:** Use a consistent colour for TWSIs throughout the city to provide a predictable and recognizable safety cue for users.

**Note:** Refer to Glossary for detailed information on luminance contrast.

2. Attention TWSIs must have the following specifications:
  - a. Circular, flat-topped, truncated domes or cones arranged in a square pattern.  
Refer to figure A.2.2.4.1(a)
  - b. The height of the flat-topped domes or cones must be 4 mm to 5 mm.  
Refer to figure A.2.2.4.1(b).

**Note:** In interior environments with exceptionally smooth surfaces, such as polished concrete or terrazzo, the minimum height of 4 mm is preferred.

- c. The diameter of the top of the flat-topped domes or cones must be between 12 mm and 25 mm.

Refer to figure A.2.2.4.1(b).

- d. The diameter of the lower base of the flat-topped domes or cones should be  $10 \pm 1$  mm more than the diameter of the top.

Refer to figure A.2.2.4.1(b).

**Note:** A top diameter of 12 mm is the optimal size of domes or cones for people with low or no vision to detect and distinguish through the soles of their footwear.

- e. Adjust the spacing between adjacent flat-topped domes or cones depending on their size.

**Note:** Larger truncated domes require wider spacing to maintain the grid pattern necessary for tactile detection. Refer to [Clearing Our Path: Version 2.0](#) for a table showing the spacing between domes/cones based on their top diameter.

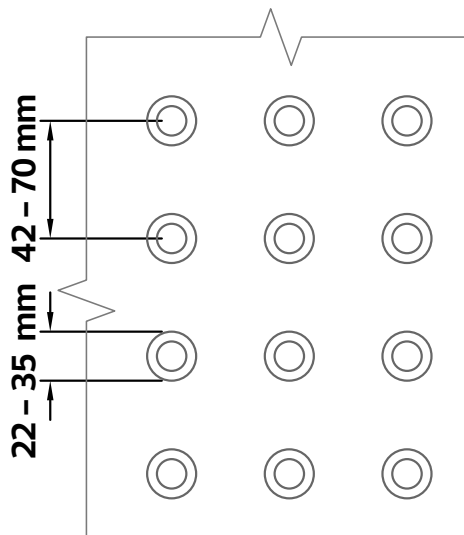


Figure A.2.2.4.1(a)  
Truncated dome spacing and pattern

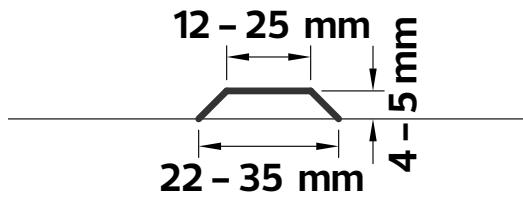


Figure A.2.2.4.1(b)  
Truncated dome dimensions

### A.2.2.4.2 Guidance Tactile Walking Surface Indicators

(Source: [Clearing our Path Version 2.0](#))

Guidance TWSIs, also known as wayfinding TWSIs, provide information about the direction of travel by guiding a person on a designated path of travel. They consist of a pattern of parallel, flat-topped, elongated bars that extend in the direction of travel. Guidance TWSIs are appropriate at transit stops, LRT stations, pedestrian crossings, large open spaces such as public squares and interior spaces such as sports arenas, stadiums, etc.



Image A.2.2.4.2(a)  
Guidance Tactile Walking Surface Indicator

**Best practice:** Install guidance TWSIs as a network and create a continued path of travel to guide a person from beginning to the end.

**Note:** An excessive number of guidance TWSIs can create confusion. Guidance TWSI layout that is as continuous as possible is the easiest to follow.

1. Guidance TWSIs must have a high luminance contrast with the surrounding surface to be easily detectable.

**Best practice:** Maintain a consistent color for all Guidance TWSIs across the city. Using a uniform color ensures that the tactile path is predictable and recognizable as a navigational cue for users.

2. Guidance TWSIs must have the following specifications:
  - a. 250 mm to 300 mm width, if used to define a path of travel.
  - b. 600 mm to 650 mm width, if used to indicate an amenity or diverging route.
  - c. Continuous clear floor area of minimum 600 mm on both sides.
  - d. 600 mm to 750 mm clearance between the end of the TWSI and a destination or structural feature such as wall.

Refer to figure A.2.2.4.2(a).

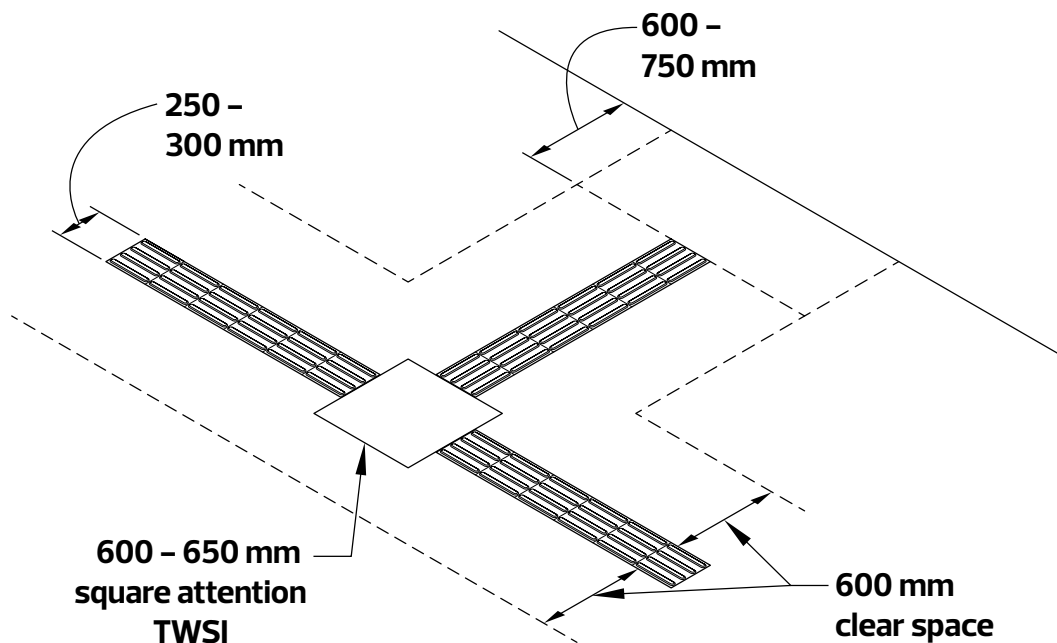


Figure A.2.2.4.2(a)  
Guidance TWSI configuration

- e. The height of the bars must be 4 mm to 5 mm.  
Refer to figure A.2.2.4.2(b).
- f. Top width of the flat-topped elongated bars between 17 mm and 30 mm.  
Refer to figure A.2.2.4.2(b).
- g. Base width of the bars must be  $10 \pm 1$  mm wider than the top.  
Refer to figure A.2.2.4.2(b).

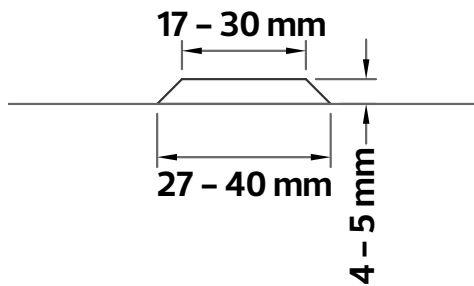


Figure A.2.2.4.2(b)  
Guidance TWSI bar dimensions

- h. The top length of the bars must be a minimum of 270 mm.  
Refer to figure A.2.2.4.2(c).

**Note:** If drainage is a concern, provide a space of 10 mm – 30 mm at the end of the bars.

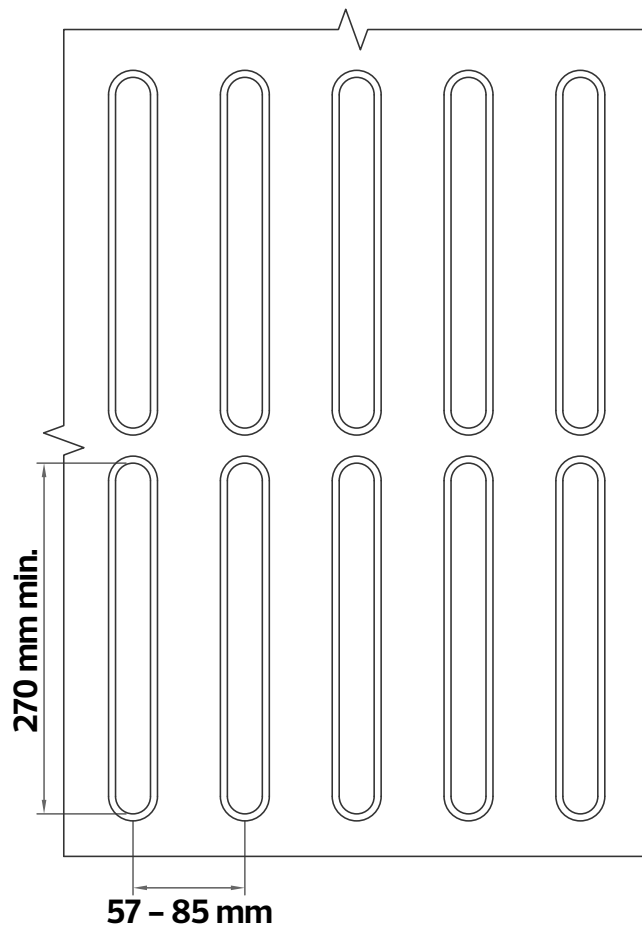


Figure A.2.2.4.2(c)  
Guidance TWSI bar pattern and dimensions

- i. Adjust the spacing between adjacent flat-topped bars depending on the size of the bars.

**Note:** Wider tactile bars need greater spacing to ensure the pattern remains distinct for underfoot and cane detection. Refer to [Clearing Our Path: Version 2.0](#) for a table showing the spacing between flat-topped bars based on the top width of the bars.

3. Install attention TWSIs at turns and decision points along a tactile guidance path. These must be configured as square areas measuring between 600 mm and 650 mm on each side.

Refer to figure A.2.2.4.2(a).

4. Guidance Tactile Walking Surface Indicators on road surfaces at pedestrian crossings must:
  - a. be configured as a straight path
  - b. be 250 – 300 mm wide
  - c. have luminance contrast with adjacent road surfaces
  - d. be configured to mitigate damage from snow plowing

## A.2.3 Vertical Circulation

While the requirements in this subsection apply to all exterior vertical circulation elements, they serve as best practices for unique or challenging installations such as wooden staircases within the river valley.

### A.2.3.1 Stairs

This subsection applies to exterior stairs that are exposed to the elements including exterior stairs in transit facilities.

1. Exterior stairs must be designed to be free of water, ice and snow accumulations.

**Note:** For concrete stairs, this can be achieved through the installation of appropriate drainage systems. Where connected to a facility, installation of heating beneath the stair surface may be an option.

2. Stairs must have uniform riser heights and tread depths so that a person can maintain a consistent climbing rhythm.

**Note:** Stairways that require a person to step unevenly can be confusing and sometimes dangerous, especially for people with low or no vision and people who have low mobility or balance.

3. Avoid decorative elements on stairs that interfere with the uniformity and predictability of the stairs. Examples of decorative elements include double height steps, integrated seating or planters.

**Note:** A key aspect for safe use of stairs is the rhythm based on the consistent height and depth of the first few steps. Any deviation from this pattern leads to a misstep and loss of balance. In addition, decorative elements can also create a safety hazard for people with low or no vision.

4. Surfaces of landings and treads must have a slip-resistant finish. Examples include concrete and rough lumber.
5. Steps for exterior stairs must have a run of not less than 280 mm between successive steps.

Refer to figure A.2.3.1(a).

**Note:** Run is the horizontal distance between two adjacent tread nosings on a stair.

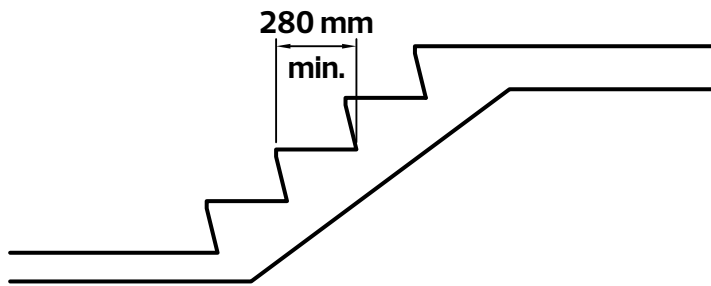


Figure A.2.3.1(a)  
Minimum stair tread depth

6. Steps for exterior stairs must have a rise between successive treads not less than 125 mm and not more than 180 mm.
7. Install an attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicator at the top of exterior concrete stairs that has luminance contrast with adjacent surface finish.

Refer to figure A.2.3.1(b).

**Note:** A tactile attention indicator surface that is detectable under foot or by a long white cane is necessary to caution people that they are approaching the onset of descending stairs.

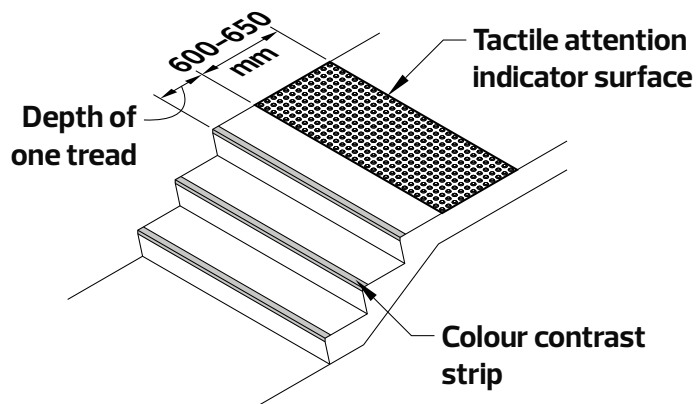


Figure A.2.3.1(b)  
Attention TWSI at stairs

8. Provide a luminance and texture contrasting strip at leading edges of treads of exterior concrete stairs.

**Note:** Luminance contrast ensures that the tread edge is clearly visible. Light-coloured strips used on dark treads are preferable to light-coloured treads used on dark strips. People with low vision do not easily notice dark strips on nosings.

9. Exterior concrete stair nosings must not project more than 38 mm beyond the riser. Where a nosing projects, the underside must be sloped towards the riser at an angle of at least 60 degrees from the horizontal.

(Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))

Refer to figure A.2.3.1(c).

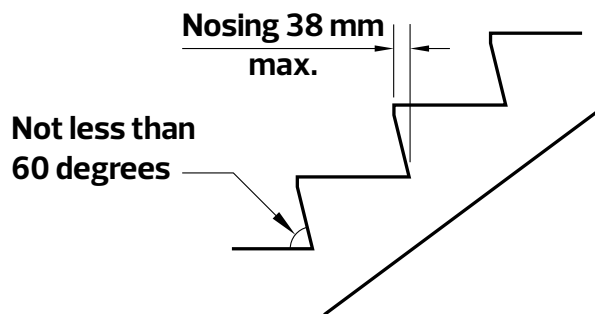


Figure A.2.3.1(c)  
Nosing dimension and riser angles

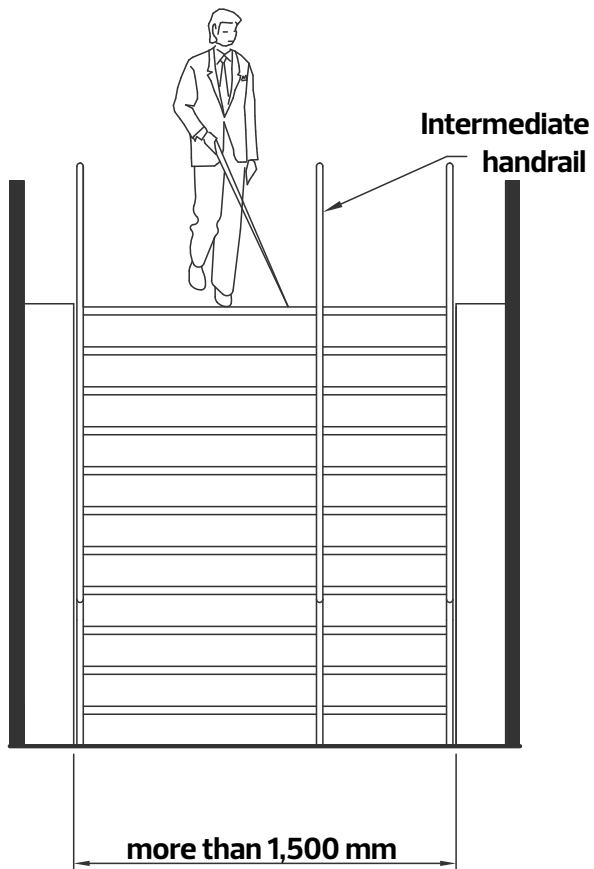
10. Exterior stairs must have graspable handrails on both sides.

**Note:** Handrails are necessary in all weather conditions for people with low mobility and those with low or no vision. Providing handrails on both sides of a stair ensures that a person can use their dominant or stronger side for support, whether going up or down the stairs.

11. At least one handrail must be continuous throughout the length of a stairway including at landings.
12. Provide intermediate handrails for exterior non-wooden stairs that are wider than 1,500 mm. Locate the intermediate handrails such that a handrail is reachable within 750 mm from any point on the stair surface.

Refer to figure A.2.3.1(d).

**Note:** Intermediate handrails on wide exterior stairs ensure that a support is available within a 750 mm functional reach, preventing falls. This is especially critical in outdoor settings where rain, snow, and ice create slippery conditions.



**Figure A.2.3.1(d)**  
**Stairway dimension for intermediate handrail**

- 13.** For stairs with more than 2 flights, best practice is to include a bench with a backrest on a midpoint landing or at the top of the stairs.

**Note:** Seating gives an opportunity for a person to rest which is important for someone who finds walking up or down stairs physically challenging (e.g. people with respiratory or cardiovascular issues, pain-related disabilities, etc.)



**Image A.2.3.1(a)**  
**Bench on exterior stair landing**

### A.2.3.2 Ramps

Where a ramp provides the required accessible path of travel, providing an adjacent set of stairs is recommended. Some people with low mobility may find stairs safer or more efficient than a ramp, especially in adverse weather. However, if space only allows for one option, a ramp must be prioritized to ensure the path is accessible to everyone.

The requirements in this subsection apply to exterior ramps including exterior ramps leading to transit stops or facilities.

1. Exterior ramps must be slip-resistant and designed to facilitate water drainage and snow removal. Where applicable, exterior ramps should be sheltered from rain, snow and ice. Concrete ramps adjacent to a facility may consider utilizing subsurface heating systems to achieve this.

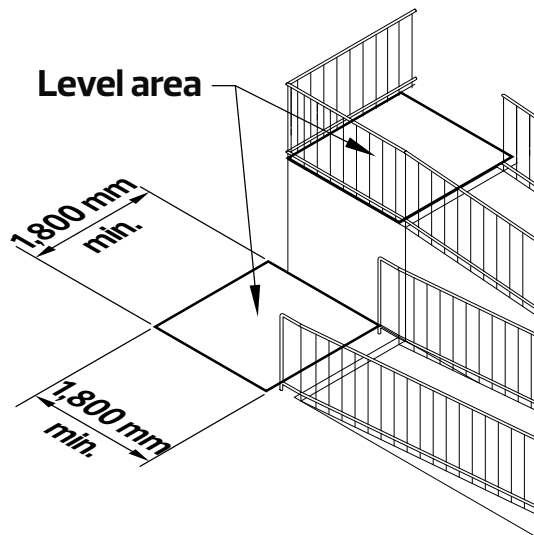
**Note:** To mitigate the hazard of ramps becoming slippery from snow, ice or water, incorporate design elements that reduce these conditions. Suitable strategies include using non-slip materials, selecting a porous ramp surface material to minimize snow and ice accumulation, or positioning the ramp to shield it from the elements.

2. Ramps must have a non-reflective surface finish to avoid glare.
3. Exterior ramps must have a uniform slope along their length, that is, the slope must remain constant along the length of individual ramp segments.
4. Best practice is to have a running slope of 1:15 (6.7%) for ramps. In any case, the slope must not be steeper than 1:12 (8.33%).

**Note:** Running slope is the average change in elevation parallel to the path of travel. Ramps steeper than 1:15 increases the physical effort required by people using manual wheelchairs to use the ramp. While motorized wheelchairs and scooters handle inclines more easily, steeper slopes can be a safety risk when going down the ramp, particularly in wet or icy conditions when traction is reduced.

5. The cross slope of an exterior ramp must not exceed 1:50 (2%).
6. Provide a level area of not less than 1,800 mm by 1,800 mm at the top and bottom of a ramp.

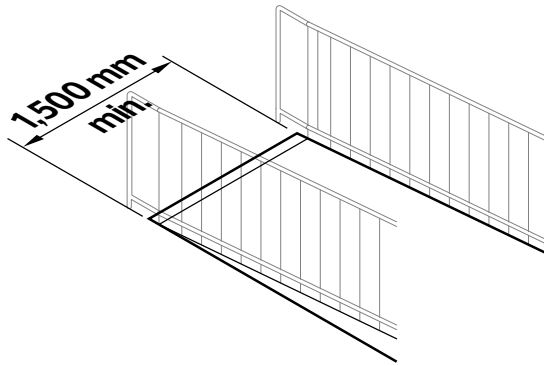
Refer to figure A.2.3.2(a).



**Figure A.2.3.2(a)**  
**Minimum level area for ramps**

7. Minimum clear width of an exterior ramp at any point must not be less than 1,500 mm.

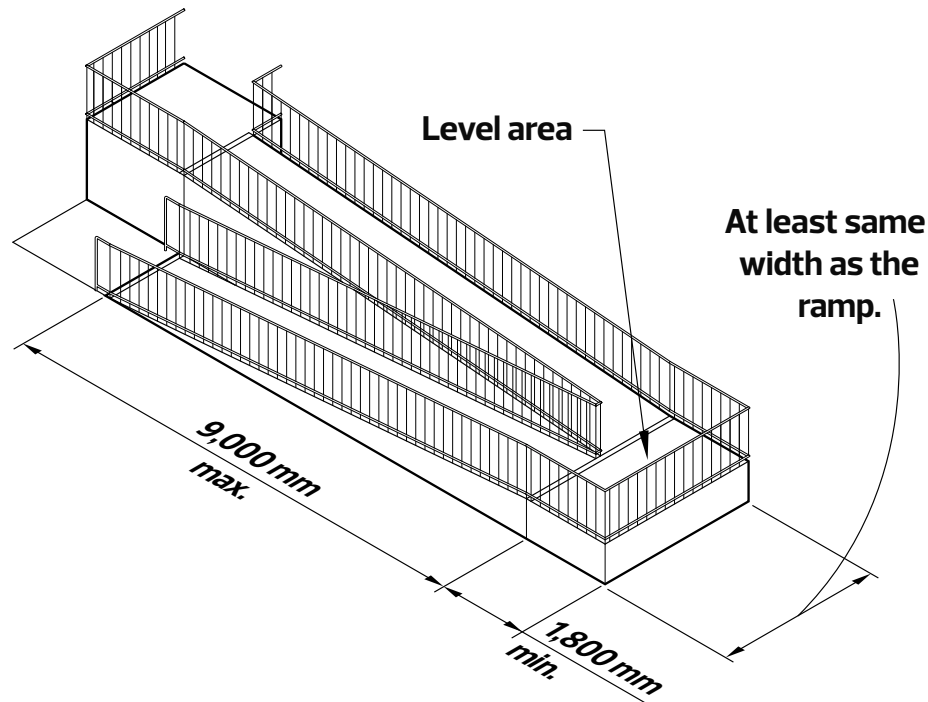
Refer to figure A.2.3.2(b).



**Figure A.2.3.2(b)**  
**Minimum exterior ramp width**

8. Provide a level area of not less than 1,500 mm long and at least the same width as the ramp:
  - a. at intervals not more than 9,000 mm along its length
  - b. where a ramp makes a 90 degree turn or less
9. Provide a level landing of not less than 1,800 mm long and at least the same width as the ramp where a ramp changes direction by more than 90 degrees.

Refer to figure A.2.3.2(c).



**Figure A.2.3.2(c)**  
**Ramp length and landing dimensions**

**10.** Exterior ramps must have handrails on both sides.

Refer to subsection A.2.3.4 Handrails for more information.

**Note:** Handrails are necessary in all weather conditions for people with low mobility and those with low or no vision. Providing handrails on both sides of a ramp also ensures that a person can use their dominant or stronger side for support, whether going up or down the ramp.

**11.** At least one handrail must be continuous throughout the length of a ramp including at landings.

**12.** Ramps and landings that are not adjacent to a wall must have edge protection consisting of one of the following:

- a. A curb not less than 75 mm high, or
- b. A raised barrier or rail located not more than 100 mm from the ramp or landing surface

Refer to figure A.2.3.2(d)

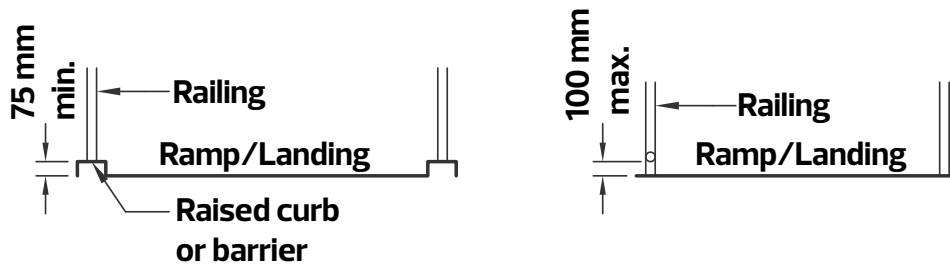


Figure A.2.3.2(d)  
Ramp and landing edge protection

13. Ramp and landing edge protection must align with the handrail and include design features to facilitate winter maintenance like snow removal or water run-off.

**Note:** Ramp and landing edge protection is intended to prevent wheels or walking aids from moving or falling off the side of the ramp surface.

14. Where the landing meets a slope change, provide a luminance contrasting and slip-resistant strip, 100 mm wide, across the entire width of the ramp.

Refer to figure A.2.3.2(e).

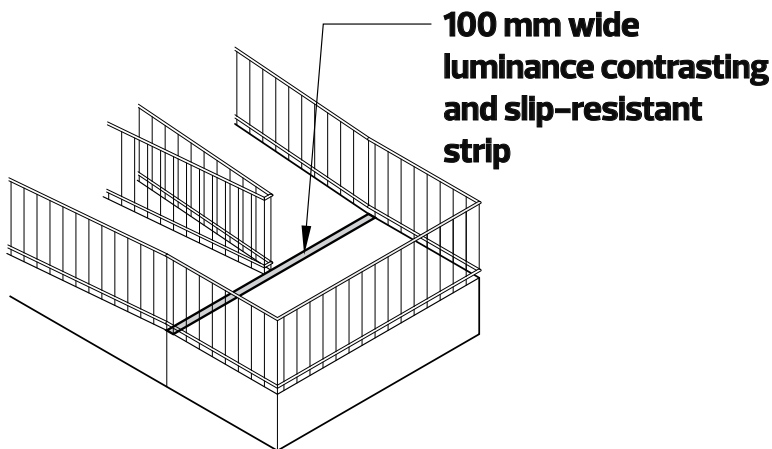


Figure A.2.3.2(e)  
Luminance contrasting strip at ramp

### A.2.3.3 Cycle Wheel Ramps

Cycle wheel ramps are narrow, sloped channels or tracks installed parallel to a set of stairs, designed to allow a person to easily push their bicycle up or down the steps without having to lift and carry the bike. While they do provide many benefits to cyclists, if not properly designed, they could potentially be dangerous to people with disabilities or seniors.

1. Consider the use of cycle wheel ramps for exterior locations to link shared pathways and trails, and interior locations within a building or facility such as an LRT station or interchange. Some options for cycle ramps are shown in figures A.2.3.3(a)(i) and (ii).

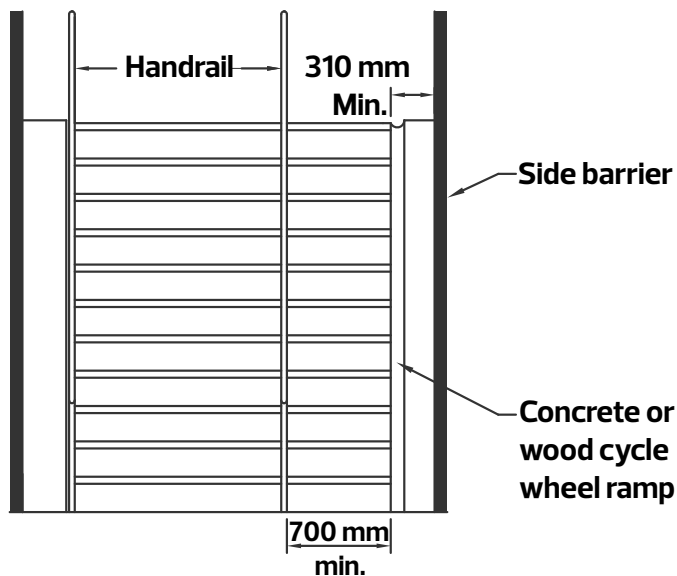


Figure A.2.3.3(a)(i)  
Cycle wheel ramp dimensions

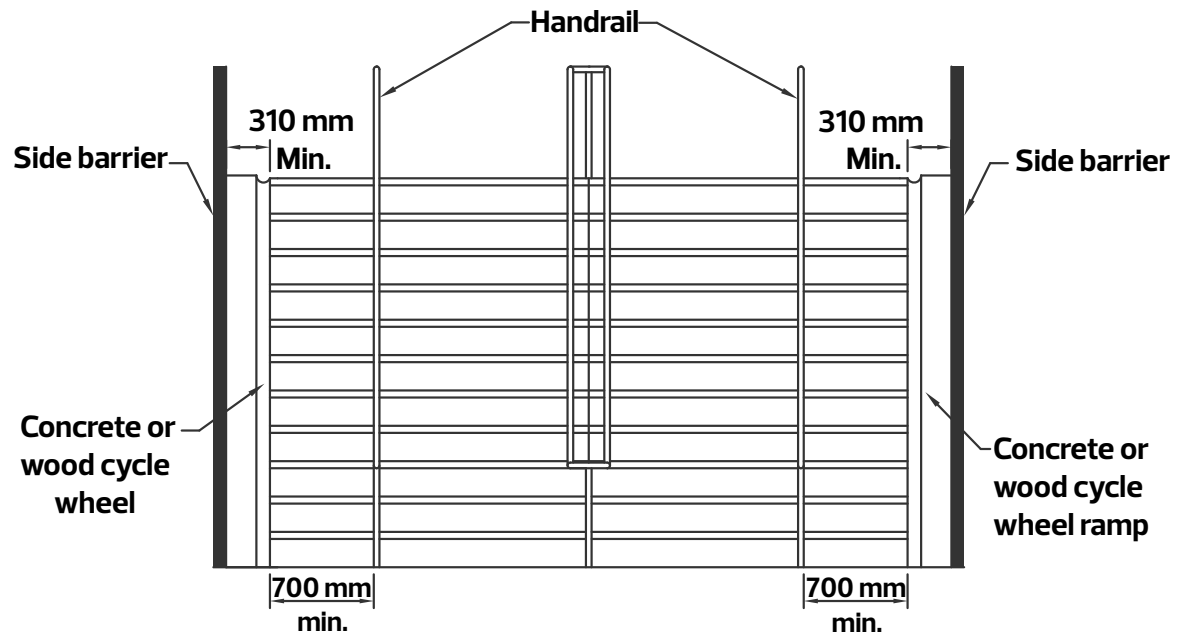


Figure A.2.3.3(a)(ii)  
Cycle wheel ramp dimensions

2. Where cycle wheel ramps are provided, they must be placed against the wall or barrier on at least one side, away from the centre of the stairs so as not to impede pedestrian route along the stairs.
3. If the cycle wheel ramps are placed adjacent to the handrail, ensure:
  - a. the handrail's horizontal extensions are maintained
  - b. the handrails are unobstructed

**Note:** A handrail extension is the required length of the handrail that continues horizontally beyond the top and bottom of a set of stairs. This is to ensure the cycle wheel ramps do not interfere with a person's ability to grasp and continuously use the required handrail.

4. Surface material of the cycle wheel ramps must provide colour, tonal or texture contrast with the stair treads they are mounted on.
5. The surface of the wheel ramps must be firm and slip-resistant.

**Note:** This ensures they do not become a slip hazard for someone who accidentally steps on them.

### A.2.3.4 Handrails

The requirements in this subsection apply to handrails installed in exterior settings including exterior stairs and ramps.

1. Handrails must be continuously graspable along their entire length and free of any sharp or abrasive elements.

**Note:** Sharp or abrasive elements may cause injury when a user slides their hand along the handrail for continuous balance and safety. Splinters and rust are an on-going safety hazard and should be mitigated through good material selection and maintenance.

2. Handrails must have:
  - a. a circular cross section with an outside diameter not less than 30 mm and not more than 50 mm, or
  - b. or a non-circular cross section with a perimeter not less than 100 mm and not more than 160 mm and whose largest cross-sectional dimension is not more than 57 mm.

Refer to figures A.2.3.4(a)(i) and (ii)

**Note:** The size ensures that users can comfortably and securely grasp the handrail for support and stability. Sharp elements may cause injury when a user slides their hand along the handrail for continuous balance and safety. Non-circular handrails can be of any shape including elliptical, rectangular, or square.

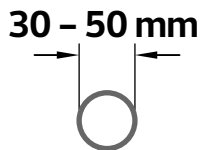


Figure A.2.3.4(a)(i)  
Circular handrail diameter

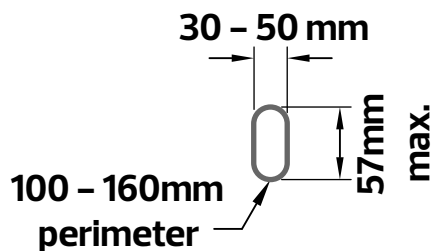
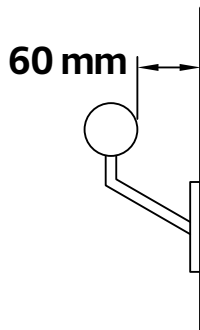


Figure A.2.3.4(a)(ii)  
Non-circular handrail dimensions

3. Handrails must have a clear space of 60 mm between the handrail and a wall or support structure, and underneath the handrail.

Refer to figure A.2.3.4(b).

**Note:** Structural connection points or areas where the handrail meets a wall or support may form pinch points. Providing enough clear space around the graspable portion of a handrail ensures the user is not at risk of being scraped along any surfaces while grasping and sliding their hand along the handrail.

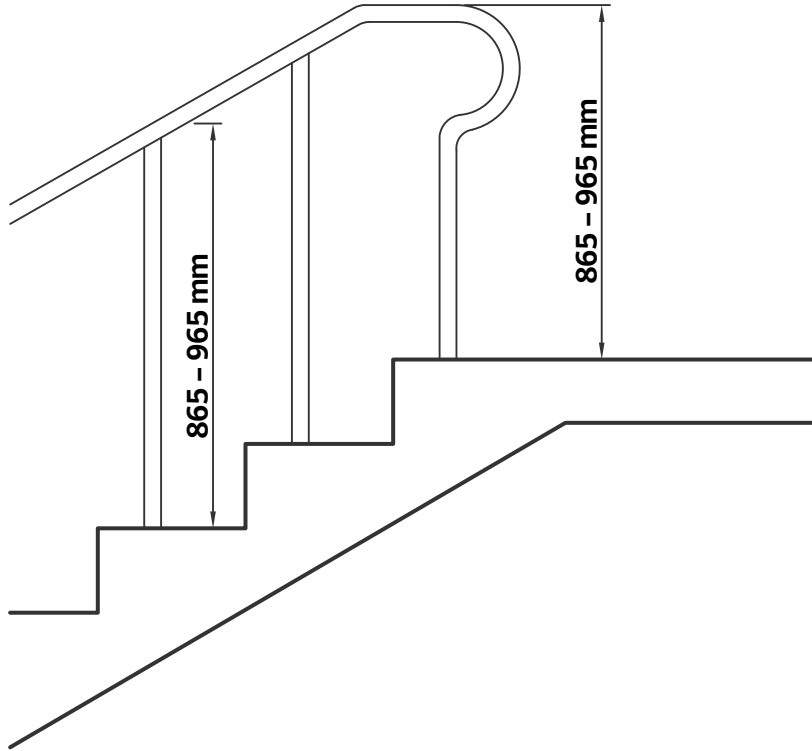


**Figure A.2.3.4(b)**  
**Handrail clearance**

4. Handrails must be at a height between 865 mm and 965 mm from the stair or ramp surface to the top of the handrail.

Refer to figure A.2.3.4(c).

**Note:** Height of the handrails is measured vertically from the top of the handrail to a straight line drawn tangent to the tread nosings of the stair; or the surface of the ramp.



**Figure A.2.3.4(c)**  
**Handrail height**

5. Handrails must extend horizontally at least 300 mm beyond the top and bottom of the stairway or ramp.
6. Handrails should terminate at the ground, wall or post in a manner that will not restrict pedestrian travel or create a hazard.

7. Guardrails provided at viewing platforms, must have additional handrails between 865 mm and 965 mm in height from the ground to the top of the handrail. Handrails provide graspable support for people while they are standing along the viewing platform.

Refer to figure A.2.3.4(d).

**Note:** Handrail placement should not obstruct sightlines for people using wheelchairs while they are at the viewing platform.

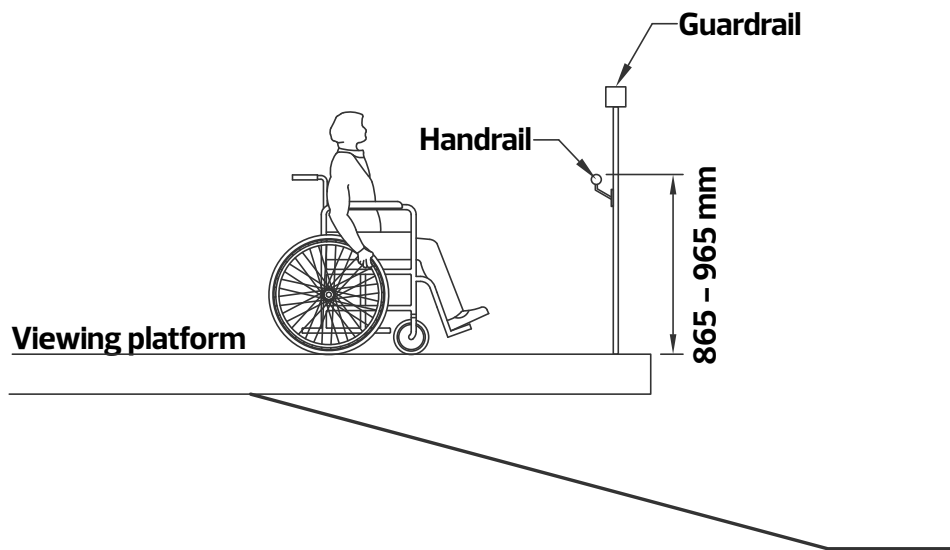


Figure A.2.3.4(d)  
Viewing platform handrail height

## A.3 Signage and Wayfinding

Wayfinding signs help people navigate independently to their desired destination. They provide useful information that can be processed using cognitive and perceptual abilities. Wayfinding information generally falls into four types: orientation, direction, identification and general information.

People with low or no vision may use any combination of the following design elements for wayfinding:

- Logical and intuitive layout that is easy to understand and follow
- Signage that include tactile elements, Braille and audible information
- Textural contrasts and tactile cues that can be felt by touch
- Luminance contrast to help distinguish surfaces and features
- Well-designed lighting that is well-placed and sufficient to illuminate critical features and reduce glare

This section includes requirements that are in addition to the City of Edmonton guidelines below. These documents are not yet publicly available. External consultants and contractors can request access from the City Project Manager.

- Parks & Open Spaces Signage Guidelines
- Active Transportation Network Wayfinding Design Guide

## A.3.1 General Requirements

1. Signs intended for close-up viewing and reading must be connected to an accessible path of travel.



**Image A.3.1(a)**  
**Exterior directional sign**

2. Wayfinding or interpretive signs must be oriented vertically or tilted to be easily read by people who use wheelchairs.
3. Where lighting is present, locate light standards in close proximity to signage to provide a minimum lighting level of 200 lux.
4. Include pictograms in addition to text to help describe the content of the signage.
5. Pictograms and symbols on a sign must have luminance contrast with their background.
6. For detailed specifications on braille and raised print, refer to the [Accessible Signage Guidelines](#) published by Braille Literacy Canada.

## A.3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Signs

1. Signs must be available in parks and open spaces to indicate location of:
  - a. accessible paths of travel
  - b. accessible amenities such as washrooms and picnic tables
  - c. stairs or other barriers to mobility
  - d. rest areas

**Best practice:** Provide informational signs showing typical and maximum grade of paths of travel in park and open spaces.

2. Provide directional signage, tactile maps or digital information boards as appropriate to the context & volume of users. Ensure information about destinations, active mode connections, transit hubs, etc. outside of the park are included for reference and orientation.
3. Information signs must be placed at all trail entrances and at any significant change in the trail conditions.
4. Clear signage must be provided to indicate accessible and designated priority seating.

### A.3.3 Shared Pathway Signs

1. Shared pathways must have vertical signs placed at trailheads and decision points along the pathway that includes etiquette and directional signage.

**Note:** Decision point is a location where someone has to make a choice about which direction to go, such as a path junction or an intersection. Placing wayfinding information such as signs in these locations makes navigation intuitive and efficient for users.

2. Provide etiquette signage to guide bicycle traffic and prioritize pedestrian safety on shared pathways.
3. Where shared pathways intersect with dog off-leash areas, etiquette signage must instruct cyclists to reduce speed and yield to both pets and pedestrians.
4. Provide “slow down” or “reduce speed” signage, where shared pathways adjoin or intersect playgrounds, in high-traffic pedestrian areas, where direction changes and where visibility of pedestrians along the pathway is limited.
5. Provide directional signage to indicate the direction of travel, especially in areas with complex layouts, one-way sections or where users need to be guided through an intersection.



Image A.3.3(a)  
Shared pathway directional sign

**Best practice:** Use solid and dashed yellow centrelines to direct traffic flow and encourage users to keep to the right.

**Note:** Solid yellow lines are used in areas with limited sightlines to indicate no passing. The solid line is particularly important for pedestrian safety, as it prevents cyclists from passing in blind spots or on sharp corners, thus avoiding unexpected encounters. Dashed yellow lines are used on straight sections to indicate that passing is permitted when safe.



Image A.3.3(b)  
Shared pathway centreline

## A.4 Edmonton Transit Service

Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) provides public transportation in the City using buses and trains. The public transportation network in Edmonton includes transit access points such as bus stops and shelters, transit stations, Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations and connectivity to these access points.



**Image A.4(a)**  
**A transit centre**

This section includes requirements for pedestrian connectivity, bus stops, bus shelters and loading areas, and must be used alongside the following City of Edmonton documents:

- [High Floor LRT Design Guidelines](#)
- [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards](#)
- [Transit Centre Design Guide](#)

## A.4.1 Pedestrian Connectivity

The requirements in this section are intended to ensure accessible pedestrian connections to transit service access points such as bus stops, transit centres and LRT stations.

1. All transit service access points such as bus stops, transit centres or LRT stations, must have a minimum of one accessible pedestrian connection. Accessible pedestrian connection includes:
  - a. sidewalks that lead to the transit service access point from an adjacent street
  - b. curb ramps at all adjacent street crossings
  - c. audible pedestrian signals at adjacent signalized crossings
  - d. accessible path of travel from passenger drop-off zones or Park & Ride to the transit centre or LRT station

**Best practice:** Provide at least two accessible pedestrian connections to ensure direct and efficient pathways for people approaching the transit stops from multiple directions.

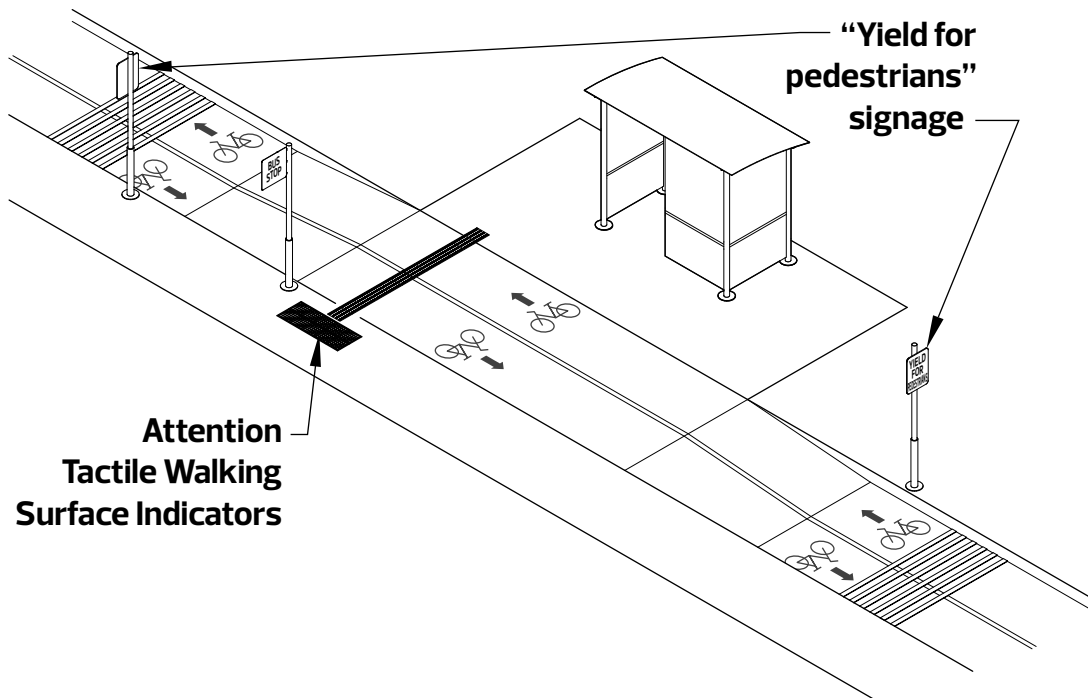
2. Accessible pedestrian connection must:
  - a. Have level, firm, stable and slip-resistant surface
  - b. be free of any obstructions or street furniture (e.g. benches, sign posts, garbage receptacles, bike racks, newspaper stands)

**Note:** Having accessible pedestrian connections ensures ability to use public transit service without encountering barriers. Especially for transit riders with low mobility, low or no vision, low balance and those with chronic conditions that cause fatigue.
3. Where a transit stop is separated from the pedestrian path by bike lanes and shared pathways, provide a level crossing with Attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicators on both ends. Signage asking cyclists to "Yield for pedestrians" must be added at these crossings.

Refer to figure A.4.1(a).

**Note:** People with low or no vision rely on the sound of traffic and audible signals to navigate street crossings. Crossing bike lanes pose a safety risk to people with low or no vision as bicycles are often difficult to hear or detect.

For more information on accommodating people with disabilities at island platform bus stops, refer to the [Transportation Association of Canada's emerging practice briefing](#).



**Figure A.4.1(a)**  
**Bus stop bike lane crossing**

4. Install Guidance Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSI) in transit centres and LRT stations to guide pedestrians along their intended direction of travel. Refer to the [Edmonton Transit Centre Tactile Guidance Design Memo](#) for more information.

**Note:** Busy transit centres and LRT stations can be difficult to navigate for transit riders with low or no vision. Having a clearly defined path helps prevent disorientation, reduces the risk of collisions and promotes independence.



**Image A.4.1(a)**  
**Guidance TWSI at transit centre**

5. Curb edges must have luminance contrast with adjacent pedestrian pathways.

**Note:** Curb edge is a vertical drop for transition between a pedestrian pathway and a street. People with low vision, poor depth perception and cognitive disabilities often struggle with subtle differences in height or depth on surfaces of a uniform colour. Visual contrast helps to clearly distinguish the boundary

between safe pedestrian paths and the street.

6. Exterior lighting must be designed to minimize glare and avoid dark areas. Avoid using uplighting fixtures inserted directly into or adjacent to the ground surface of a pedestrian path of travel.

**Note:** Heavy patterns from shadows can be visually confusing for pedestrians with low vision. Uplighting fixtures recessed in the ground creates glare that makes it difficult for people with low vision to safely navigate the walkway.

7. Pedestrian pathways at level rail crossings must:
  - a. be smooth and level across the tracks
  - b. provide visual cues (e.g. crossing lights)
  - c. have tactile cues, i.e. Attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicators, that cover the width of the crossing entrance
  - d. have auditory cues (e.g. warning bells or audible pedestrian signal)

**Note:** Smooth and level crossing avoids mobility devices from getting stuck or tipping over due to gaps or bumps between the rail and pathway surface. The availability of auditory and tactile cues ensures the crossing is safe for people with low or no vision, while the visual cues help people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.



Image A.4.1(b)  
Pedestrian path at rail crossing

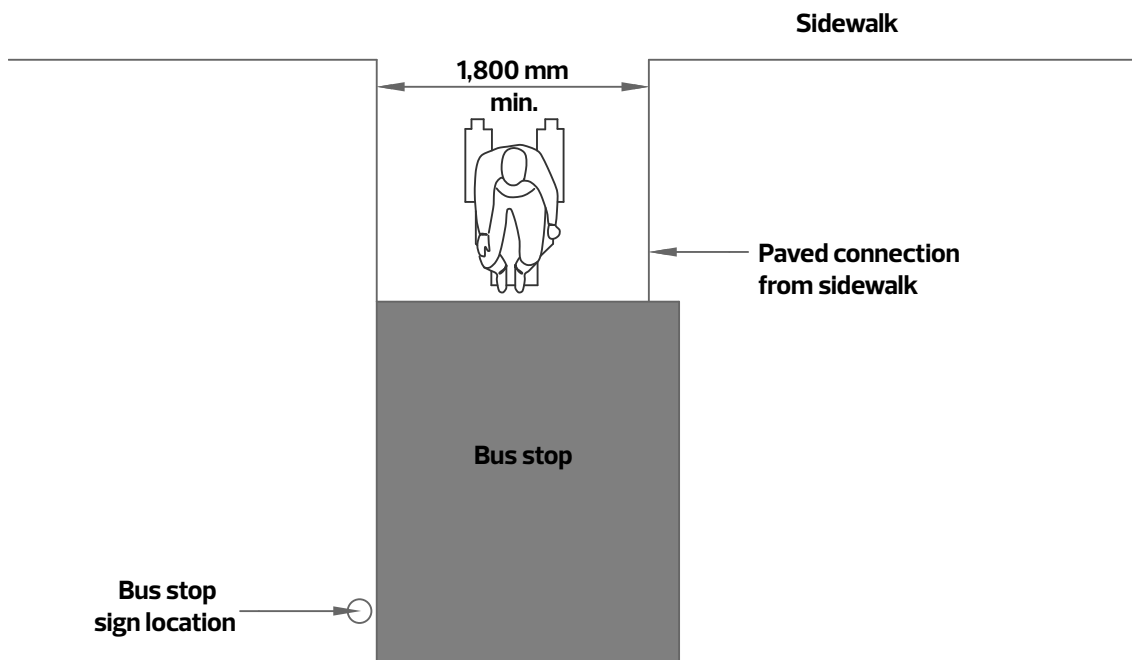
## A.4.2 Bus Stops

The requirements in this subsection apply to on-street transit bus stops including on-demand transit service.

1. All bus stops must have a level, firm, stable and slip-resistant surface with accessible hard surfaced connection to the adjacent sidewalk or pedestrian path.

**Note:** Availability of the accessible pedestrian network is the primary factor in ensuring the accessibility of a bus stop.

2. At least one paved connection from the sidewalk to the bus stop area must be provided, which meets the requirements of subsection A.2.1, Paths of Travel.



**Figure A.4.2(a)**  
Bus stop paved connection width

3. Where bus stop amenity pads are provided, the loading area must:
  - a. have a clear length of at least 2,400 mm measured perpendicular to the curb or vehicular route edge
  - b. have a clear width of at least 2,000 mm measured parallel to the vehicular route

- c. have a minimum overhead clearance of 2,050 mm to bus stop signage

Refer to figures A.4.2(b)(i) and (ii).

**Note:** A bus stop amenity pad is a concrete pad at a bus stop that provides a firm, stable and accessible surface for passengers to wait, board and descend the bus. The minimum width ensures enough space for mobility device users to access a deployed ramp to board or exit a bus.

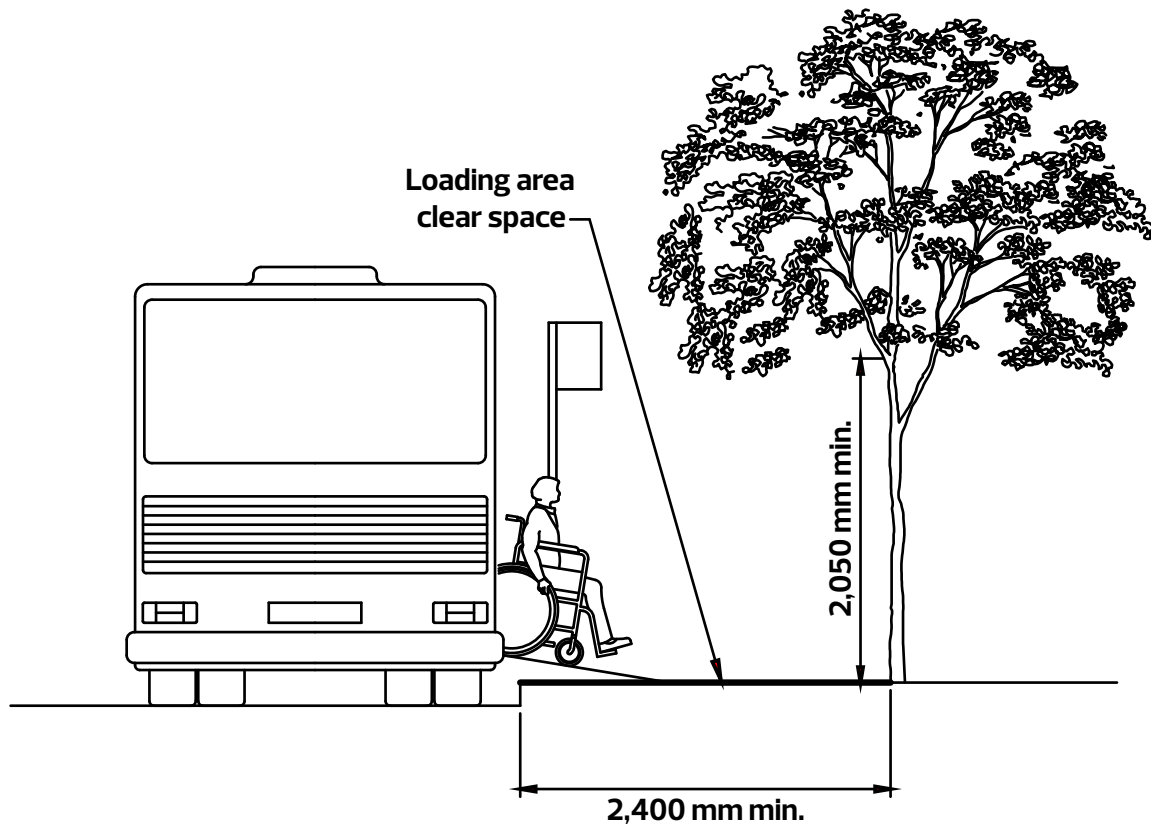
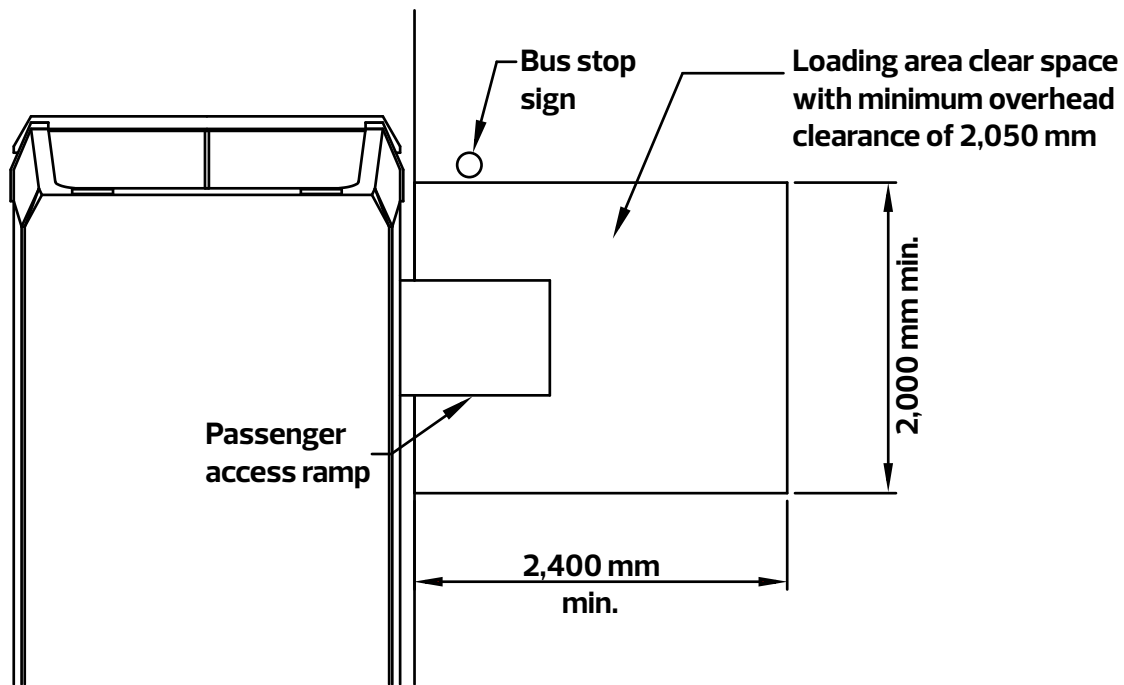


Figure A.4.2(b)(i)  
Bus loading area clear space



**Figure A.4.2(b)(ii)**  
**Bus loading area dimensions**

- All bus stop amenities including shelters, benches, garbage bins and newspaper boxes, must be located outside the accessible loading zone and circulation routes.

**Best practice:** Provide high contrast visual and tactile signage to help locate the bus stop. Where a bus shelter or bench is not present, use a high contrast colour or a unique textural indicator on the bus stop sign post to help differentiate it from similar adjacent structures.

(Source: [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#))

**Note:** It can be challenging for people impacted by blindness to locate bus stops, as identification is often largely dependent upon elevated signage. Having a pole that can be differentiated from other elements along the route makes it easier to identify the bus stop.

5. Furniture or other amenities (e.g. waste receptacles, newspaper boxes) near bus stop marker poles must be:
  - a. located so as not to obstruct the accessible path of travel to the bus stop
  - b. cane-detectable
  - c. of a visually contrasting colour

(Source: [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#))

**Note:** To be cane-detectable, a protruding object must be located with its leading edge no higher than 680 mm above the walking surface.

6. Stop identification numbers that are posted for real-time transit information must be in large-print.

**Best practice:** Provide signs with braille and raised numerals at a height that allows reading the signage through touch.

(Adapted from: [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#))

7. Benches at bus stops must:
  - a. face transit activity
  - b. not obstruct the clear path of travel along adjacent walkways
  - c. have a backrest
  - d. have a tonal contrast with surroundings to enhance visibility for riders with low vision

**Best practice:** Provide benches with both backrest and armrests.

## A.4.3 Bus Shelters

The requirements in this subsection apply to bus shelters that offer protection to transit riders from weather conditions such as snow, rain or wind.

1. Bus shelters must:
  - a. be located on a concrete pad with an even surface
  - b. have level access to the adjacent sidewalk, pathway or accessible route
  - c. have a clear unobstructed view of oncoming traffic
2. Shelters must have:
  - a. an unobstructed clear floor area of 1,500 mm x 1,500 mm outside the entrance of the shelter
  - b. clear openings at least 920 mm wide
  - c. a clear space of at least 920 mm by 1,250 mm inside the entrance of the shelter for a mobility device user to wait

Refer to figure A.4.3(a).

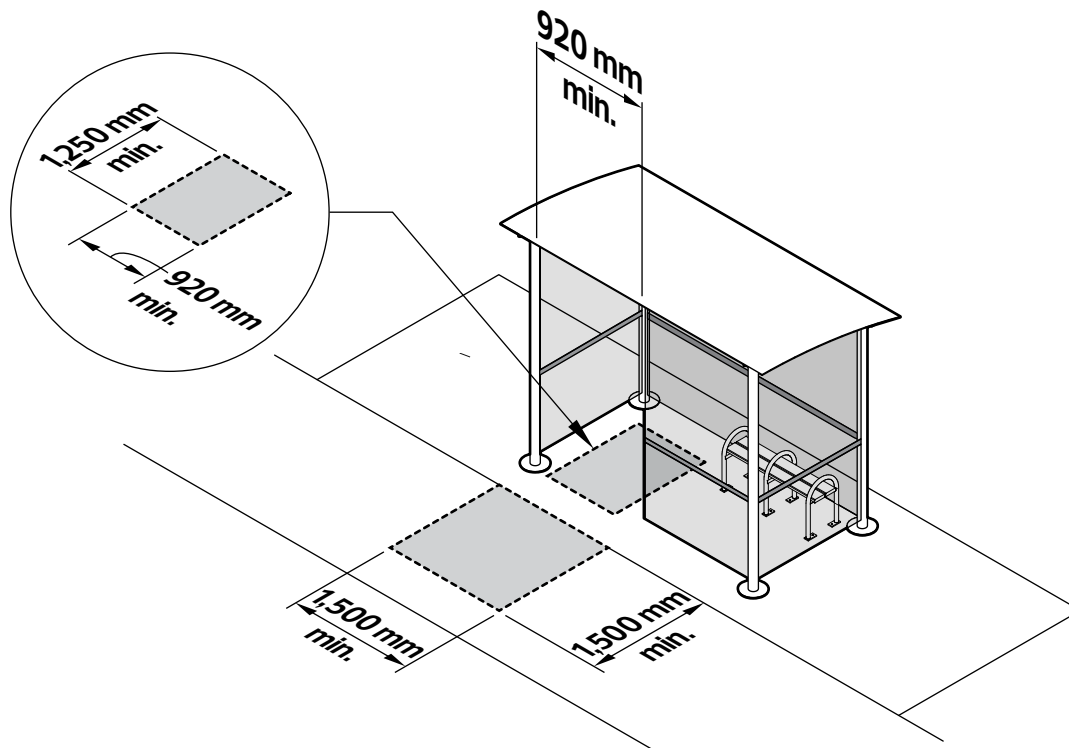
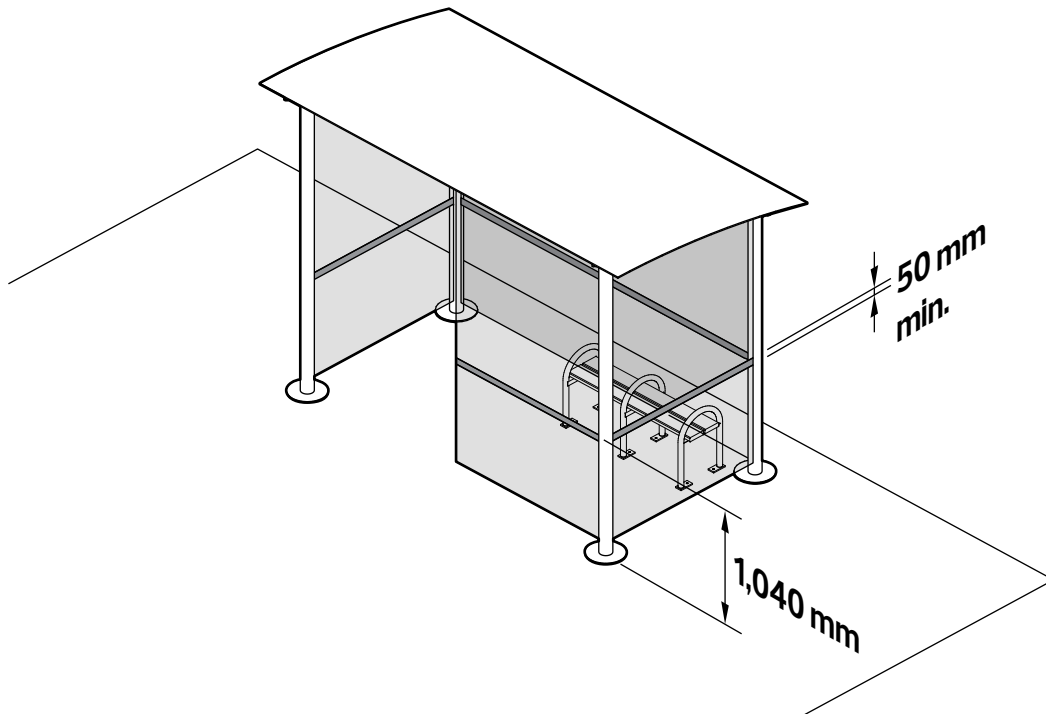


Figure A.4.3(a)  
Bus shelter clear floor areas

3. The roof must be designed to prevent rain, snow, or ice accumulation at the entrance and adjacent routes
4. Glazed panels must incorporate decals and other safety features, including:
  - a. a horizontal continuous decal strip, minimum 50 mm wide, mounted with its centre line at a height of 1,040 mm from the floor or ground
  - b. where frameless glass panels are used, identify exposed edges with a vertical moulding of high tonal contrast (e.g., safety yellow), applied to the edge of the glass panel to act as a protective cap
  - c. glazed panels should extend as close to the ground as possible so that panels are cane-detectable



**Figure A.4.3(b)**  
**Bus shelter glazed panel dimensions**

5. Provide a clear area that is free of seating and other obstructions immediately inside the entrance of bus shelters.
6. Bench located within a transit shelter must:
  - a. have a seat height between 450 mm and 500 mm from ground
  - b. have armrests to push off of when getting up
  - c. have a tonal contrast with surroundings to enhance visibility

## A.4.4 Dedicated Accessible Transit Service (DATS) Loading Areas

Dedicated Accessible Transit Service (DATS) is a door-to-door, public transportation service for Edmontonians who cannot use the conventional transit service due to a physical and/or cognitive disability. The requirements in this section apply to designated DATS loading areas.

1. DATS loading areas must be free of all obstructions and situated to accommodate longer boarding and exiting times, upwards of five to ten minutes in duration.
2. DATS loading areas must:
  - a. have a minimum clear straight face curb length of 8,500 mm along the stop area
  - b. have a minimum clear approach length of 2,500 mm behind the stop area
  - c. provide a clear width of 3,000 mm along the entire length of the stop area that is free of all obstructions or decorative surface treatments that may result in a hazardous crossing surface, e.g. tree grates.

Refer to figure A.4.4(a).

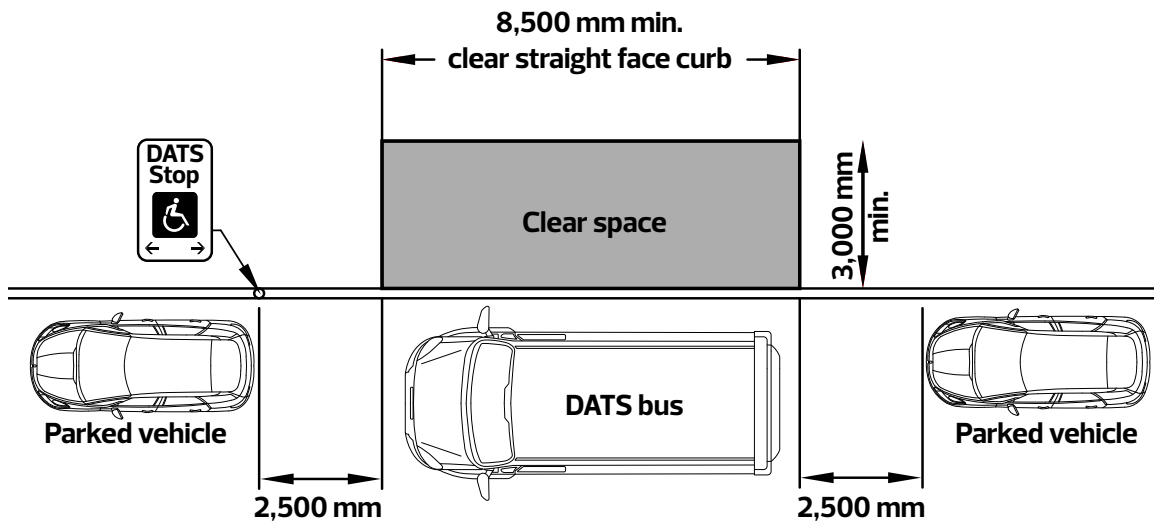


Figure A.4.4(a)  
DATS loading area

3. DATS loading area must have a minimum clear departure length of 2,500 mm in front of the stop to facilitate vehicle access and exit, where required to support a parallel pull-out bay configuration.

## A.4.5 Transit Centre Loading Area

1. Provide a minimum clear width of 3,000 mm from the face of the curb to the exterior wall of a transit centre.

Refer to figure A.4.5(a).

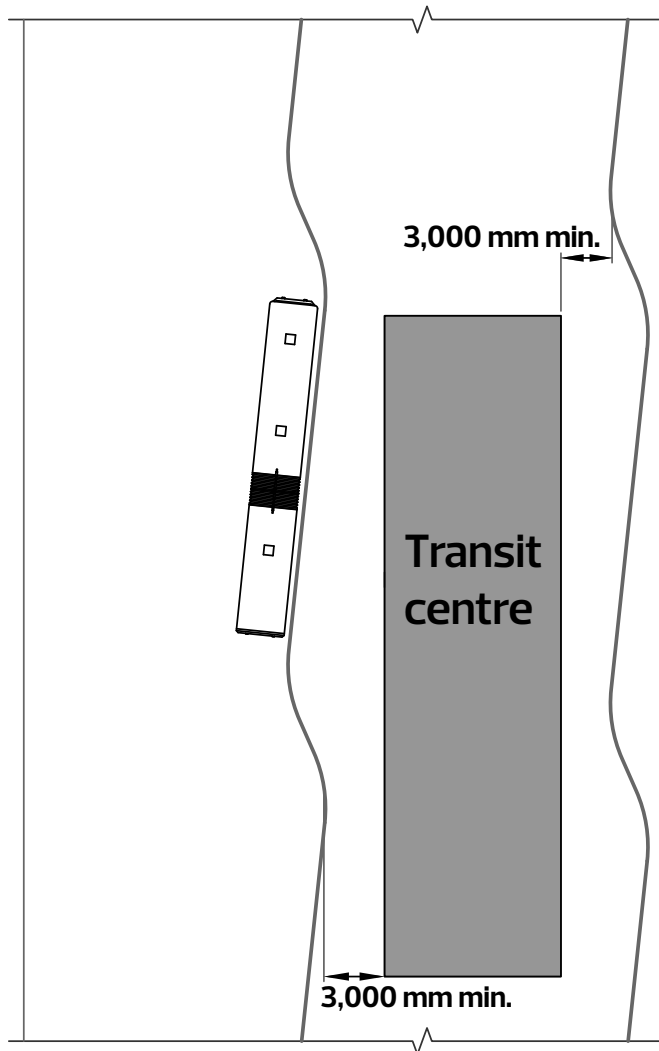


Figure A.4.5(a)  
Transit centre minimum platform width

**Note:** This space allows movement of mobility devices, bus ramp operation, and reduces tripping hazard when the ramp is deployed.

2. The platform clear width must be free of all stationary obstructions (e.g. gas meters).

3. The bus stop bay designated for DATS (Dedicated Accessible Transit Service) must:
  - a. be located adjacent to the accessible entrance of the transit centre
  - b. not require crossing a vehicular route to access the transit centre
  - c. have a marked crosswalk with curb ramps, if a vehicular route crossing is required

## A.5 Vehicular Access

### A.5.1 Passenger Pick-up and Drop-off Areas

Passenger pick-up and drop-off areas can be on-street or off-street, are separated from the flow of vehicular traffic and usually located in front of buildings or along streets. Their main function is to allow passengers to get in and out of vehicles safely and conveniently. They are especially beneficial for people with low mobility, persons with strollers or those loading or unloading large or heavy items.

#### A.5.1.1 General requirements

1. The passenger pick-up and drop-off area must be connected to an accessible path of travel and be part of the shortest accessible route to the building or accessible facility entrance
2. The passenger pick-up and drop-off area and access aisles must have a level, firm, stable and slip-resistant surface with a curb ramp to provide access to and from the road.

**Note:** Access aisles are designated no parking space adjacent to an accessible parking stall or passenger loading area that provides the necessary clearance for individuals using mobility devices to enter or exit their vehicles.

3. Slopes on passenger pick-up and drop-off areas must not exceed 1:20 (5%) for running slope and 1:50 (2%) for cross slope.

**Note:** Where the required cross slope cannot be achieved due to constrained situations, the extent of the steeper cross slope must be minimized along the path of travel.

4. Provide signs indicating passenger pick-up and drop-off only.
5. Provide signs that include the International Symbol of Access to clearly mark the passenger pick-up and drop-off area dedicated for use by people with disabilities.

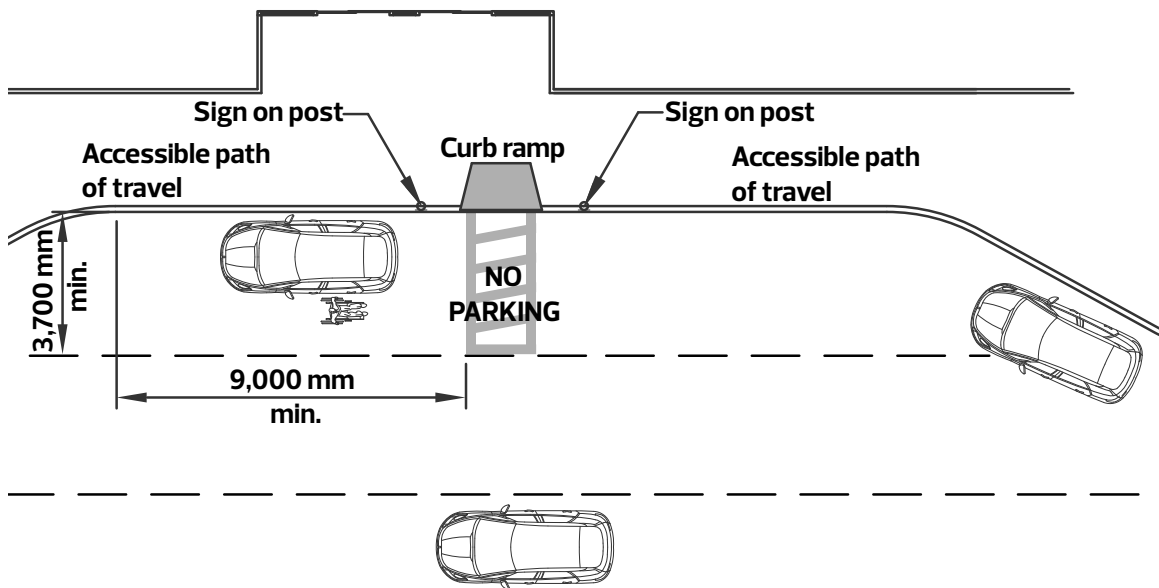
## A.5.1.2 Off-Street Passenger Pick-up and Drop-off Areas



Image A.5.1.2(a)

### Off-Street passenger pick-up and drop-off area

1. The passenger pick-up and drop-off area must be:
  - a. at least 3,700 mm wide by 9,000 mm long  
Refer to figure A.5.1.2(a).
  - b. located within 50 meters of a building's accessible entrance



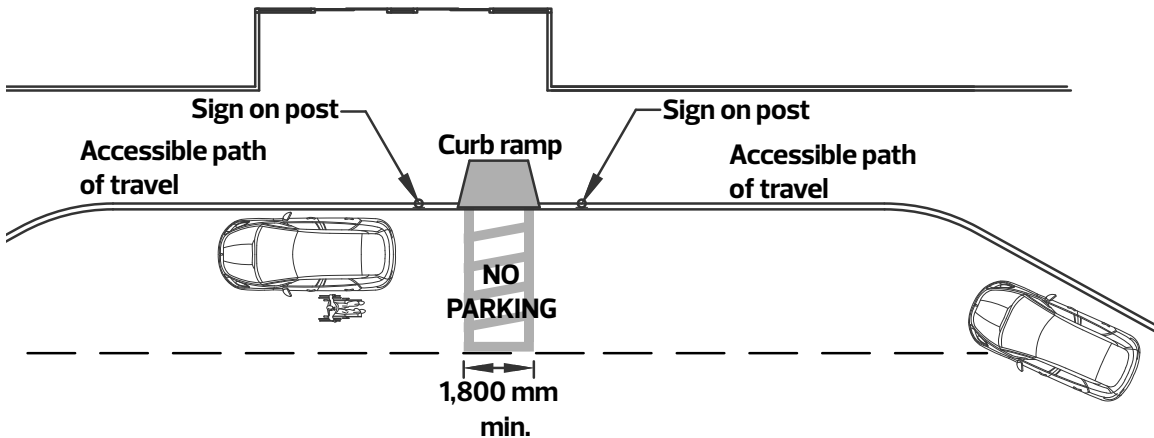
**Figure A.5.1.2(a)**  
**Pick-up and drop-off area dimensions**

2. Provide a dedicated passenger loading zone or lay-by for support vehicles that does not conflict with the drive aisle, parking stalls and other loading zones.

**Note:** A lay-by is a paved area at the side of a road designed for vehicles to pull out of the flow of traffic. Design of this space must consider the use of the facility and different types of vehicles (buses, DATS - Dedicated Accessible Transit Service, rear/side loading vehicles) that will be used for drop off and pick up.

3. Provide an 1,800 mm wide access aisle that is level with the pick-up and drop-off area.

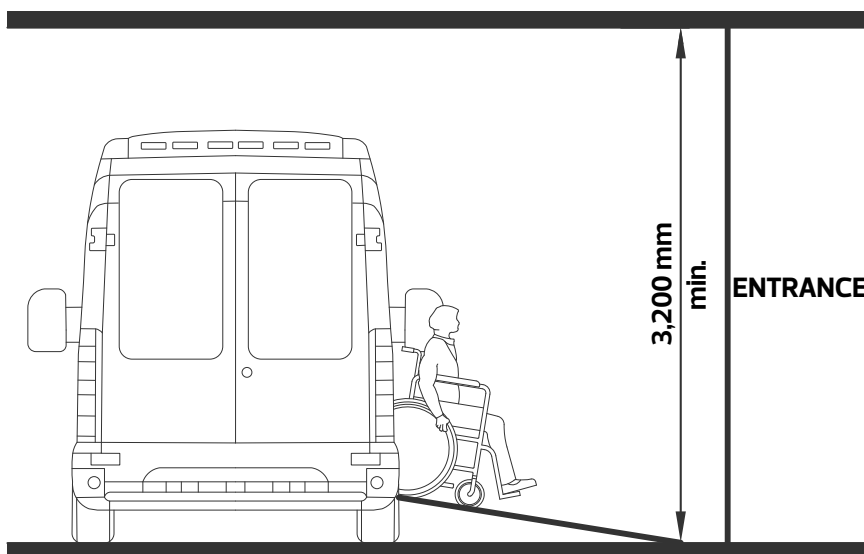
Refer to figure A.5.1.2(b).



**Figure A.5.1.2(b)**  
Pick-up and drop-off area access aisle width

4. Provide curb ramp to access sidewalk from the passenger pick-up and drop-off areas.
5. Where possible, building entrances adjacent to passenger pick-up and drop-off should be covered to provide protection from precipitation which helps to maintain a slip-free accessible path of travel.
6. A minimum 3,200 mm vertical clearance must be provided in pick up and drop off areas.

**Note:** This is to accommodate oversized vehicles and accessible vans with raised roof or deployed side-entry lifts.



**Figure A.5.1.2(c)**  
Pick-up and drop-off area vertical clearance

### A.5.1.3 On-Street Passenger Pick-up and Drop-off Areas

1. On-street passenger pick-up and drop-off areas are located along streets. It may be challenging to provide a dedicated access aisle on a public street. Therefore, the entire pick-up and drop-off area must be designed to accommodate the transfer of a person using a mobility device to or from a vehicle.
2. On-street passenger pick-up and drop-off areas must be free of temporary or permanent obstacles.

**Note:** This allows the deployment of a ramp for an individual to disembark or board the vehicle. Obstructions may include trash cans, bike racks, utility poles, or sign posts.

3. Provide a curb ramp immediately adjacent to the pick-up and drop-off area.

**Note:** This ensures the passenger can easily move from the vehicle onto the sidewalk, which is the accessible path of travel to their destination. If the curb ramp is located further away, someone using a mobility device will have to travel through the vehicular area to access the sidewalk.

4. Provide a minimum level landing area or clear space of 900 mm by 1,200 mm at the top and bottom of the curb ramp.

Refer to figure A.5.1.3(a).

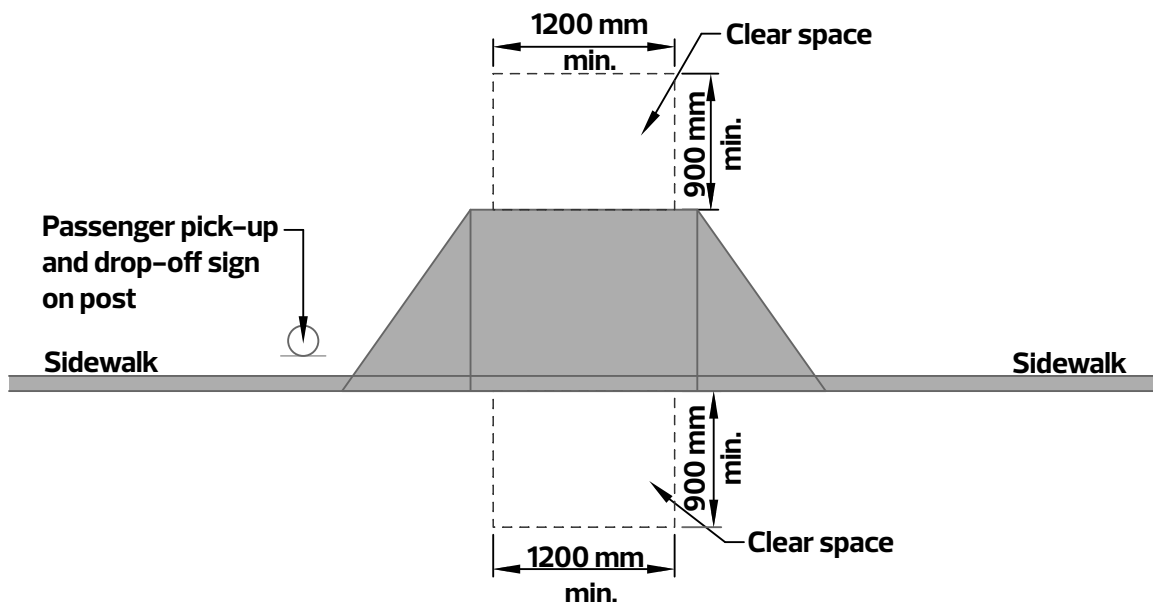


Figure A.5.1.3(a)  
On-street pick-up and drop-off area curb ramp clearance

## A.5.2 Designated Accessible Parking Stalls

Designated accessible parking stalls are designated for use by persons with disabilities who have a valid parking placard from the Province of Alberta. Refer to [Edmonton Zoning Bylaw Section 5.80 Parking, Access, Site Circulation, and Bike Parking](#) for general parking regulations.



Image A.5.2(a)  
Designated accessible parking stall

### A.5.2.1 General Requirements

1. Designated accessible parking stalls, access aisles and limited mobility parking stalls must:
  - a. have a paved surface
  - b. not exceed a running slope of 1:20 (5%)
  - c. not exceed a cross slope of 1:50 (2%)

**Note:** Refer to section A.5.2.2 Off-Street Accessible Parking Stalls for more information on limited mobility parking stalls. Where the required cross slope cannot be achieved due to constrained situations, the extent of the steeper cross slope must be minimized along the path of travel.

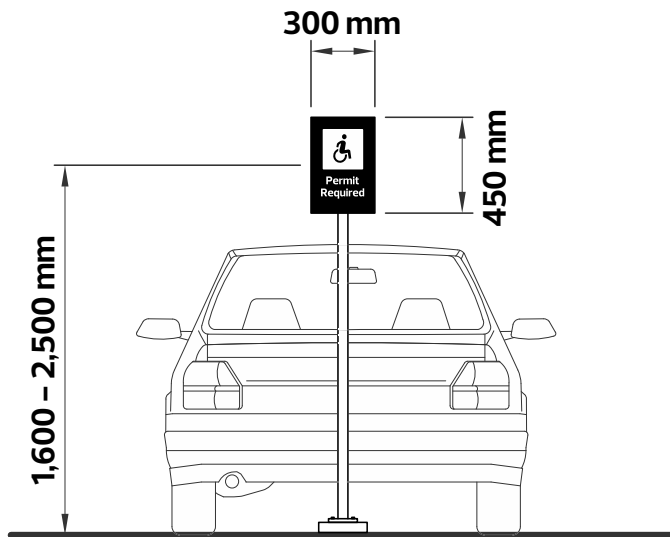
2. Accessible parking stalls must be clearly identified using the International Symbol of Access on a vertical sign and painted on the pavement surface of the stall.

3. The vertical sign must be located so that it is visible to the driver of a vehicle approaching the space, but does not create a protrusion or a sightline or viewing hazard.
4. Vertical signs must be 300 mm wide by 450 mm high and include the words "Permit Required".

Refer to figure A.5.2.1(a).

5. Locate the vertical sign near the centre line of the designated stall with the centre of the sign between 1,600 mm and 2,500 mm above the ground.

Refer to figure A.5.2.1(a).



**Figure A.5.2.1(a)**  
**Accessible parking vertical sign dimensions**

6. Use non-slip paint for the International Symbol of Access on the pavement and the painted lines in access aisles to ensure a slip-resistant surface.

**Note:** Proper signs ensure that parking stalls are easily identifiable. It is important that the International Symbol of Access painted on the stall does not occupy the entire area. The more painted surfaces there are, the more likely the parking stall may become slippery.

7. The pavement signs must be close to the drive aisle to ensure they are easily visible.

Refer to figure A.5.2.1(b).

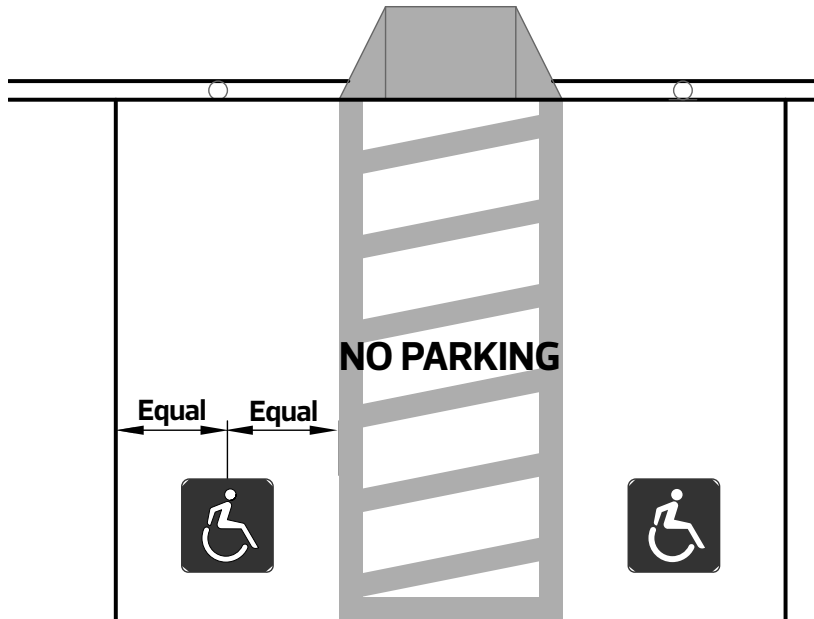


Figure A.5.2.1(b)  
Accessible parking stall pavement signs

## A.5.2.2 Off-Street Accessible Parking Stalls

Off-street parking areas are dedicated vehicle parking spaces not located on a public street. This includes facility parking lots, surface parking lots and multi-level parking structures regardless of whether or not a fee is charged for the parking. Refer to [Edmonton Zoning Bylaw Section 5.80 Parking, Access, Site Circulation, and Bike Parking](#) for general design regulations on surface parking lots.



Image A.5.2.2(a)  
Off-Street Accessible Parking Stalls

1. If the location of accessible parking stalls is not easily visible from the approach viewpoint, directional signs showing location of accessible stalls must be provided.
2. Accessible parking stalls must be designed so that people do not have to pass behind other parked vehicles.

**Note:** Eliminating the need for someone using a wheelchair, scooter or walker from having to travel behind parked vehicles improves the safety of persons using mobility aids.

3. Designated accessible parking stalls in a facility parking lot must be located within 50 metres of accessible building entrances. For public open spaces, accessible parking stalls must be located as close as possible to open space facilities like picnic sites, playgrounds, trails and other amenities.

**Note:** To qualify for a parking placard, an individual must be unable to walk without assistance for more than 50 metres. Locating the accessible stalls as close to the facility as possible minimizes the distance intended users have to travel.

4. Provide an accessible path of travel from designated accessible parking stalls to the building or facility entrance. This path of travel must be part of the shortest accessible route to the entrance.
5. Where feasible, provide accessible parking stalls adjacent to the building side of the parking lot to eliminate the need to cross parking drive aisles.
6. If parking is located within a structure, an accessible path of travel must be provided to the nearest accessible entrance.
7. Accessible parking stalls must be located adjacent to a pathway that leads directly to an accessible entrance.

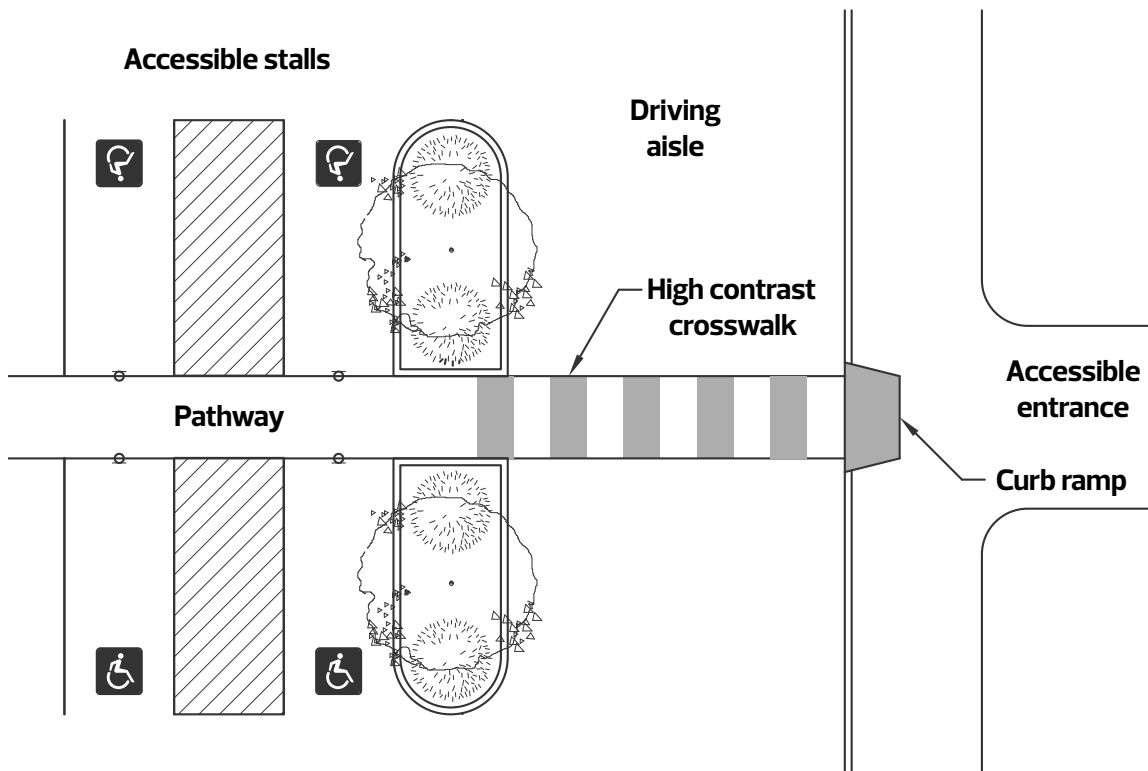


**Image A.5.2.2(b)**  
**Accessible path to building entrance**

8. If accessible parking stalls are located across a driveway, a pathway connecting the parking stalls must be designed so that a crosswalk of luminance contrast connects the closest accessible entrance to the accessible stalls.

Refer to figure A.5.2.2(a).

**Note:** This allows people to exit their vehicle into an access aisle and onto a shared pathway eliminating the need to travel behind parked vehicles.



**Figure A.5.2.2(a)**  
**Accessible parking pathway connection**

9. Accessible parking stalls must be at least 2,400 mm wide and 5,500 mm long. Refer to figure A.5.2.2(b).
10. If the designated accessible stall is located beside a wall or permanent obstruction, the minimum width of the stall must be 2,600 mm. Refer to figure A.5.2.2(b).
11. Every designated off street accessible parking stall must have an adjacent access aisle of 2,400 mm wide and the same length as the stall. Refer to figure A.5.2.2(b).

**Note:** Access aisle is the no-parking area adjacent to an accessible parking space that is specifically designed to allow wheelchair users and people using mobility devices to transfer in and out of their vehicles.

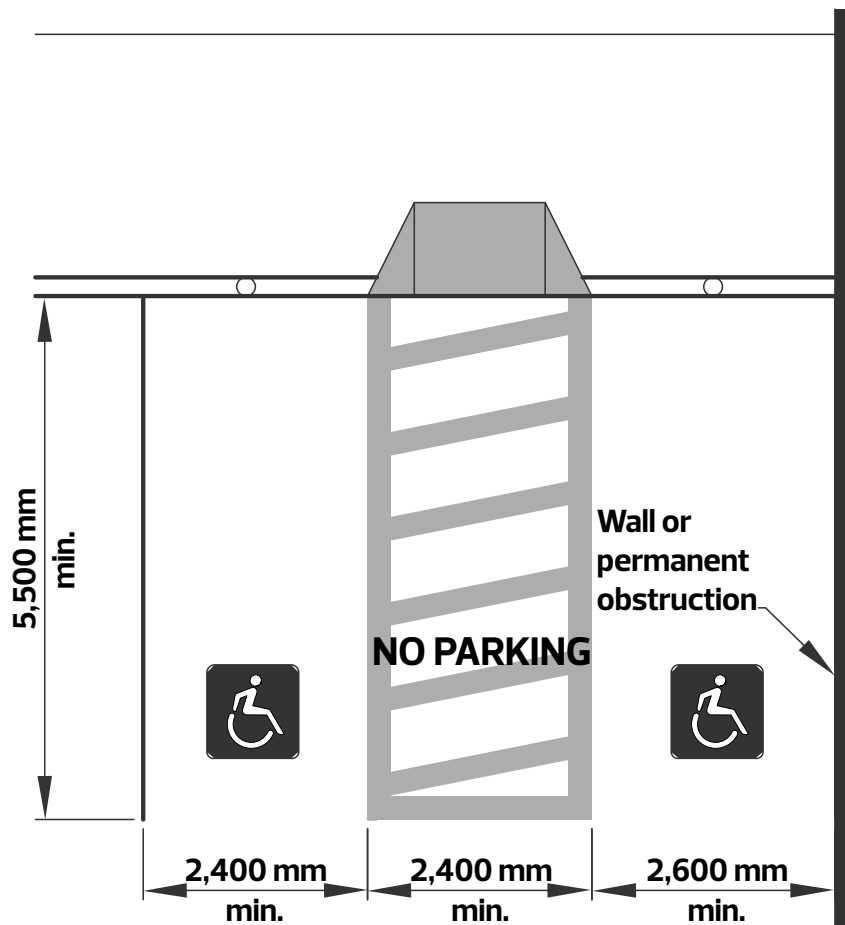


Figure A.5.2.2(b)  
Accessible parking stall dimensions

12. Access aisles must be connected to the accessible path of travel and marked with high luminance contrast diagonal lines to indicate no parking.
13. Level changes between pedestrian and parking areas must be minimized to ensure that the slope of the curb ramp does not exceed 6%.
14. In addition to accessible parking stalls, provide priority parking spaces for users with limited mobility, also referred to as limited mobility parking. The number of limited mobility parking stalls must be equal to the number of designated accessible parking stalls required by the National Building Code, Alberta Edition.

**Note:** Limited mobility parking stalls are intended for people with parking placards who may not require the additional space that an access aisle provides. This helps to alleviate the demand on designated accessible parking spaces and ensure they are available for people who use mobility devices such as wheelchairs or scooters.

15. Limited mobility parking stalls must be identified by appropriate signs. In addition to the vertical signs consider including pavement markings in each stall. Refer to figure A.5.2.2(c) for the City of Edmonton pictogram for limited mobility parking stalls.



**Figure A.5.2.2(c)**  
**Limited mobility parking sign**

16. Designated accessible parking stalls, access aisles and limited mobility parking stalls must be paved (i.e. hard surface).
17. Minimize level changes between pedestrian and parking areas to ensure that curb ramp slopes do not exceed 6%.
18. Include a seasonal snow collection area to ensure accessible and limited mobility parking stalls are not used for dumping snow in winter.
19. If "staff only" and "visitor only" parking stalls are provided, accessible staff and visitor parking stalls must also be provided.  
**Note:** The allocation of parking stalls to staff and visitors with disabilities ensures equal access to parking.
20. If courtesy parking stalls (i.e. expectant mothers, families with young children, seniors) are provided, they must be marked with appropriate signs.
21. Parking stalls must be designed so that vehicles or other obstructions do not encroach on the pedestrian paths of travel.

**Note:** This can be achieved by providing wheelstops. Refer to [Edmonton Zoning Bylaw section 5.80.5 General Parking Regulations](#).

### A.5.2.3 On-Street Accessible Parking Spaces

On-street parking spaces are designated spaces located on a roadway, within the City's right-of-way. On-street parking is intended for temporary parking of vehicles by the public. The requirements in this subsection do not apply to [Accessible Parking Stalls Requests](#).

1. Where on-street parking is provided in commercial centres and urban avenues, designate a minimum of 10% of the total spaces for accessible parking.

**Note:** Provide a minimum of one accessible parking space for blocks with more than 5 but fewer than 10 total parking spaces.

2. On-street accessible parking stalls must be arranged so that riders can exit the vehicle in an area that is safe from vehicular traffic.

**Best practice:** Provide a minimum width of 3,700 mm for on-street accessible parking stalls.

**Note:** This width ensures there is sufficient space for a vehicle and a side-entry mobility ramp or lift to deploy safely.

3. On-street accessible parking spaces must include a curb ramp and an adjacent access aisle or no parking area with a minimum width of 1,800 mm.

Refer to figure A.5.2.3(a).

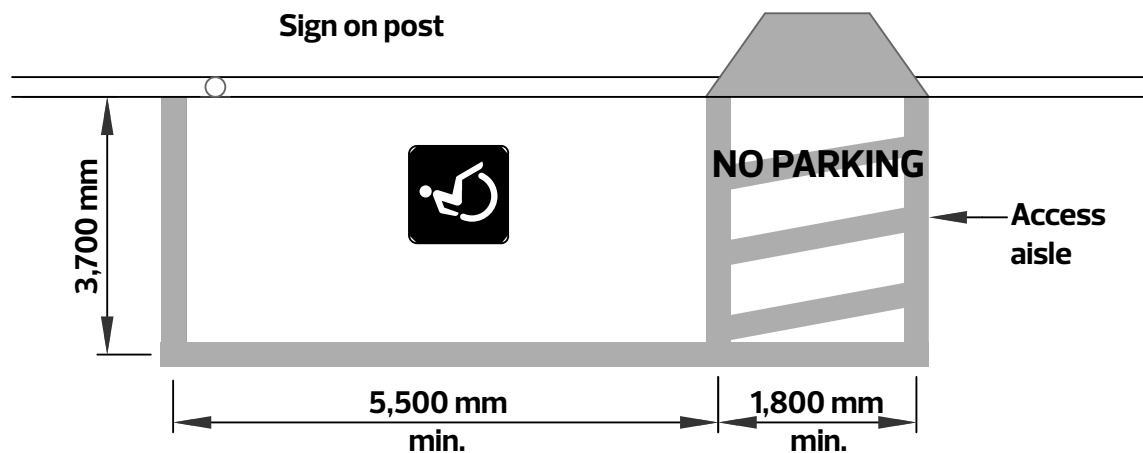


Figure A.5.2.3(a)  
On-street accessible parking space

4. EPark QR Code signs must be located adjacent to an accessible path of travel.

**Note:** The QR codes should be placed at a height reachable by a person in a seated position, for example individuals using wheeled mobility devices.

## A.6 Open Spaces

Open spaces are publicly accessible outdoor public lands with multiple uses, including recreation, nature preservation and passive outdoor enjoyment, as well as serving as venues for public gatherings.



**Image A.6(a)**  
**Pathway through an open space**

This section applies to open spaces including municipal parks, corridors, jurisdictional parkland and other types of public open spaces such as school sites, municipal cemeteries and municipal golf courses. The requirements in this section must be used alongside the [City of Edmonton's Landscape Design and Construction Standards](#).

### A.6.1 Access and Circulation

Paths of travel within an open space should be as easily navigable and logical as possible to improve safe navigation and wayfinding needs.

1. A paved accessible path of travel must be provided to:
  - a. all accessible features and amenities including parking, washrooms and accessible picnic and seating areas
  - b. playgrounds
  - c. spray decks
  - d. spectator areas
  - e. outdoor fitness areas
2. Provide a firm, stable, level, and unobstructed route to all other elements and features including sports fields, baseball diamonds and running tracks.

- In parks featuring a high concentration of athletic facilities including premier sports fields, running tracks, spectator areas and dedicated athletic buildings, these elements must be connected by a minimum 1,800 mm wide path of travel. Special consideration is to be taken to connect these elements to adjacent parking, washrooms, facilities and other accessible circulation routes.

**Note:** Connecting the elements, spaces and buildings within sites with a high concentration of athletic elements ensures people of all ages and abilities can access the outdoor sports amenities.

- The accessible path of travel must be continuous and connected to adjacent accessible paths of travel such as sidewalks.

**Best practice:** Provide a running slope of 1:50 (2%) and no steeper than 1:20 (5%) on tablelands.

**Note:** Tablelands are the flat lands above the river valley and ravines.

- Where 1:20 (5%) slope is not feasible due to existing topography (e.g. in the river valley), the slope should not exceed 1:12 (8.33%).
- Where running slopes exceed 1:20 (5%), provide level areas of minimum 1,800 mm x 1,800 mm every 30 m along the pathway.

Refer to figure A.6.1(a).

**Note:** If site conditions make it technically unfeasible to provide a level area precisely at the 30-metre mark, level areas must be provided at the most practical intervals possible.

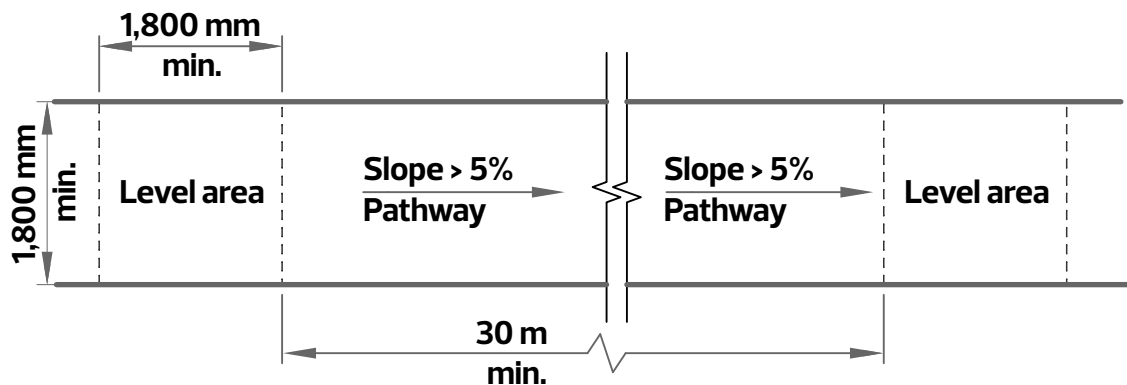


Figure A.6.1(a)  
Level area along steeper pathways

7. Scenic overlooks must:

- a. be connected to an accessible path of travel
- b. have a firm, stable and level viewing area
- c. have safety barriers or railings that do not restrict line of sight for a person in a seated position

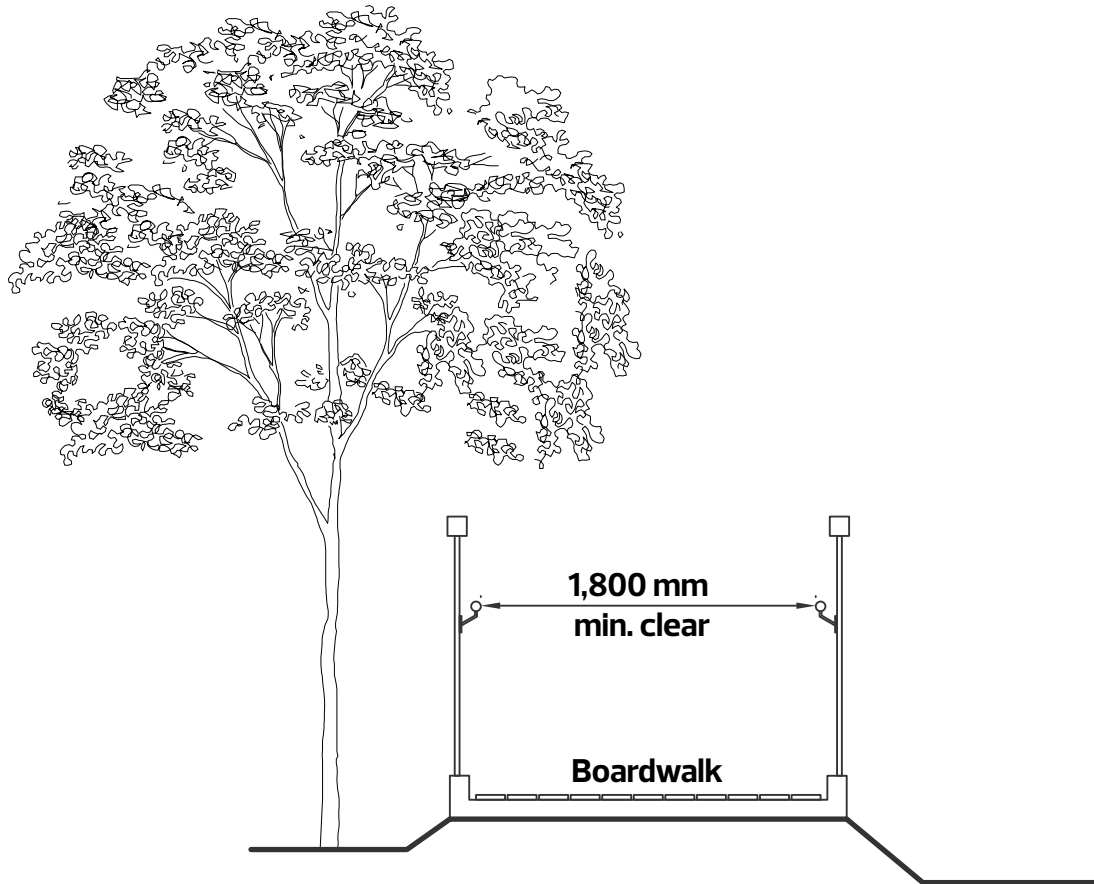
**Note:** A scenic overlook is a location with a picturesque view. The above requirements may not be feasible in certain natural environments such as wilderness areas, protected parkland or sites with steep topography. In these situations, strive to achieve the maximum level of accessibility practical for the site.

## A.6.2 Boardwalks

Boardwalk is an elevated pathway that enables pedestrians to cross wet, muddy or marshy lands.

1. Boardwalks must have a minimum clear width of 1,800 mm.

Refer to figure A.6.2(a).



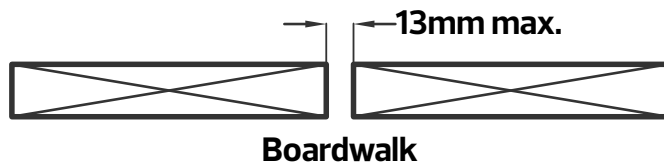
**Figure A.6.2(a)**  
**Boardwalk minimum clear width**

2. Boardwalks must have a level, firm and slip-resistant surface throughout.

3. The spacing between adjacent boards must not exceed 13 mm.

Refer to figure A.6.2(b).

**Note:** This prevents small caster wheels of wheelchairs, crutch tips and cane tips from getting stuck between the boards.



**Figure A.6.2(b)**  
**Spacing between boards**

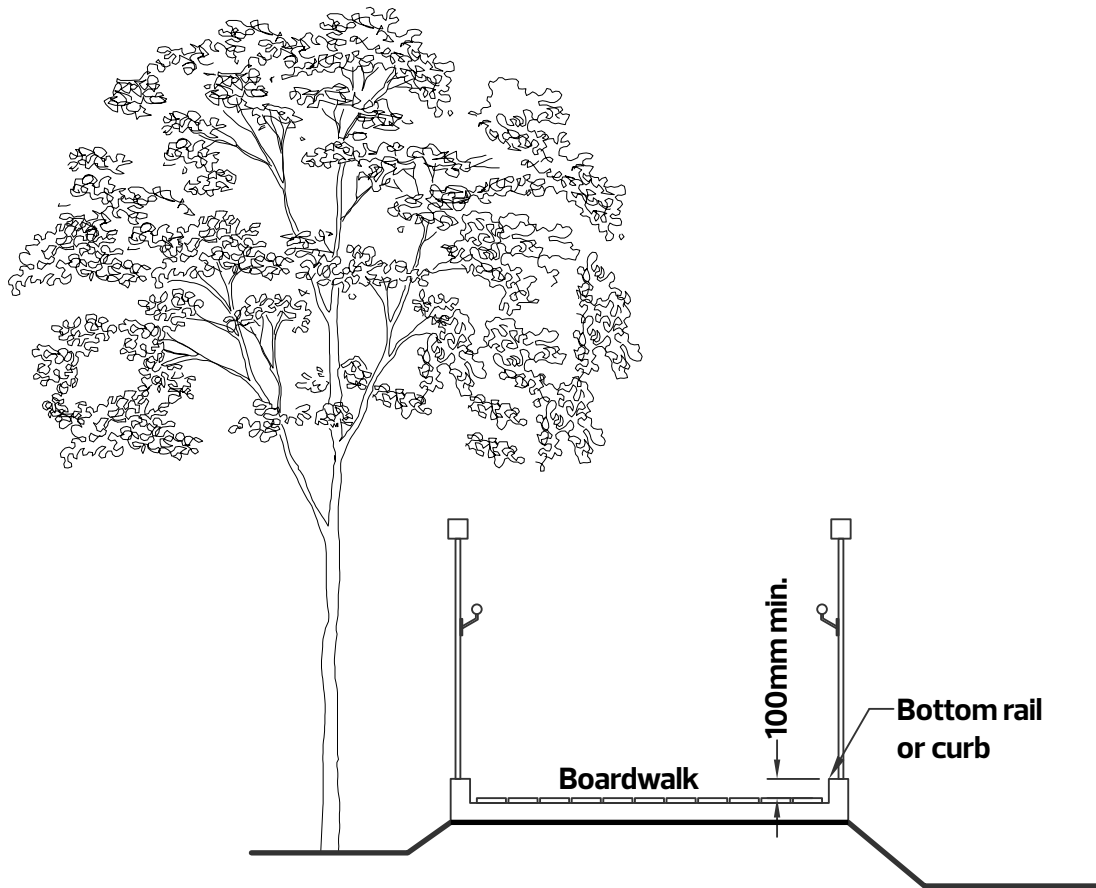
4. Running slope must not exceed 1:20 (5%). If the slope is steeper than 1:20 (5%), the boardwalk must meet the requirements for a ramp.
5. The cross slope must not exceed 1:50 (2%).

**Note:** Where the required cross slope cannot be achieved due to constrained situations, the extent of the steeper cross slope must be minimized along the path of travel.

6. Provide an edge protection that meets one of the following:
  - a. a curb of at least 100 mm high from the boardwalk surface; or
  - b. a horizontal rail with a gap no larger than 100 mm between the bottom of the rail and the boardwalk surface

**Note:** The edge protection is a barrier that runs along the edge of the boardwalk that prevents wheels or walking aids from rolling off the boardwalk surface.

Refer to figure A.6.2(c).



**Figure A.6.2(c)**  
**Boardwalk edge protection**

7. The edge protection must be designed to consider proper drainage of the boardwalk.
8. Handrails or guardrails must be provided along a boardwalk where the change in elevation between the boardwalk and the surrounding ground level is greater than 600 mm.

Refer to figure A.6.2(d).

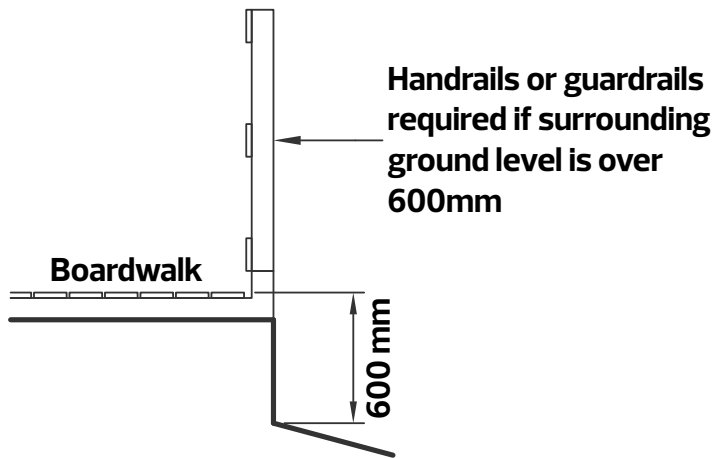


Figure A.6.2(d)  
Boardwalk handrail height requirement

## A.6.3 Specialty Open Spaces

Specialty open spaces are distinct outdoor areas designed to serve specific functions or provide unique experiences. These spaces are often characterized by their specialized features or dedicated purposes, catering to a diverse range of recreational needs.

### A.6.3.1 Play Spaces

The following requirements must be used alongside the [City of Edmonton Playspace and Wheeled Sport Facility Design and Construction Standards](#)



**Image A.6.3.1(a)**  
**Accessible playground**

1. Special consideration must be taken when locating a playground to ensure proximity to parking, washrooms and other amenities.
2. Play spaces must consider accessibility features related to:
  - a. the number and types of play structures, equipment, elements and features provided
  - b. play areas surrounding the play structures
  - c. site amenities and features adjacent to the play spaces
  - d. means of access to, and exit from, features

3. Design outdoor play spaces to support children of various abilities and their caregivers. Depending on the site size and intended use, incorporate features such as ramped structures, transfer stations, active play components, quiet areas, designated sensory spaces and communication boards.
4. Ensure wheelchair accessible surfacing for outdoor play spaces.

**Best practice:** Use pour-in-place rubber, rubber tile or artificial turf.

**Note:** This includes a ground surface that is firm, stable and has impact-reducing properties for injury prevention and sufficient clearance to provide children with various abilities and caregivers the ability to move through, in and around the outdoor play space.

5. Provide shaded seating areas and/or accessible picnic tables with sightlines to play spaces.

**Note:** Shaded areas in outdoor spaces help people who are sensitive to heat or have medical conditions that make it hard to stay cool, while also benefiting seniors and the general public.

### A.6.3.2 Spray Park and Water Play Areas

Water play areas are external play areas with water features such as spray spouts, interactive fountain, wet deck, splash pad, spray pad, spray park, etc. for recreation and refreshment.

1. Shaded seating areas and/or accessible picnic tables with clear sightlines to the water play areas must be available.

**Note:** Shaded areas in outdoor spaces help people who are sensitive to heat or have medical conditions that make it hard to stay cool, while also benefiting seniors and the general public.

2. Provide a variety of accessible water features and controls.

**Best practice:** Provide a water table, which can provide a controlled sensory experience for children.

3. Movable features must have controls that can be operated with a closed fist without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.
4. Where possible, provide washroom and change facilities, especially within District Parks.
5. Where washrooms and change facilities are provided to service a spray park or water play area, they should be located within 100 m of the spray park or water play area.

- Where washroom and change facilities are provided, provide directional signage to indicate location of the facilities.

### A.6.3.3 Outdoor Fitness Areas

- Outdoor fitness areas must be located adjacent to an accessible path of travel.
- Where outdoor fitness areas are provided, include exercise equipment that can be used for a variety of ages and abilities.

**Note:** For example, provide equipment for active aging that focuses on mobility, balance and strength. Other examples of outdoor equipment include stationary bikes, a cross-trainer and/or a sit-up bench, spinning foot wheels, double leg press, striders/ cross country ski machines, overhead reach such as sit bench with curved pipes above.

- Provide diagrams to clearly identify the safe use of all equipment.



Image A.6.3.3(a)  
Outdoor fitness equipment instructional sign

- The ground surface supporting fitness equipment and the clear floor space surrounding it must be designed to be low impact with adequate cushioning.

### A.6.3.4 Off-Leash Areas and Dog Parks

This section applies to neighbourhood-level off-leash areas that have fenced dog parks, district level off-leash areas and river valley and ravine off-leash areas that have selectively fenced dog parks. For general planning and design guidelines, refer to [Guidelines for Developer Establishment of Off-Leash Areas](#).

The requirements in this section must be used alongside the Dog Off-Leash Areas section in the [City of Edmonton's Landscape Design and Construction Standards](#).

1. Fenced dog parks must be located along an accessible path of travel.
2. Fencing must have signage identifying the entrance to the dog park.
3. The gates must have distinguishing elements or features that highlight the entrance to make them easily identifiable. For example, signage.
4. Entrance gates to fenced dog parks must be a minimum of 1,200 mm wide to allow for access by wheeled mobility devices.

Refer to figure A.6.3.4(a).

**Note:** If the fencing is temporary, the entrance must be at least 920 mm wide.

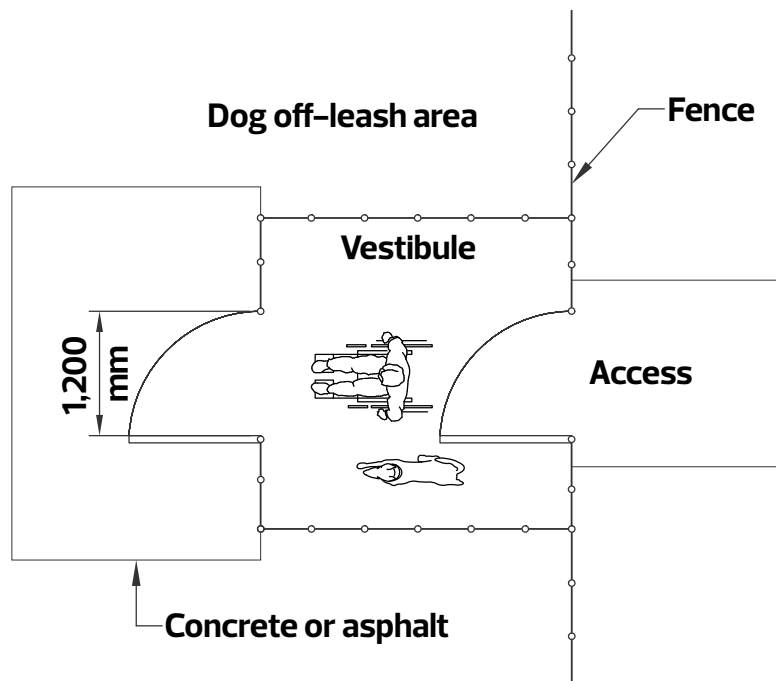
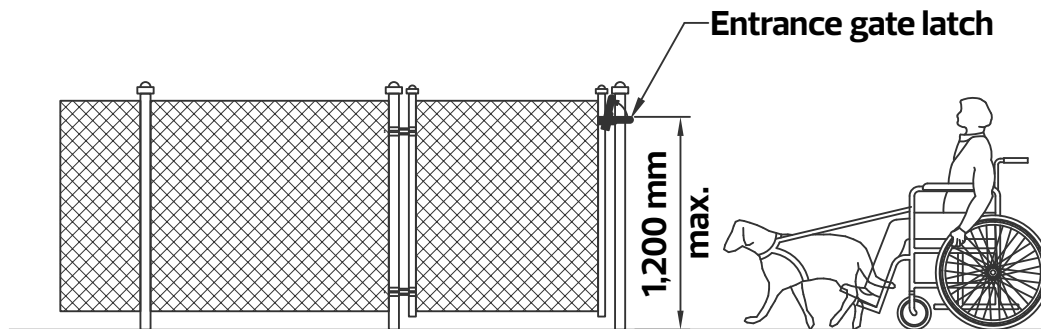


Figure A.6.3.4(a)  
Dog off-leash area access

5. Thresholds or level differences at entrances must be less than 13 mm high.
6. Latch system of entrance gates to fenced dog parks must be operable:
  - a. with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist
  - b. no higher than 1,200 mm from the ground level

Refer to figure A.6.3.4(b).



**Figure A.6.3.4(b)**  
**Entrance gate latch maximum height**

7. Vestibules must have a minimum size of 2,400 mm by 2,400 mm and a maximum size of 3,000 mm by 3,000 mm.

Refer to figure A.6.3.4(c).

**Note:** Vestibules are a transition area and must be large enough for an individual and their dog(s) to enter and exit in a controlled and safe manner. Vestibules have a maximum size of 3,000 mm by 3,000 mm to prevent uncontrolled situations, for example, a situation where multiple people and their dogs are trying to enter or exit the dog park at the same time.

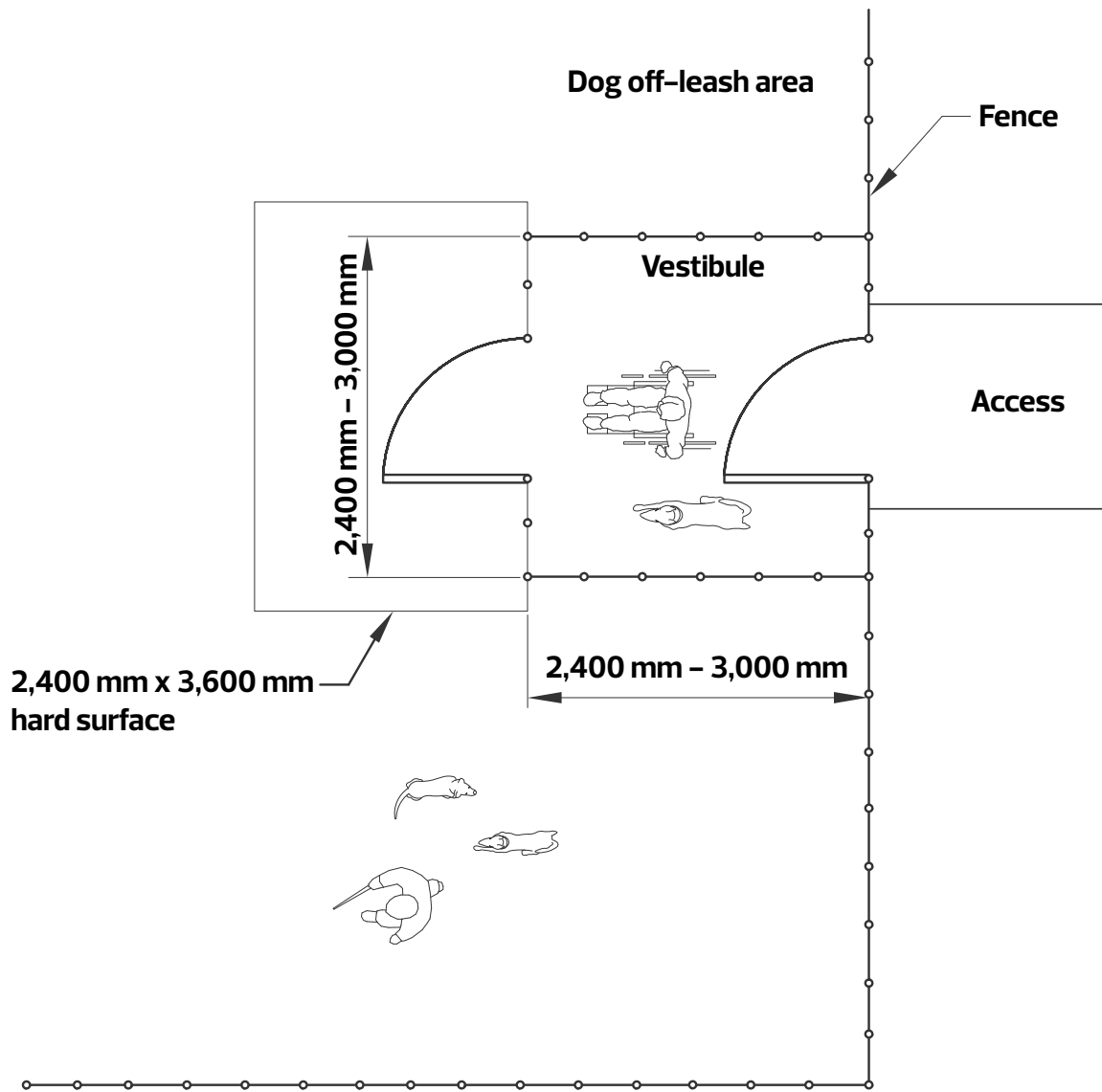


Figure A.6.3.4(c)  
Dog off-leash area vestibule

**Best practice:** Provide a firm, level and stable pathway of minimum 1,800 mm wide extending the entire length of the dog park.

**Note:** City of Edmonton's Landscape Design and Construction Standards requires a 2,400 mm by 3,600 mm hard surface such as concrete or asphalt in front of the vestibule. Refer to figure A.6.2.4(c). The 1,800 mm wide pathway must connect to this hard surface and be at the same level to ensure a continuous accessible path of travel.

8. Where provided, waste bag dispensers or waste bins must:
  - a. be located on firm, stable and flat ground
  - b. be cane-detectable
  - c. of a visually contrasting colour to the surroundings
  - d. be operable at a height of less than 1,200 mm from the ground.

**Best practice:** Provide benches with backrests and armrests within the off-leash area.

### A.6.3.5 Community Gardens

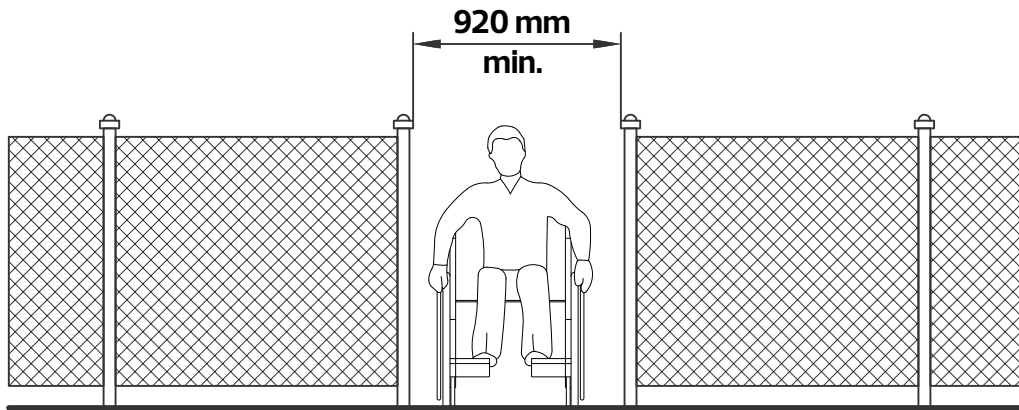
Community gardens must be available for all ages and abilities to support intergenerational activities and family use. Accessibility should be considered from the start when designing a community garden. This includes ensuring the site itself is accessible for people with disabilities, in addition to access to water and tools storage.



Image A.6.3.5(a)  
A community garden

This section applies to community gardens located on City of Edmonton parkland and should be used alongside the [Community Garden Guidelines](#), which is a handbook for developing community gardens in Edmonton.

1. Locate community gardens in close proximity to parking, public sidewalks or pathways.
2. Fencing gates and entryways into the community garden must have a minimum clear opening width of 920 mm.



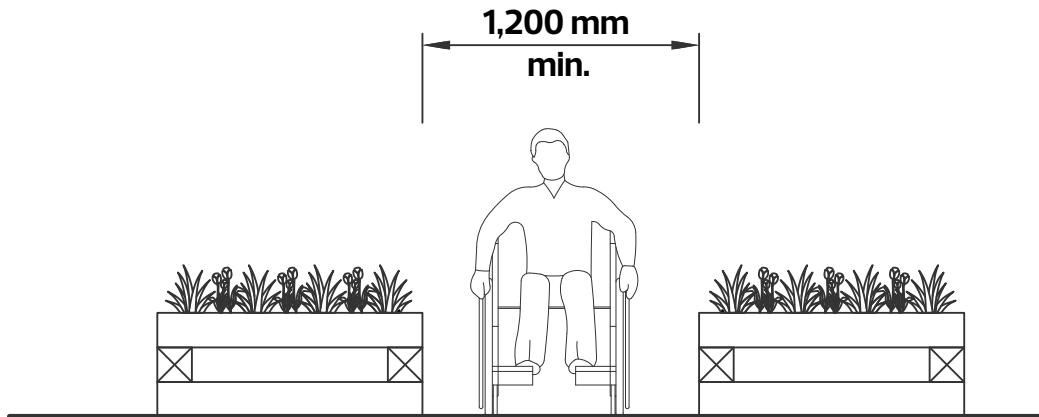
**Figure A.6.3.5(a)**  
**Community garden access width**

3. Provide a level, firm and stable path of travel throughout the community garden to connect entry to garden beds, water sources and seating areas.  
**Note:** Examples of acceptable materials for paths of travel include, but are not limited to, compacted granular or engineered wood fibre.
4. The entryways to storage sheds or tool sheds must be accessible, i.e. connected to a firm, level and stable pathway with a sloped door threshold of less than 13 mm high.
5. Pathways between the garden beds must be at least 1,200 mm wide and free of any obstructions.

Refer to figure A.6.3.5(b).

**Note:** Where space allows, consider wider paths for more comfortable

manoeuvring by individuals using mobility devices.



**Figure A.6.3.5(b)**  
Community garden pathway width

6. Ensure that areas surrounding the garden beds are constructed of firm and stable materials.
 

**Note:** This allows a person using a wheeled mobility device to get close enough to reach the garden beds.
  7. Garden beds must not be more than 1,200 mm in width.
 

**Note:** This ensures all areas of the garden bed can be reached from the perimeter.
  8. Provide a variety of raised garden beds between the heights of 450 mm and 915 mm. At least 20% of the total number of planters must be raised.
- Best practice:** Provide raised planting beds with knee clearance of 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high under the bed.

**Note:** This allows for a forward approach by individuals using wheeled mobility devices.
9. Water sources must be located in an open, unobstructed area adjacent to a level, firm and stable pathway.
  10. Controls of water sources must be:
    - a. operable between 450 mm and 915 mm from the ground
    - b. operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist e.g. lever-style control.
  11. Provide seating with a backrest and armrests.

**Best practice:** Locate the seating in shaded areas, e.g. under trees, a gazebo or picnic shelters, and with clear views of the garden.

12. Where picnic tables are provided, at least one table must be accessible and comply with subsection A.7.3 Picnic Tables.
13. Consider the use of vertical structures, such as trellises or wall planters to improve accessibility.

### A.6.3.6 Golf courses & Driving Ranges

The requirements in this subsection are intended to ensure that golf courses and associated amenities are usable by people with disabilities including those using mobility devices.



**Image A.6.3.6(a)**  
**Golfer using an adaptive cart**

1. The entire route intended for golf cart traffic must be usable by single-rider golf cars.  
**Note:** Single-rider golf cars are a specialized vehicle that provides stability and support for a golfer with limited mobility. The vehicle allows the user to rotate the seat to hit the ball and travel over the turf without damaging the green.
2. An accessible path of travel must be provided from accessible parking or cart staging area to the first tee, all following tees, practice facilities, the clubhouse and the accessible washrooms.

3. Cart path surfaces must be firm, stable and slip-resistant and have a minimum width of 1,800 mm.
4. Running slopes and cross slopes on the cart path must be minimized.

**Best practice:** Slopes should not be steeper than 1:20 (5%).

**Note:** Steeper slopes are allowed on short segments of the course path.

5. At least one teeing position on every hole must be accessible, i.e. the surface of the tee is level, firm and stable.
6. The accessible teeing surface must be directly connected to the accessible route or cart path, without any steps or sudden changes in elevation.
7. An area near the putting green must be connected to an accessible route.  
**Note:** While the entire green may not be fully accessible, the route should allow a single-rider golf car to reach an area where the golfer can easily access their ball and putt.
8. Provide at least one accessible area on the driving range that has a level, firm and stable surface.
9. The perimeter and a portion of the putting greens must be accessible with connection to an accessible route.
10. Consider a map showing accessible routes, accessible tees, areas of the course to be avoided and bunkers that may be difficult to access or exit.

### A.6.3.7 Accessible Boat Docks and Launches

Accessible boat docks and launches are designed to allow individuals with limited mobility to transfer into and launch a recreational watercraft, such as kayak, canoe or small rowboat.



**Image A.6.3.7(a)**  
**Kayaker at an accessible boat launch**

1. If accessible boat docks or launches are provided for river access, a minimum of two accessible locations must be provided. One location upstream and the other downstream to ensure accessibility when entering and exiting the river.  
**Note:** A boat dock is a structure extending from the shore over a body of water, built to allow boats and other watercraft to moor, load and unload passengers.
2. Provide an accessible path of travel to the dock or launch site from adjacent parking stalls and site amenities.
3. Special consideration should be taken when locating the accessible boat dock or launch to ensure it is located in proximity to accessible parking, washrooms and other amenities.
4. Where dock infrastructure is located adjacent to launch sites, gangways must be designed to adjust with water levels, maintaining a slope of less than 1:12 (8.33%) and have:
  - a. a minimum clear width of 920 mm
  - b. handrails on both sides
  - c. a firm, stable and slip-resistant surface

- d. a cross slope of no more than 1:50 (2%)
- e. a level area of at least 1,800 mm by 1,800 mm at the top of the gangway and 2,500 mm by 2,500 mm at the bottom

**Note:** Gangway is a platform, walkway or ramp used to board or disembark from boats.

Refer to figure A.6.3.7(a).

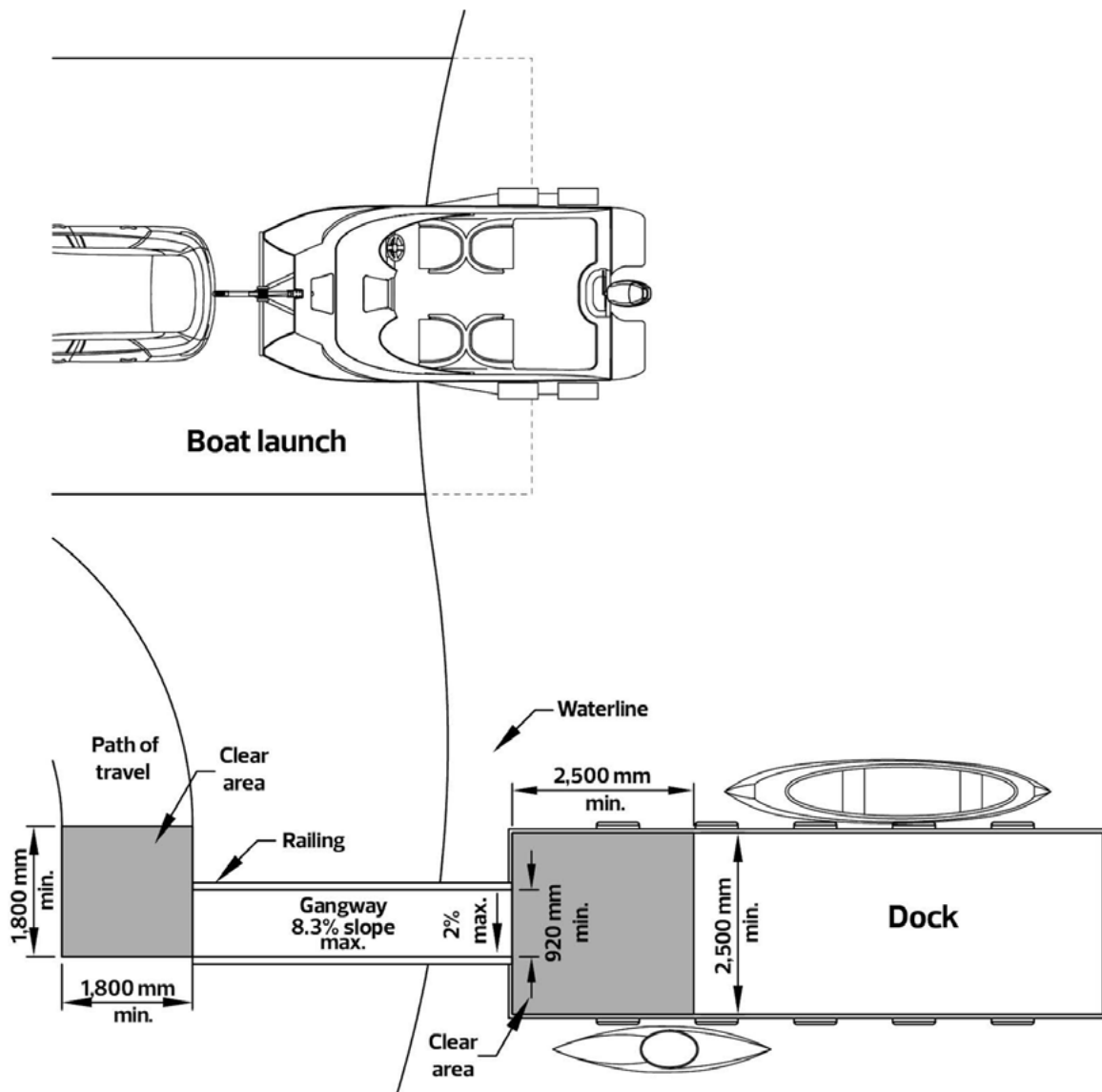


Figure A.6.3.7(a)  
Gangway configuration

5. If transition plates are provided at the end of the gangway, they must have:
- a. a cross slope of no more than 1:50 (2%)
  - b. a running slope of less than 1:20 (5%)
  - c. The dock must have:
  - d. a firm, stable and slip-resistant surface
  - e. a cross slope of no more than 1:50 (2%)
  - f. a minimum clear width of 1,800 mm in areas where handrails are present on both sides of the path of travel
  - g. a minimum 2500 mm clear width in areas where handrails are not present
  - h. edge protection at least 100 mm high wherever an accessible path of travel runs parallel to the water's edge
  - i. edge protection along all watercraft loading and unloading areas measuring between 75 and 100 mm in height and at least 50 mm in width
  - j. handrails where paths of travel run perpendicular to the water's edge
  - k. handrails should be considered as an alternative to raised edges in areas where loading and unloading is not required
  - l. a minimum 50 mm wide contrasting band of colour along all edges of the dock where handrails are not present.

Refer to figures A.6.3.7(b) and (c).

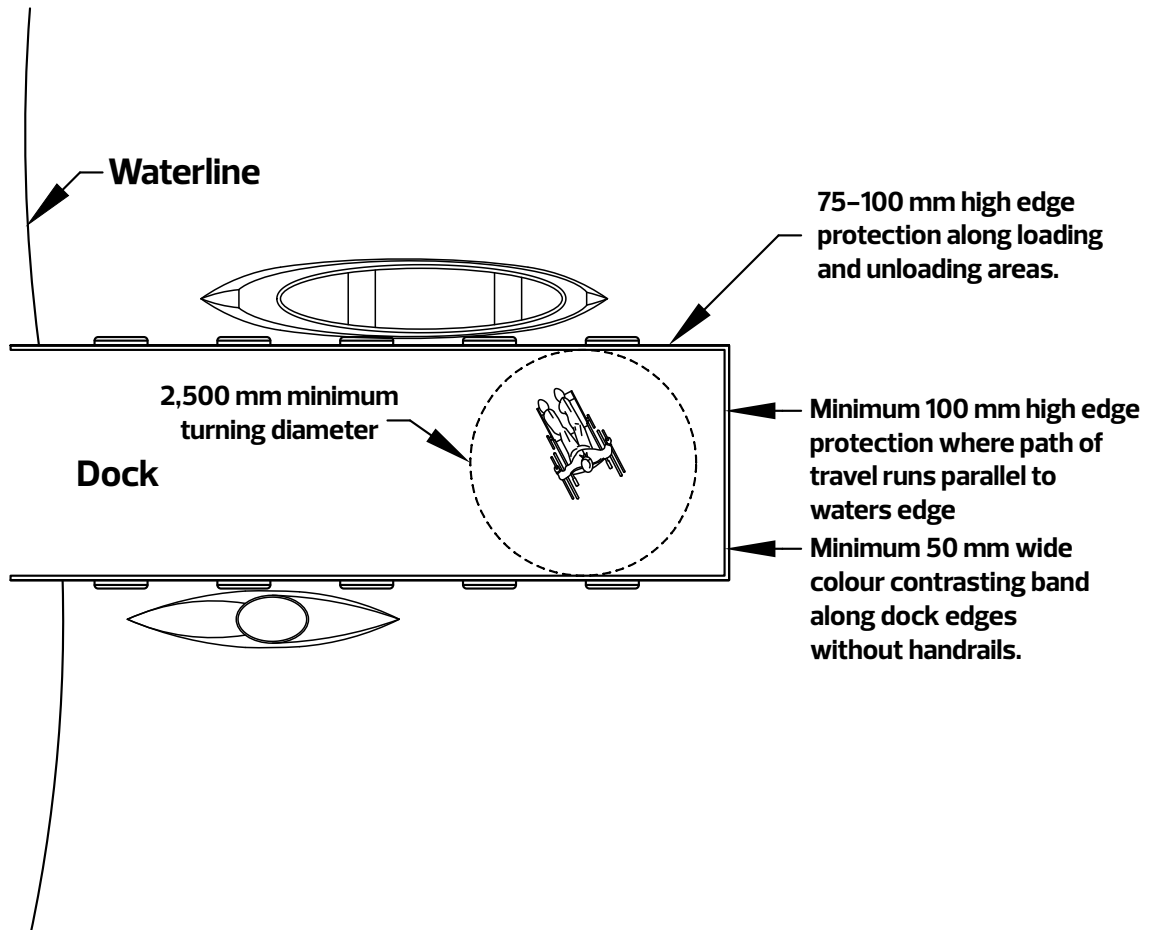


Figure A.6.3.7(b)  
Dock edge protection and clear width

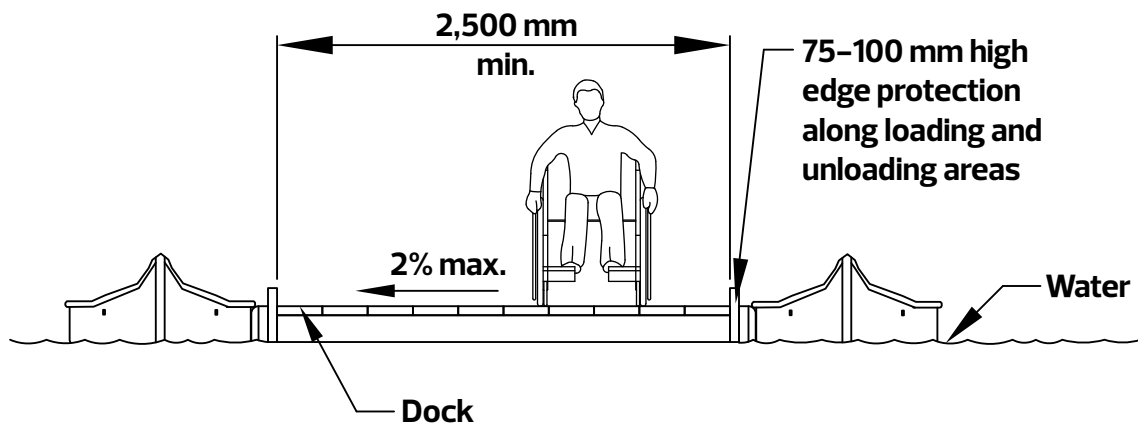


Figure A.6.3.7(c)  
Dock edge protection and clear width

6. Align the dock height with the average intended watercraft deck height to allow for easy transfers.
7. Hoyer lift for people to get onto and off of a watercraft must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Have a clear floor space of minimum 2,500 mm by 2,500 mm adjacent to the lift mechanism.
  - b. The swing radius is clear of obstructions including pier footings.
  - c. **Note:** Hoyer lift is a mechanical device used to hoist and transfer individuals who are unable to support their own weight or move independently. The lift can be removed and stored in a secure location when not in use to prevent vandalism. Clear signage must be provided indicating the availability of the lift and how to access it (e.g. contact information). Operating procedures and staff training on how to use the hoyer lift and assist users with disabilities must be provided.
8. For the purpose of this document, the term pier refers to a pillar or vertical support structure of a dock.
9. Non-motorized loading assistive devices must include:
  - a. grab bar which extend over the watercraft
  - b. handrails which extend 450 mm beyond the edge of the dock
  - c. transfer bench / station

Refer to figure A.6.3.7(d).

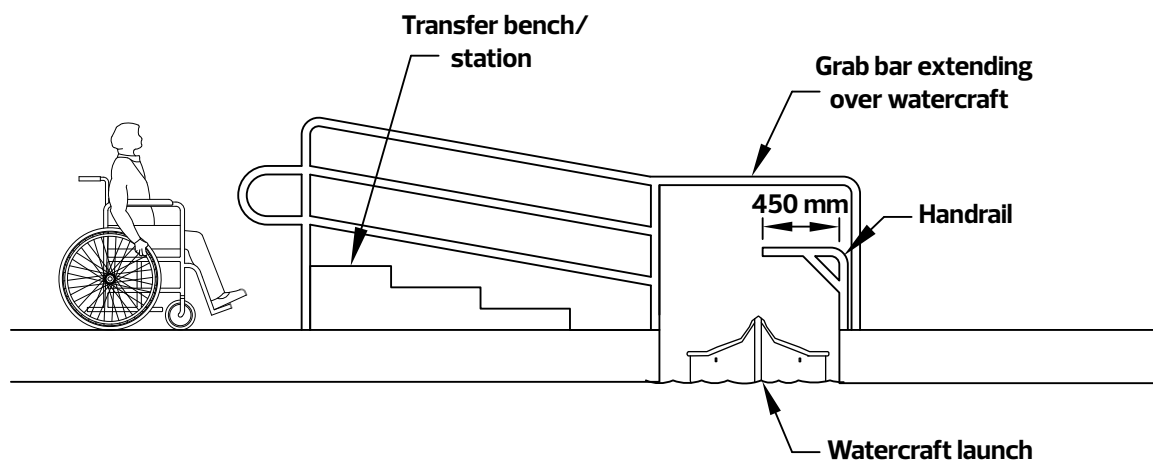


Figure A.6.3.7(d)  
Dock transfer station

10. Provide a minimum clear turning diameter of 2,500 mm on the float used for loading into and out of watercrafts.
11. Grates or openings on the dock or float surface must be less than 13 mm wide and must be perpendicular to the path of travel.

**Note:** This prevents small caster wheels of wheelchairs, crutch tips and cane tips from getting stuck between the boards.

12. Where boating slips are provided, the accessible slip must have:
  - a. a clear pier space of minimum 2,500 mm width
  - b. edge protection along all watercraft loading and unloading areas measuring between 75 and 100 mm in height and at least 50 mm in width
  - c. A minimum clear width of 1800 mm between pillars or other obstructions in watercraft loading and unloading areas
  - d. edge protection at least 100 mm high in all non loading and unloading areas
  - e. a minimum 50 mm wide contrasting band of colour along all edges of the boat slip where handrails are not present.

Refer to figure A.6.3.7(e).

**Note:** Boating slip or boat slip refers to a designated parking space or area of water between two piers where a boat or watercraft is parked.

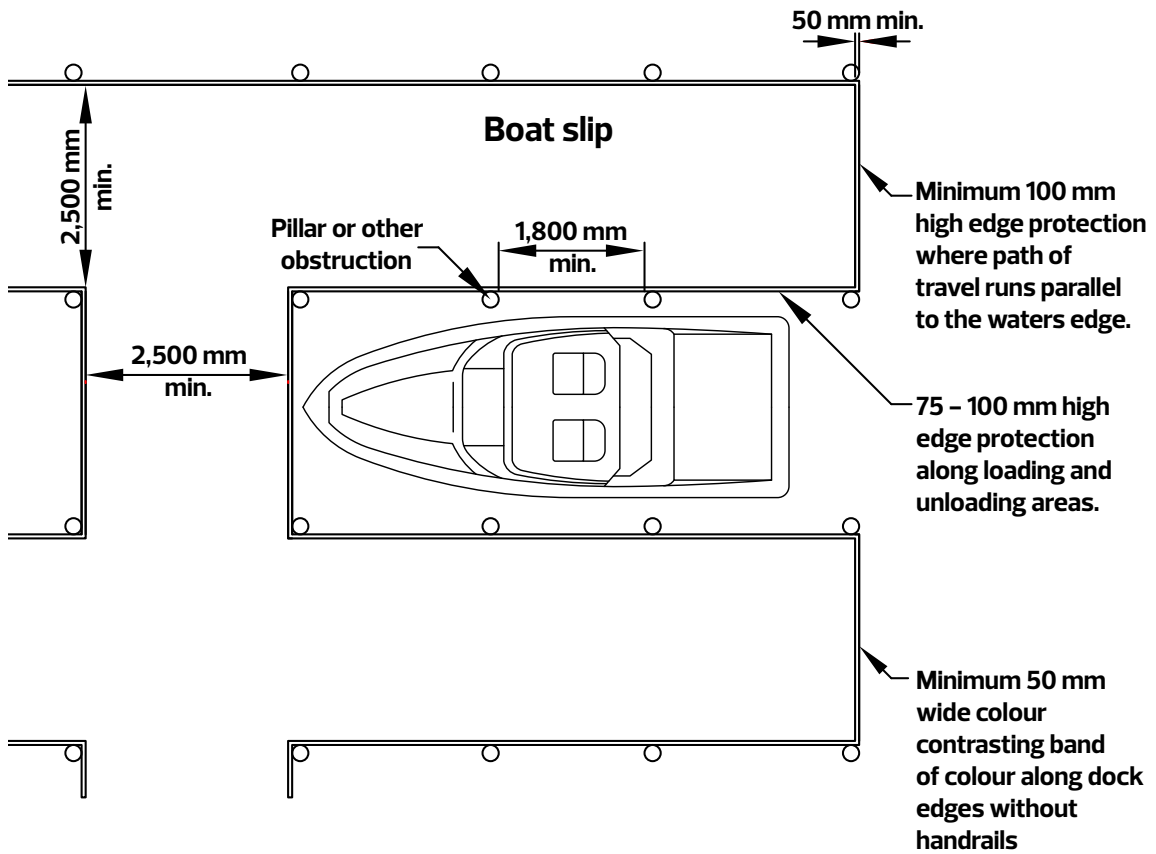


Figure A.6.3.7(e)  
Boat slip edge protection and clear widths

## A.6.4 Park Facilities

Park facilities are permanent structures for public use provided within a park to support recreational activities. This subsection includes requirements for park washrooms, picnic sites and shelters.

### A.6.4.1 Park Washrooms

This subsection applies to public washrooms within a park. In addition to the requirements in this subsection, public washrooms within parks must meet the requirements in section B.2.5 Washrooms subsection of the Interior Guide.

Refer to [City of Edmonton's Public Washroom Strategy](#) for general design guidelines and strategies for public washrooms in Edmonton.

1. If washrooms located inside a park building are not immediately apparent, provide wayfinding signage to indicate the availability of public washrooms.
2. Best practice: locate park washrooms:
  - a. adjacent to the primary park entrance (e.g. near a parking lot)
  - b. near or within a public on-site building
  - c. adjacent to a playground or other park amenity
3. Provide an accessible path of travel of minimum 1,800 mm width to access park washrooms.

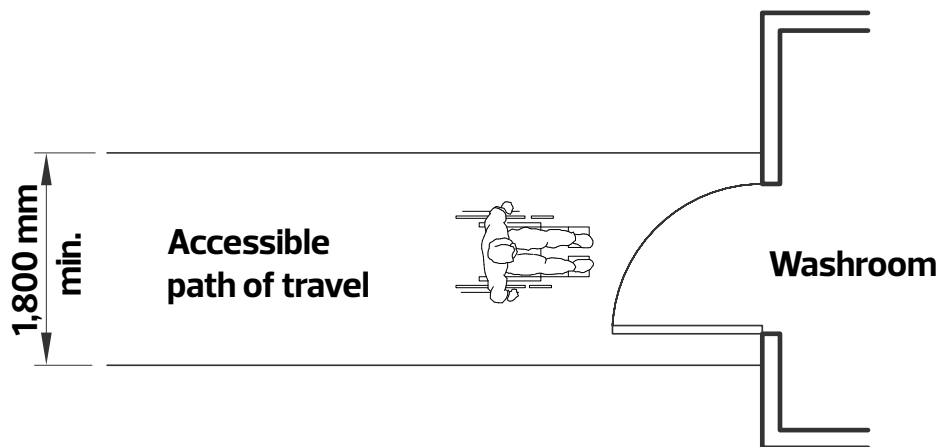


Figure A.6.4.1(a)  
Park washroom access width

4. All washrooms within a park must include at least one universal washroom stall.
5. When temporary washrooms are provided, a minimum of 10% of the washrooms provided must be accessible. Provide a minimum of one accessible washroom if the 10% does not amount to one.

**Notes:** Temporary washrooms include portable units located in parks during summer months and at outdoor events such as concerts, festivals and fairs.

6. Where drinking fountains are provided, include a bottle filling station. Refer to subsection B.2.8.2 Drinking Fountains for specific requirements.

### A.6.4.2 Picnic Sites and Shelters

This subsection applies to canopied and bookable picnic sites and shelters, or sites that are listed as accessible picnic sites. For requirements on picnic tables, refer to subsection A.7.3 Picnic Tables.

1. Picnic shelters must be connected by an accessible path of travel.



Image A.6.4.2(a)

### Accessible path to a picnic shelter

2. The ground surface within the shelter must be level, firm and stable and flush with the adjacent accessible path of travel.
3. Picnic shelters must have a clear turning diameter of at least 1,800 mm.
4. Where barbecues are provided in outdoor public-use eating areas, ensure that they are placed away from, but connected to, the accessible path of travel.
5. Provide at least one accessible barbecue that:
  - a. has a level, firm and stable clear ground space of 800 mm x 1,350 mm next to the barbecue
  - b. have operating mechanisms that are located between 800 mm and 1,200 mm above the ground

**Best practice:** Install a power outlet in shelters to allow for recharging of electric mobility devices. Vandalism prevention must be a design consideration for these outlets.

**Note:** Providing power outlets is important to ensure people using electric mobility devices are able to spend more time outside and have the ability to charge their devices.

## A.7 Exterior Furniture

The requirements in this section apply to furniture located in streets and open spaces such as benches, picnic tables and bike racks.

### A.7.1 Street Furniture

Street furniture includes functional and decorative elements that support the function and use of Edmonton streets and open spaces to assist in creating people places. Street furniture can include elements such as poles for traffic signals and lighting, benches, bicycle parking, flower pots, waste receptacles, bollards, banners, tables and chairs, advertising boards, signal boxes/traffic controllers, fire hydrants, pay parking stations, newspaper boxes, wayfinding, sign poles, and public art.

[Downtown and the Quarters Downtown Streetscape Design Manual](#) includes recommendations for streetscape furnishings on distinct character areas within Downtown and the Quarters Downtown.

The requirements in this subsection must be used alongside the [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards](#).

1. Street furniture must be placed in a furnishing zone located outside of the accessible path of travel.

**Note:** The furnishing zone provides an area for signs, street light poles, street trees or landscaping, transit stops, benches and seating for patios associated with adjacent businesses, in addition to underground and surface utilities and concrete curb. This zone is essential for maintaining a clear and accessible path of travel for pedestrians by organizing street furniture in a consistent and predictable layout.



**Image A.7.1(a)**  
**Sidewalk with distinct furnishing zone**

2. Street furniture must be placed in a consistent, repeatable and linear manner to ensure an accessible path of travel is the most direct route without weaving around street furniture.

**Note:** Consistent placement of street furniture helps create a more predictable street, especially for people with low or no vision.

3. Bike racks must be placed entirely in the furnishing zone such that locked bicycles do not protrude into the pedestrian path of travel.

**Note:** The placement of the bike rack must account for the full length of a bicycle when locked to the rack. This is to ensure the parked bicycle itself does not obstruct or reduce the minimum clear width of the pedestrian path of travel.

4. The furnishing zone must be clearly differentiated from the pedestrian path of travel using ground finishes that contrast in colour and texture.

Refer to figure A.7.1(a).

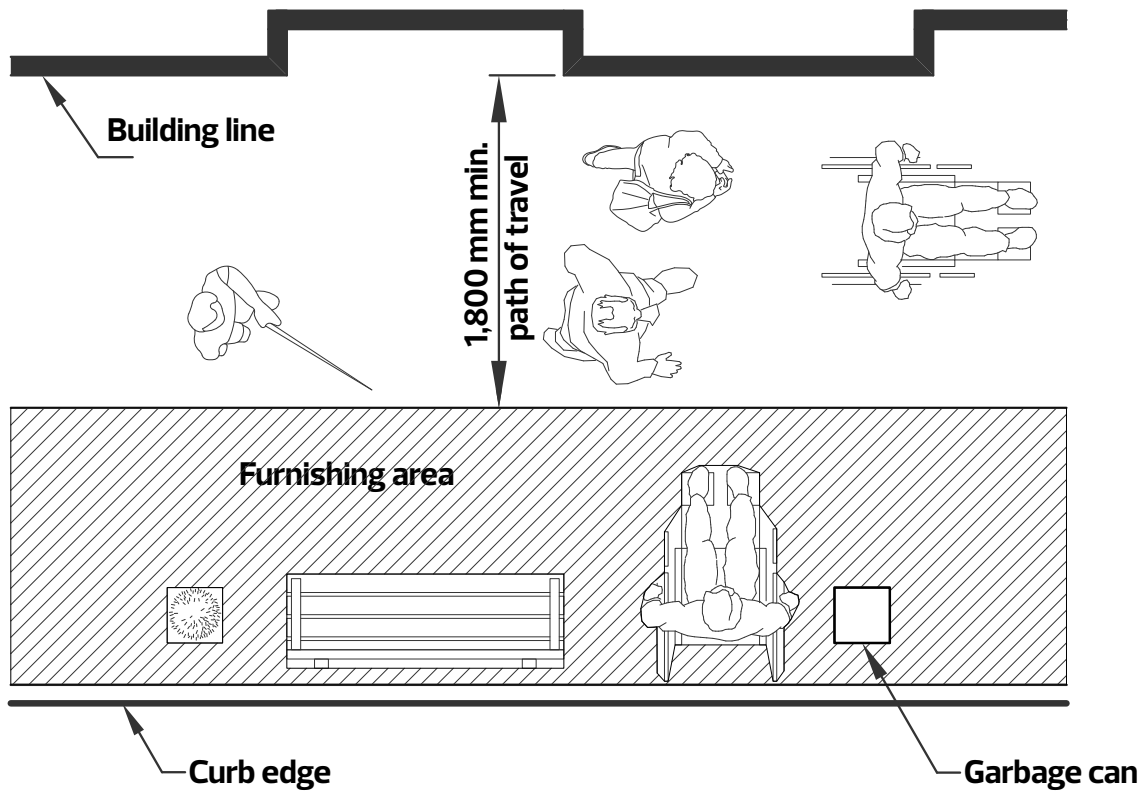


Figure A.7.1(a)  
Pedestrian path and furnishing zone

5. If the furnishing zone and path of travel lack contrasting texture and colour, install a tactile delineator strip of minimum 600 mm width along the path of travel. Refer to figure A.7.1(b).

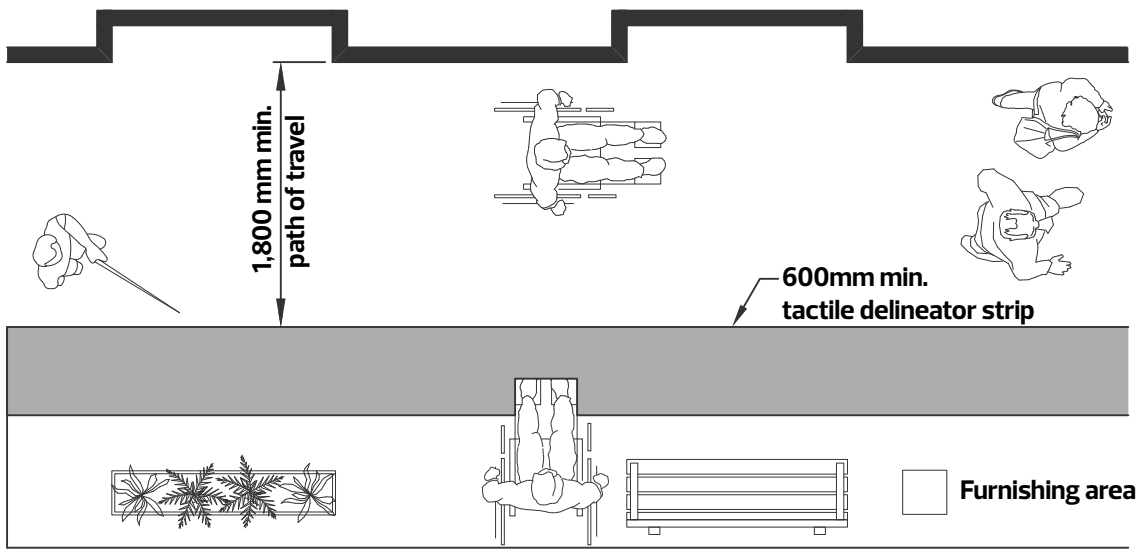


Figure A.7.1(b)  
Pedestrian path and furnishing zone delineation

## A.7.2 Benches

1. Provide benches along pedestrian paths of travel at regular intervals to allow opportunities for people to rest.

**Note:** This requirement generally does not apply to residential road right of ways due to privacy concerns but may be included where privacy of residents can be ensured. Benches are especially critical for individuals with low mobility, cardiac or respiratory conditions and chronic fatigue. Without benches, long pedestrian paths of travel become barriers, restricting access to a destination for those who cannot walk an extended distance without resting. Benches also benefit companions or caregivers of individuals using mobility devices.



Image A.7.2(a)  
Park benches

2. Provide at least one bench every 400 meters along pedestrian paths of travel. Refer to Breathe Open Space Management Plan for detailed requirements.

**Note:** Consider the location, number of users and orientation of views when locating benches.

**Best practice:** Provide a variety of seating options, including some that are partially shaded and protected from the elements.

**Note:** This can be achieved by incorporating natural elements such as trees. Shaded areas in outdoor spaces help people who are sensitive to heat or have medical conditions that make it hard to stay cool, while also benefiting seniors and the general public.

3. Benches located adjacent to a path of travel, must have an accessible connection to the path.

**Best practice:** Avoid benches that are not adjacent to or connected to a path of travel.

4. Provide a minimum of one bench at trailheads.
5. Locate benches towards activities or viewpoints along paths of travel.
6. Benches must be of luminance contrast with the surrounding area.
7. Where one bench is provided, it must have a backrest and armrests.
8. Where two or more benches are provided within the same seating area, provide a variety of options including a combination of armrests, armless, and backrests to accommodate various abilities.

**Note:** Armrests help provide an option for someone to push off of and keep balance when getting up. Backrests help people with low upper stability or strength and need additional support. An armless bench may be easier for a person transferring from wheelchair to the bench.

9. Benches located on seating areas connected to the path of travel must be setback so that a person can stop, rest, and not feel they are in the way of others.

**Note:** Refer to the [Table of Minimum Offsets](#) for setback requirements.

10. Benches must be ergonomic to allow comfortable seating for a long period of time.

**Note:** Backrests, comfortable materials, textures and protection from the elements provides for comfortable seating.

11. Benches must be anchored to the ground to prevent overturning.
12. All benches must have a minimum heel space of 150 mm below the bench.

**Note:** Providing adequate heel space makes rising from a seated position easier. Space under the bench may provide a place for service dogs to rest.

13. Bench seat must be between:

- a. 420 mm and 485 mm from the ground
- b. 400 mm and 450 mm deep

14. Height of armrests for benches with backrests must be 200 mm from top of seat. Lower armrests can be provided for benches without backrests, as they are primarily used as handles to push off of.

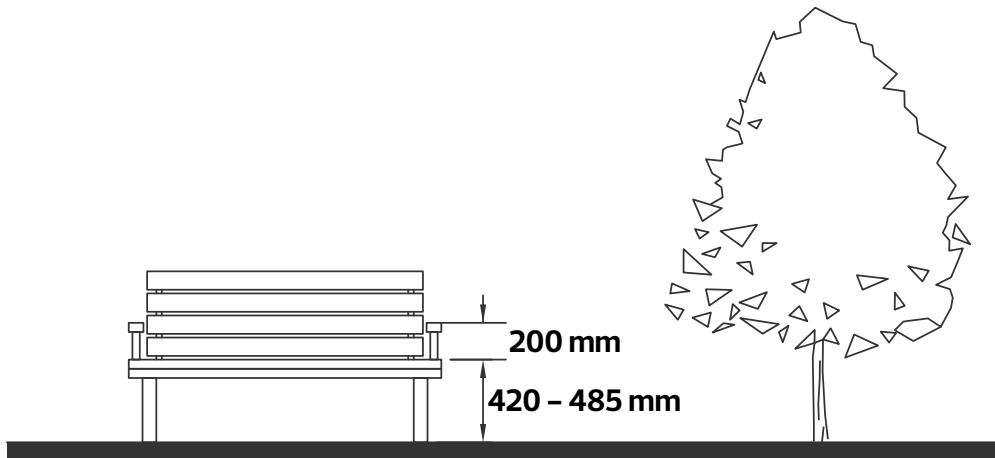


Figure A.7.2(a)  
Bench and arm rest heights

15. Provide a level and firm ground surface of 900 mm x 1,500 mm adjacent to the bench to accommodate a wheelchair, scooter, stroller or a service animal.

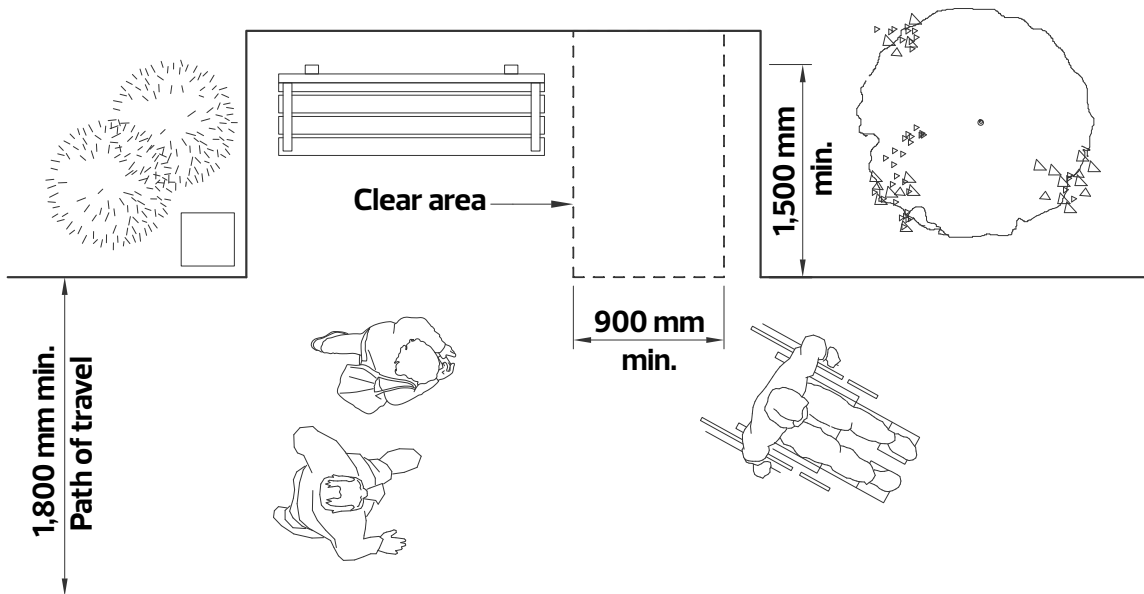


Figure A.7.2(b)  
Clear area adjacent bench

16. Seat surfaces of benches must have anti-slip material.

**Note:** Anti-slip properties reduce the risk of slips and falls, especially when a person is transferring on to or off the bench from a wheelchair. This is particularly important for benches intended for year-round use.

17. The material and design of seat surfaces must assist in regulating the ambient temperature so the surface stays warmer in winter months and cooler during the summer.

**Note:** Materials like wood, recycled plastic lumber, or composite materials help maintain a more moderate surface temperature ensuring the seating is comfortable year-round.

18. Seat surfaces must be pitched or perforated to shed water, but must not drain out onto paths of travel where surface water or ice may create a hazard.
19. Seat surfaces and vertical supports must be designed to avoid accumulating snow and debris.

## A.7.3 Picnic tables

1. In an open space where picnic tables are provided, a minimum of 20% of the total number of picnic tables and no fewer than one, must be accessible.
2. Accessible picnic tables must be connected to an accessible path of travel.

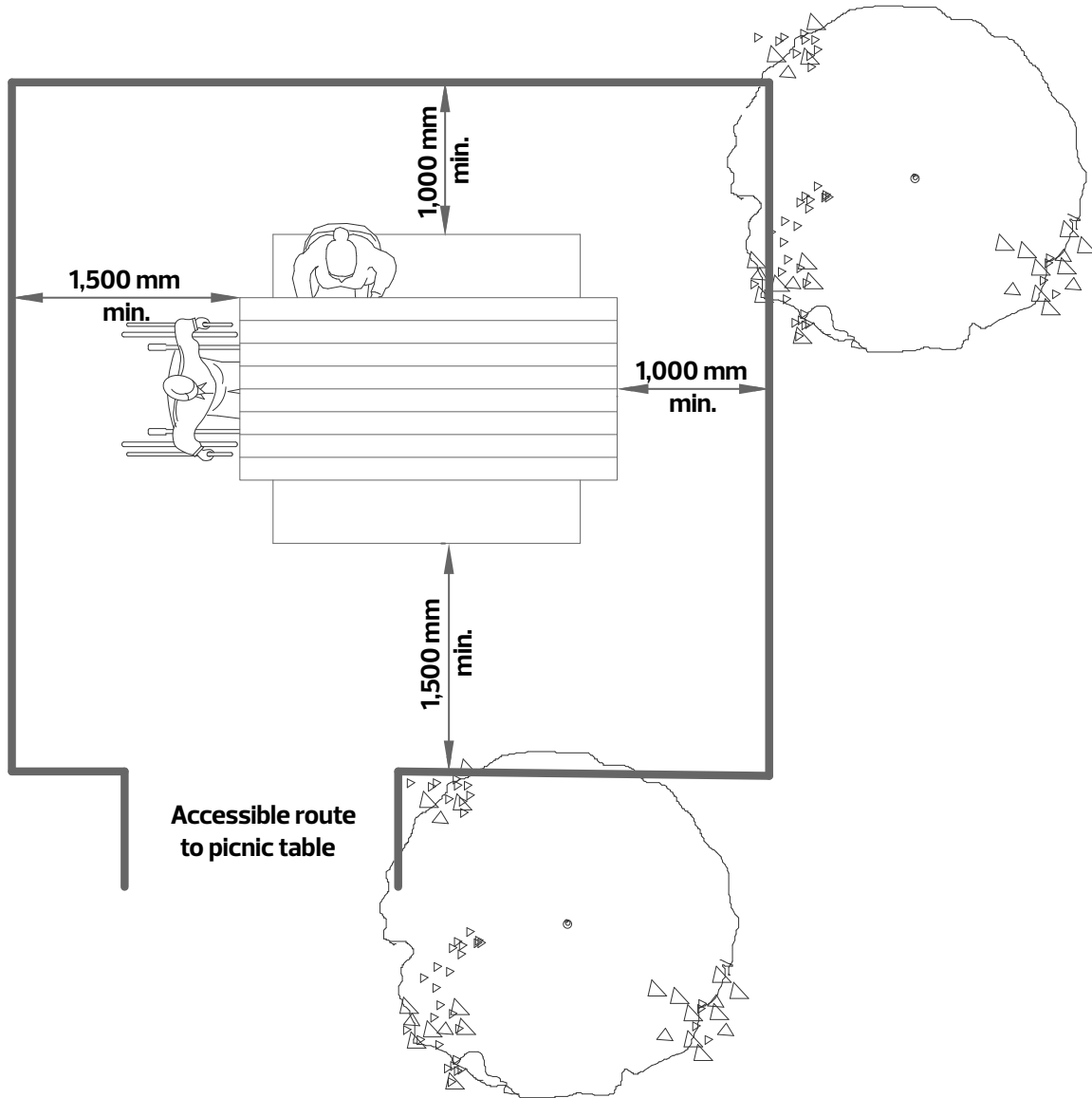


**Image A.7.3(a)**  
**Accessible picnic table**

3. Provide clear ground space on all sides of the accessible picnic table.
  - a. At least 1,500 mm at the accessible seating position, typically the extended end of the table.
  - b. At least 1,000 mm on all other sides

Refer to figure A.7.3.(a).

**Note:** The accessible picnic table and clear ground space around it must be located entirely outside the minimum 1,800 mm width of the accessible path of travel to ensure the path remains unobstructed for other park users.



**Figure A.7.3(a)**  
**Accessible picnic table clearances**

4. Accessible picnic tables must be located on a firm, level and stable ground surface that is no steeper than 1:50 (2%).  
 Refer to figure A.7.3.(b).
5. Accessible picnic tables must be anchored to the ground or have other options to prevent from overturning or shifting during use.

6. Accessible picnic tables must:

- a. have a knee clearance of minimum 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high
- b. have the top surface of the picnic table between 730 mm and 865 mm from the ground

Refer to figure A.7.3(b).

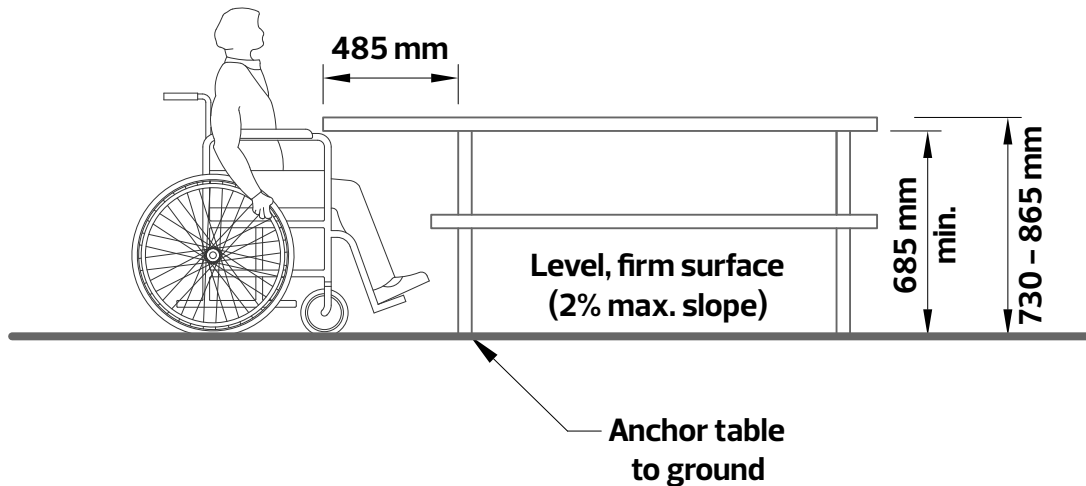


Figure A.7.3(b)  
Accessible picnic table dimensions

7. Consideration should be given to providing shade for picnic tables.

**Note:** Shaded areas help people who are sensitive to heat or have medical conditions that make it hard to stay cool.

## A.7.4 Bike Racks

For more information on the design of bicycle parking, including rack type, placement and offsets, refer to the City Owned and Maintained On-Street Bike Rack Installation Guidelines. This document is not publicly available. External consultants and contractors can request access from the City Project Manager.

1. Bike racks must be located such that no part of the bicycle protrudes into the accessible path of travel.

**Note:** This is to ensure the parked bicycle itself does not obstruct or reduce the minimum clear width of the pedestrian path of travel. Locating bike racks on a separate but connected firm and level surface adjacent to the path of travel helps to minimize obstructions.

2. Bike racks must have luminance contrast with the surrounding surfaces.

**Best practice:** Bicycle parking areas have tonal contrast with the surrounding surfaces to help define the parking area for both cyclists and pedestrians.

3. Bike racks must have either a cane-detectable shape, a taper plate or rail that is located within 250 mm of the base of the bike rack.

**Note:** Some bike rack shapes, like inverted U-shaped bike racks, may be difficult to locate with a cane. Modifying an inverted U-shaped bike rack with a taper rail may achieve the same appearance while making the bike rack more likely to be cane-detectable. Where bike racks are placed within a consistent row, the cane-detection may be reduced to being located at each end of the row making the whole section of bike racks a group that is cane-detectable.



**Image A.7.4(a)**  
**Bike rack with taper plate**

4. Bike racks must be free of sharp or square edges to avoid hazard to pedestrians, especially those with low or no vision.

## A.8 Temporary Events and Festivals

Temporary events and festivals are planned, short-term gatherings that occur at a specified location for a limited time. Edmonton hosts many unique festivals and special events like sports events, music, film festivals and celebrations of food and culture.

When planning temporary events and festivals, refer to [Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings and Events](#) published by the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the City of Edmonton and the [City of Edmonton's Civic Events and Festivals Guide](#).

1. Keep electrical wires and cords outside pedestrian paths of travel. If it is necessary to run electrical wires across a path of travel, use cable protectors that are designed to be wheelchair accessible, i.e. having a gradual bevelled slope. The cable protectors must have luminance contrast with the surrounding ground surface to alert people with low vision.
2. Where portable toilets are provided for outdoor events on City-owned land, at least 10% of toilets must be accessible. Provide a minimum of one accessible toilet if the 10% does not amount to one.

**Note:** Accessible temporary toilets should be located near entrances and major assembly areas, positioned along an accessible route and clearly identified with the International Symbol of Access.

3. Provide portable hearing loops for stages, performance areas and information kiosks.
4. Designate temporary accessible parking spaces at the ratio of one accessible space for every 25 total spaces.
5. Accessible parking or drop-off including DATS drop-off area must be located as close as possible to the accessible entrance.
6. If existing designated accessible parking stalls are removed temporarily for construction purposes or events, provide an equal number of alternate accessible stalls in close proximity to the accessible entrance.
7. Pedestrian routes must be firm, stable and slip-resistant.

**Note:** Use temporary outdoor mats or trackway panels on grass, gravel or dirt.

8. Use secure, temporary ramps with non-slip surfaces and edge protection to bridge curbs, single steps and thresholds higher than 13 mm. Ramps must not be steeper than 1:12 (8.33%).
9. Ensure signs, tent supports or equipment do not protrude into pedestrian paths of travel.

**ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN GUIDE**

# **INTERIOR**



## B. Interior

Overall design considerations for all buildings must consider the following elements as well as the specific requirements in each subsection:

- Ensure clear, unobstructed paths of travel with adequate manoeuvring space for people using mobility devices.
- Avoid hard surfaces or provide mitigation measures to reduce echo and reverberation, which makes it difficult for people with hearing loss to hear and distinguish sounds.
- Reduce shiny and reflective surfaces or provide mitigation measures to reduce glare which makes it difficult for people with low vision to navigate.
- Ensure simple and predictable layouts that make navigation easy for people with low or no vision and cognitive disabilities.
- Avoid features that are overwhelming for people with cognitive disabilities such as crowded spaces, instructions that are difficult to remember or complex signs.

In addition to the guidelines already established in the previous version of the Access Design Guide, this section draws upon best practices, recommendations and requirements found in the sources listed below:

- [Accessibility Design Guide 2024, Government of Alberta](#)
- [City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)
- [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#)
- [CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible Design for the Built Environment](#)

## B.1 Building Access and Egress

This section outlines requirements for building entrances, access control and areas of refuge. For additional requirements specific to transit facilities, refer section B.5 Transit Facilities.



Image B.1(a)  
An accessible building entrance

## B.1.1 Building Entrances

1. All building entrances must be easily identifiable. For example, doors or door frames that are luminance contrasting with adjacent surfaces.

Refer to image B.1.1(a).

**Note:** The luminance contrast makes the doorway easier to locate for people with low vision, especially when doorways are located in glass walls. Clear visual contrast at an entrance also makes a space feel more orderly and easier to navigate. This helps create a sense of calm and control for people with cognitive disabilities.



Image B.1.1(a)  
Clearly marked entrance doors

2. **Existing buildings:** If the above requirement cannot be reasonably met in an existing building, provide an effective strategy to distinguish the door entrance, for example, use of luminance contrasting film on glass.
3. Drainage must be directed away from the entrance to prevent accumulation of ice and water.

4. Provide automatic sliding doors for main accessible entrances of public use facilities. Design should consider how to reduce the impact of seasonal weather, such as strong winds and drifting snow. This will ensure entrance doors work normally in all weather conditions.

**Note:** Sliding doors remove the need for manually activating a power operator. They also remove the manoeuvring sometimes required for people using mobility devices to stay clear of a swinging door. In addition, sliding doors provide an audible cue while opening, which assists users with low or no vision in confirming they are at the entrance doors.

5. Avoid revolving doors at City facility entrances to ensure universal accessibility.

**Note:** Revolving doors are problematic as the narrow compartments of revolving doors make it difficult or impossible for individuals using mobility devices and those with low or no vision to pass through safely. The constant motion of automatic revolving doors can be overwhelming for people with cognitive disabilities.

**Best practice:** Where an automatic sliding door serves as the primary entrance and is part of a bank of multiple doors, at least one of the additional doors must be equipped with a power door operator.

Refer to Figure B.1.1(a).

**Note:** Having an adjacent door with power operator ensures that an accessible entrance is always available, even if the primary automatic doors are temporarily closed or out of service.

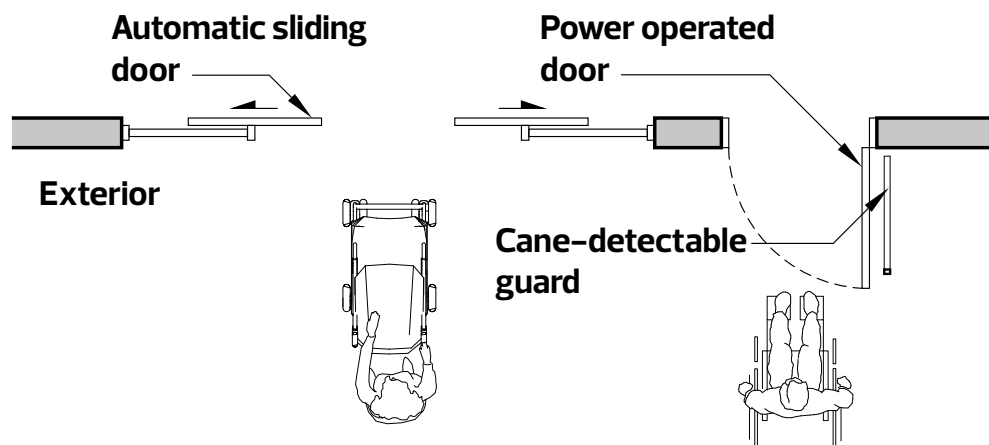


Figure B.1.1(a)  
Automatic and power-operated entrance doors

6. The control of a power door operator should be a push plate with an integrated touchless sensor (i.e. wave-to-open) that can be operated along the entire length of the push plate. Ensure luminance contrast between the push plate and the surface on which it is installed.

Refer to image B.1.1(b).

**Note:** This design simplifies access by reducing the need for dexterity or precise movements required to activate a push button.



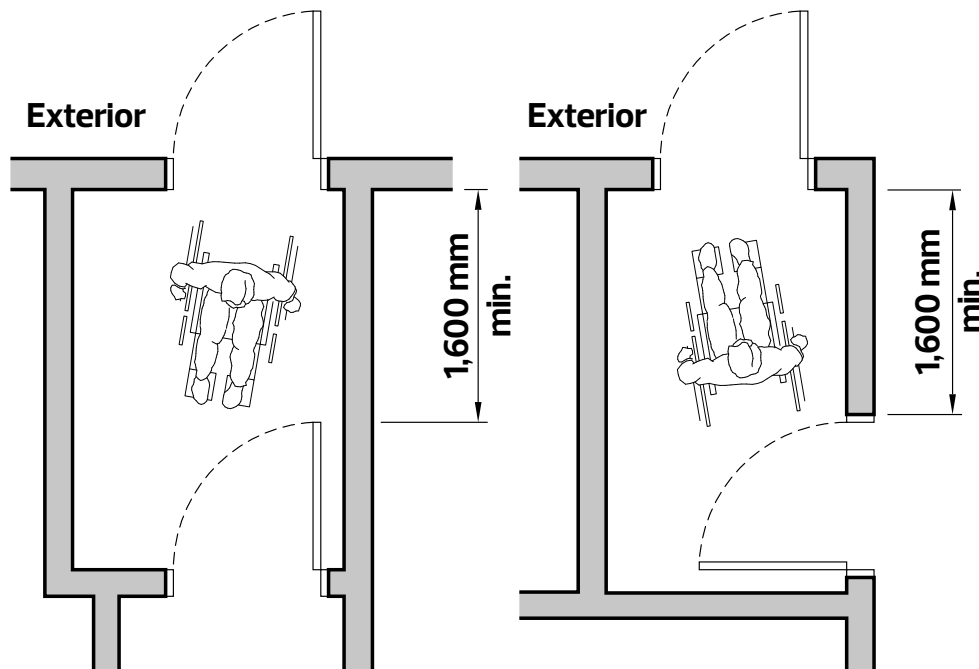
**Image B.1.1(b)**  
Push plate with integrated touchless sensor

7. If only one door is activated by a power operator in a bank of doors, use signage i.e. International Symbol of Access, to indicate which door is power-operated.

- Entrance vestibules must have a clear distance of at least 1,600 mm between doors. The 1,600 mm is measured from the leading edge of the open door, where doors swing into the vestibule.

Refer to figure B.1.1(b).

**Note:** In a vestibule, doors that are located in the same direction of travel are easier to manoeuvre than doors that are perpendicular to each other. This makes it easier for a wheeled mobility device user to manoeuvre through a vestibule without being hit by an opening or closing swing door.

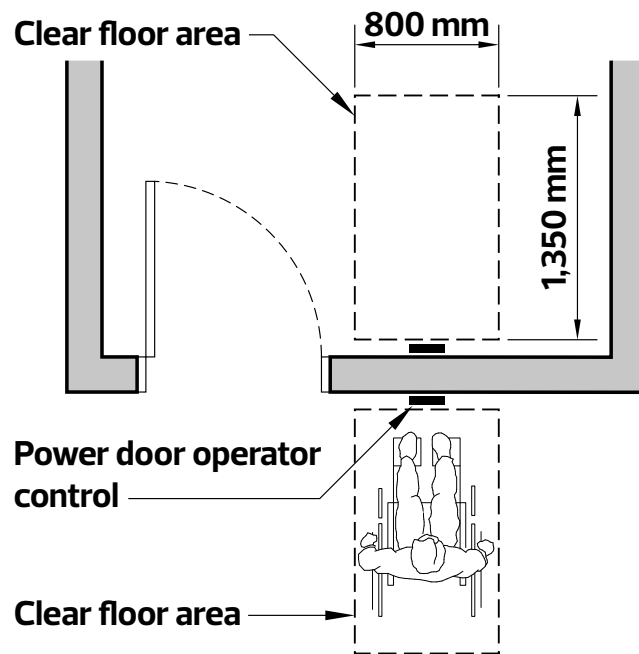


**Figure B.1.1(b)**  
**Entrance vestibule length**

- Power door operator controls must be easily visible.
- Provide a clear floor area of 800 mm by 1,350 mm that is clear of the door swing to access the power door operator control.

Refer to Figure B.1.1(c).

**Note:** The power door operator control can be installed on a cane-detectable guard, a pedestal or on a wall.

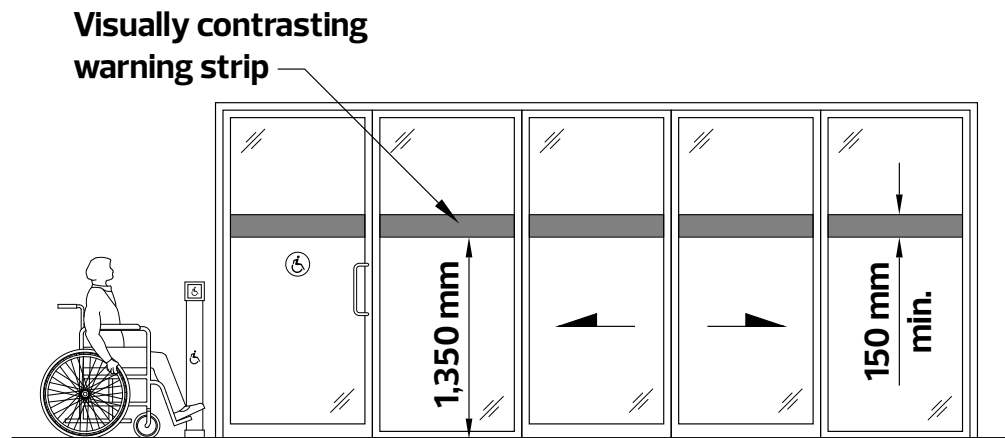


**Figure B.1.1(c)**  
**Power door operator clear area**

- 11.** Glass doors and side panels must include a warning strip (i.e. etched glass or vinyl film) that is visually contrasting to the background of the door from both inside and outside. The warning strip must:
  - a.** be a minimum of 150 mm wide
  - b.** extend for the entire width of the door
  - c.** start at a height of 1,350 mm from the finished floor
  - d.** be installed on both sides of the glass

Refer to figure B.1.1(d).

**Note:** Visual contrast is the perceptible difference in brightness or luminance between an element and its adjacent background surface. The warning strips prevent collisions by providing a clear visual indicator for individuals with low vision or cognitive disabilities who may otherwise perceive clear glass as an open doorway. These strips ensure that glass panels remain detectable under variable lighting and weather conditions, significantly improving safety and orientation for all users.



**Figure B.1.1(d)**  
**Warning strip on glazed panels**

- 12.** Where possible, avoid using a centre post with double doors.

(Source: [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#))

**Note:** A centre post is a vertical member located between two swinging doors in a double door opening. Double doors without a centre post provide a wider clear opening improving access and reducing the risk of collision. This is particularly important for guide dog handlers.

- 13.** Recessed entrance floor grilles, that are level with the adjacent floor surface, should be provided in entrance vestibules to reduce the impact of inclement weather.

Refer to image B.1.1(c).

**Note:** Entrance grilles scrape off dirt caused by rain, snow or mud from footwear and wheels, reducing the risk of slips and falls especially for those with low balance or mobility.



Image B.1.1(c)  
Recessed entrance floor grille

14. Entrances and vestibules should be well and uniformly lit.

**Best practice:** Provide storage for mobility equipment and strollers near main accessible entrances of high use public facilities such as recreation centres. This storage area must not encroach into the accessible path of travel.

### Additional Requirements for Existing Buildings

15. If certain entrances in an existing building are not accessible, provide directional signage at these entrances guiding users to the accessible entrance. The signage must be located:

- a. at all non-accessible entrances
- b. at the approach to the facility
- c. in an accessible path of travel, clear of any obstructions

**Note:** In older buildings, some entrances may not be accessible. Directional signage helps mobility device users to find the accessible entrance without having to backtrack. Best practice is to renovate existing buildings to create accessible entrances.

Refer to image B.1.1(d).



Image B.1.1(d)  
Directional sign for accessible entrance

16. Doors not equipped with power operators in an existing building must be lightweight and easy to pull/push.

**Note:** This should be the primary consideration when doors are replaced during a renovation. Best practice is to install power door operators during renovations.

17. When a power door operator is installed to an entrance door within a vestibule, the vestibule doors must also be equipped with power door operators.

**Note:** Power door operators are sometimes added to entrance doors during renovations of existing buildings. To make the entrance truly accessible for individuals using mobility devices, the vestibule door must also have a power door operator.

## B.1.2 Access Control Gates

Access control gates are physical barriers that are electronically managed to regulate and restrict the entry, exit or flow of people into the building or a specific area. They are used to enhance security, restrict unauthorized entry and control traffic within a building.

1. Where turnstiles are used to control access, an adjacent accessible control gate with swing gates must be provided.

**Note:** Turnstiles are not accessible because they are a significant barrier for people with a wide range of disabilities including those with low mobility, service dog handlers and individuals using mobility devices.

2. Manual controls must be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist.
3. Where access control gates are provided, at least one must have a minimum clear opening width of 850 mm.

Refer to figure B.1.2(a).

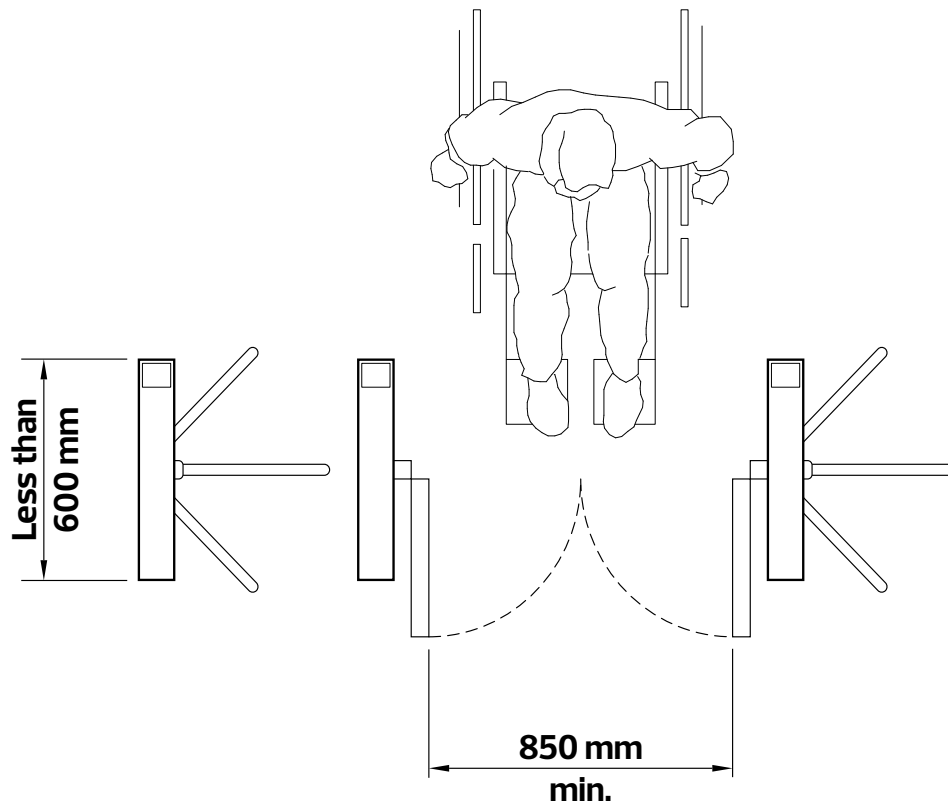


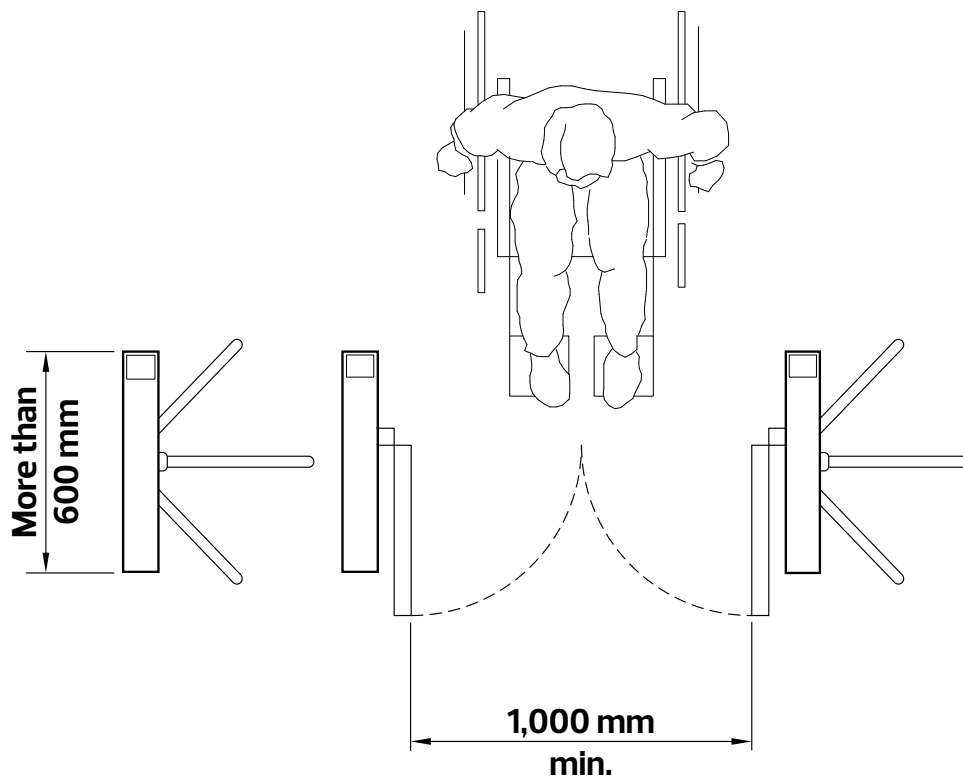
Figure B.1.2(a)  
Access control gate clear opening

4. If the width of the accessible entry space is restricted for a distance of more than 600 mm, the clear opening width must be increased to at least 1,000 mm.

Refer to figure B.1.2(b).

(Source: Clause 5.2.12, CSA/ASC B651:23, Accessible design for the built environment. ©2023 Canadian Standards Association. Please visit [store.csagroup.org](https://store.csagroup.org))

**Note:** This additional width allows a person using a wheeled mobility device to make minor steering adjustments and maintain hand clearance while navigating a longer distance that is narrow and restricted.



**Figure B.1.2(b)**  
**Access control gate clear opening**

5. An adjacent alternative entryway should be provided in case the access control gate is out of service or fails to operate.

(Source: Clause 5.2.12, CSA/ASC B651:23, Accessible design for the built environment. ©2023 Canadian Standards Association. Please visit [store.csagroup.org](https://store.csagroup.org))

## B.1.3 Areas of Refuge

An area of refuge is a safe waiting area for people who are unable to evacuate independently. In the event of a fire, an area of refuge provides a well-known place for firefighters to help anyone unable to use stairs to exit the building. A plan to evacuate persons with disabilities must be developed and approved by the local fire authorities. This is a mandatory requirement as cited in the Alberta Fire Code.

1. An area of refuge must be provided in all buildings where there is an accessible path of travel above or below the first storey.
2. Number of areas of refuge per floor must meet the following:
  - a. Building with two exits – a minimum of one at every floor level above or below the first storey.
  - b. Building with three or more exits – a minimum of two at every floor level above or below the first storey.

(Source: [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))

3. Each designated space in an area of refuge must:
  - a. have a clear floor area of 1.5 m<sup>2</sup> with one side at least 900 mm
  - b. have an additional 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> for accompanying ambulatory attendant
  - c. be clear of the required exit width of the hallway or stairwell

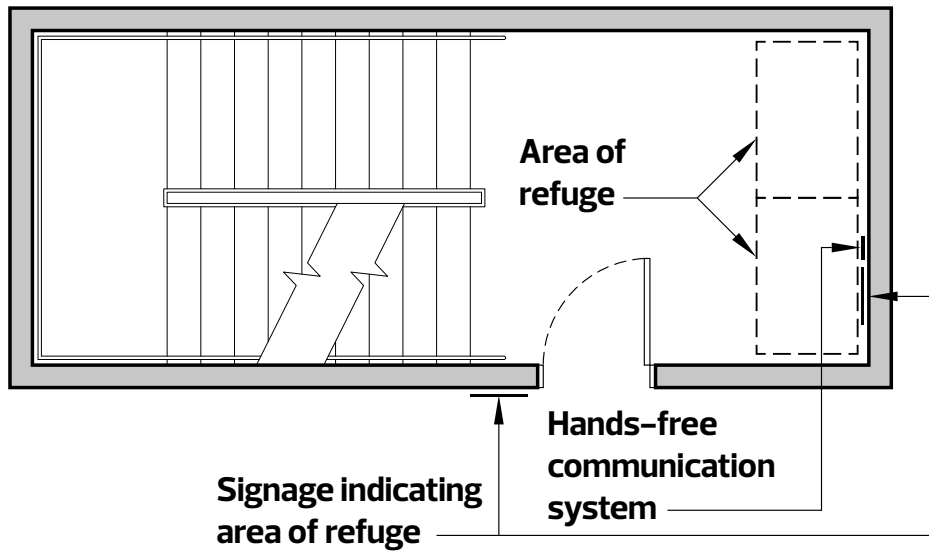
Refer to figure B.1.3(a).

**Note:** The area of refuge is also intended to be used by people who do not use a mobility device but are nonetheless unable to use exit stairs. It is acknowledged that many people using mobility aids do not have an attendant with them at all times, and therefore it is assumed that all the space allotted for ambulatory attendants might not be used in an emergency.

4. An area of refuge must have a two-way hands-free communication system that is connected to an emergency response system.

(Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))

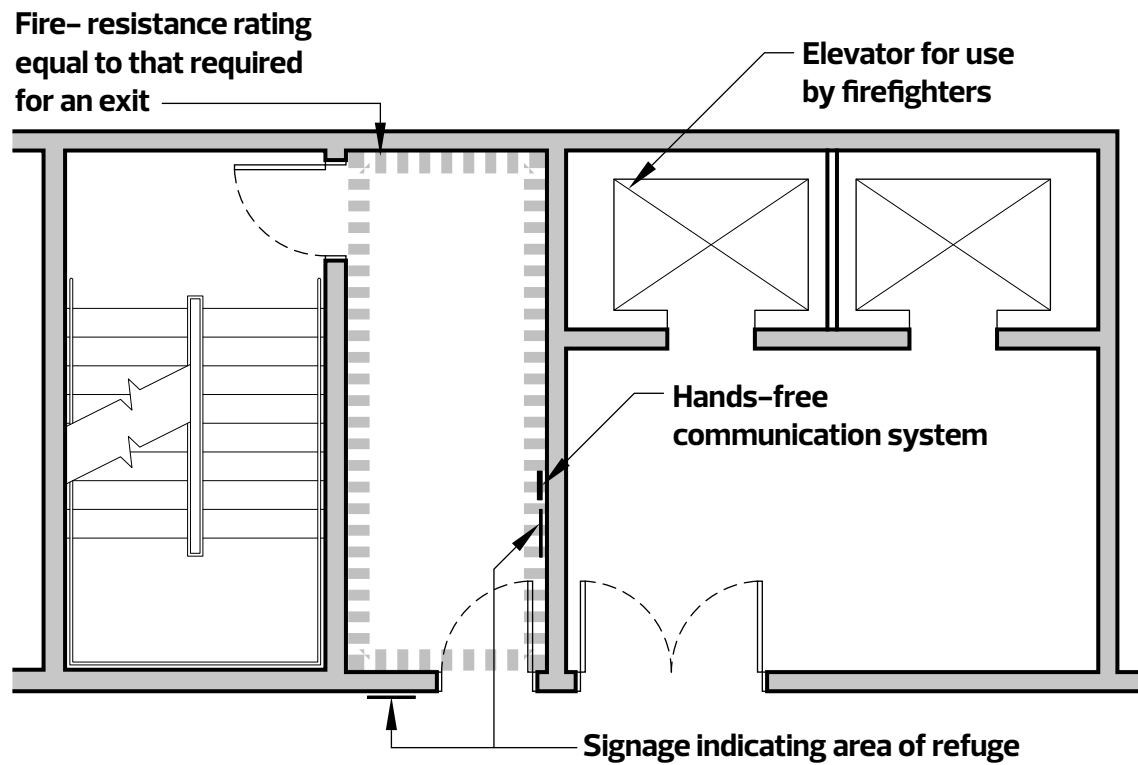
Refer to figure B.1.3(a).



**Figure B.1.3(a)**  
**Area of refuge in stairwell**

5. An area of refuge must have a fire separation with a fire resistance rating equal to that required for an exit.

Refer to figures B.1.3(b) and B.1.3(c).



**Figure B.1.3(b)** (Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))  
**Area of refuge in exit route**

6. Areas of refuge must be connected to an accessible path of travel that is connected to a firefighters' elevator.

Refer to figures B.1.3(b) and B.1.3(c).

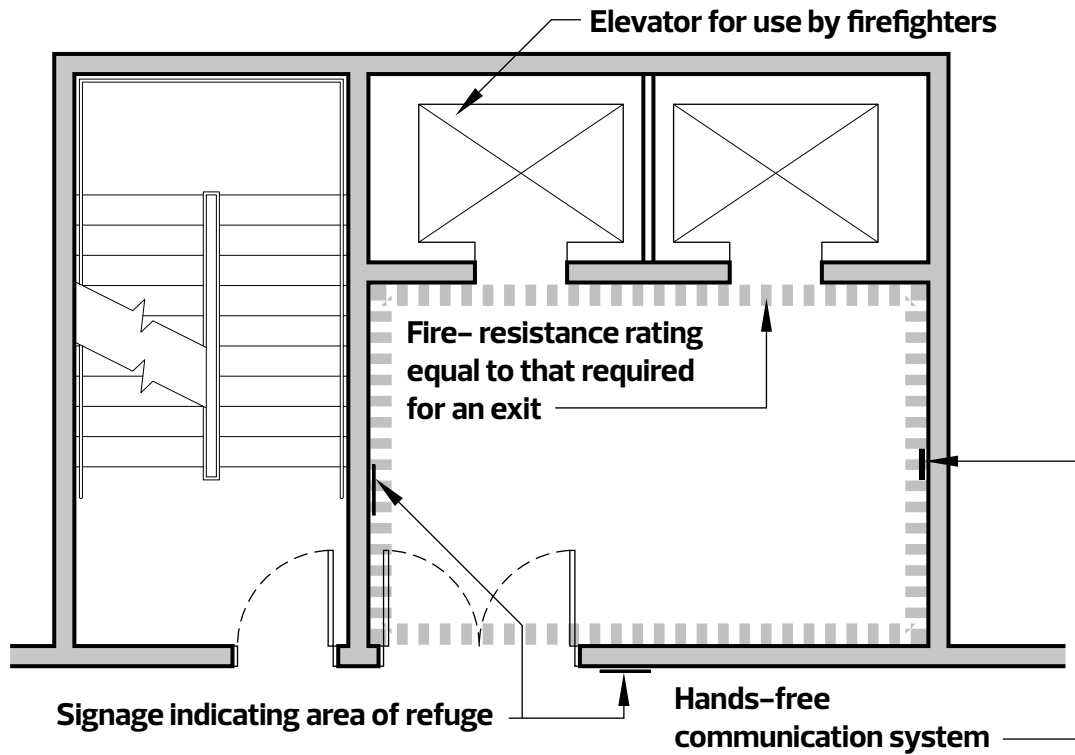


Figure B.1.3(c) (Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))  
 Area of refuge in elevator lobby

7. The area of refuge must be identified by directional and identification signs with the International Symbol of Access.



Figure B.1.3(d)  
 Area of refuge sign

## B.2 Building Interior

### B.2.1 Circulation

#### B.2.1.1 Paths of Travel

1. Interior paths of travel must have stable, firm and slip-resistant surfaces.
2. Paths of travel floor surfaces must be designed to reduce glare and have minimum pattern design.

**Note:** Surface glare and busy patterns can create reflections or optical illusions that disorient users, especially seniors, people with low vision or sensory sensitivities.

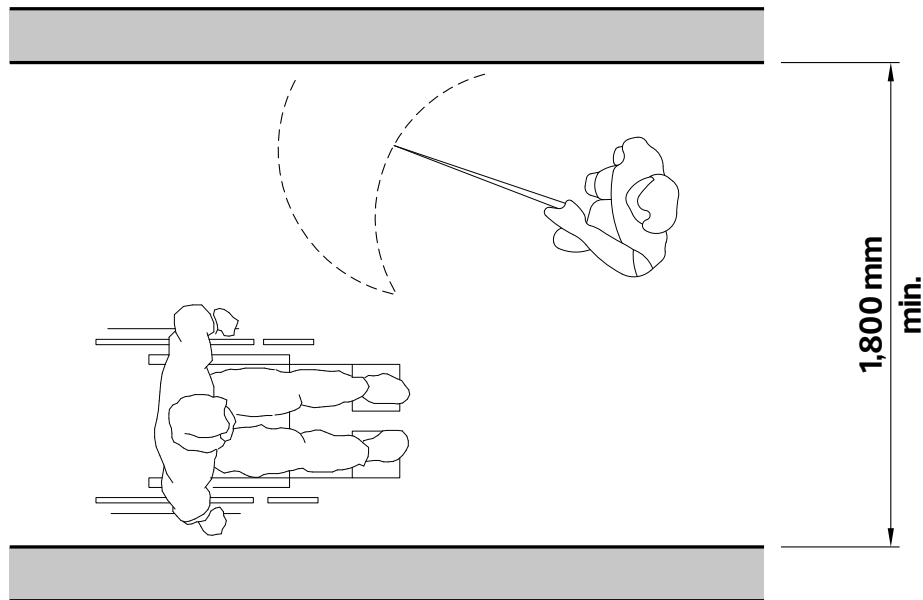
3. Provide an accessible path of travel to all storeys and mezzanines with public use or work spaces.

**Note:** An accessible path of travel is a continuous, unobstructed route providing access to elements and spaces within a building. This includes corridors, hallways, aisles and clear passing areas. Ramps, elevators and other elevating devices are used to ensure the path of travel between different floor levels remains accessible.

4. Corridors in public use buildings must have a minimum width of 1,800 mm.

Refer to figure B.2.1.1(a).

**Note:** The width allows two mobility device users to pass each other easily, creates a clear path of travel for people with low or no vision and allows two people communicating in sign language to walk side by side.



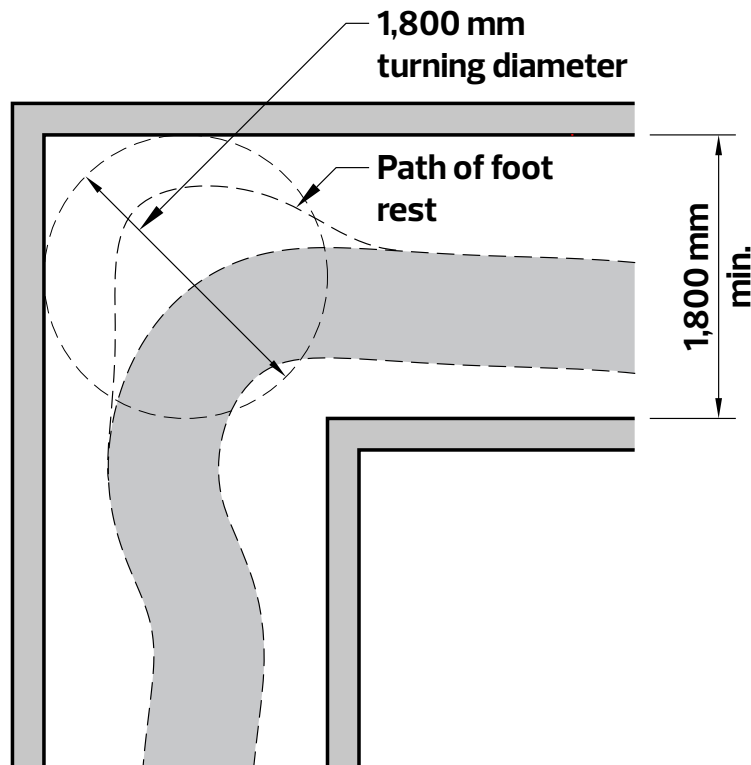
**Figure B.2.1.1(a)**  
**Public corridor minimum width**

5. The clear width of accessible paths of travel except public corridors, doorways and access control gates must be a minimum of 1,200 mm.

**Note:** Refer to subsection B.1.2 for minimum width of access control gates.

6. Provide a clear space of at least 1,800 mm in diameter at corners of accessible paths of travel to allow a person using a mobility device to turn.

Refer to figure B.2.1.1(b).



**Figure B.2.1.1(b)**  
**Corridor corner turning space**

7. The minimum clear width of paths of travel must be free of obstacles such as temporary or permanent obstructions, protrusions and overhead objects that are lower than 1,980 mm above finished floor.
8. Where overhead clearance is reduced under stairs, ramps or escalators, provide a cane-detectable barrier. This barrier must enclose the entire area where the ceiling height is reduced.

Refer to figure B.2.1.1(c).

**Best practice:** Enclose the open areas beneath hanging stair landings and escalators to avoid the safety risk.

**Note:** Examples of cane-detectable barriers include planters, fencing, benches and railings.

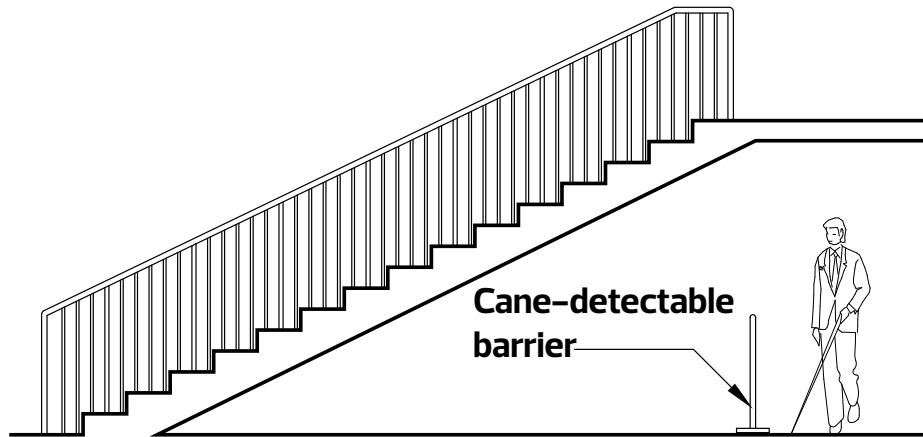


Figure B.2.1.1(c)  
Cane-detectable barrier under stairs

- 9. Objects protruding more than 100 mm from walls, columns or free-standing supports must be cane-detectable at or below 680 mm from the floor.  
Refer to figure B.2.1.1(d).

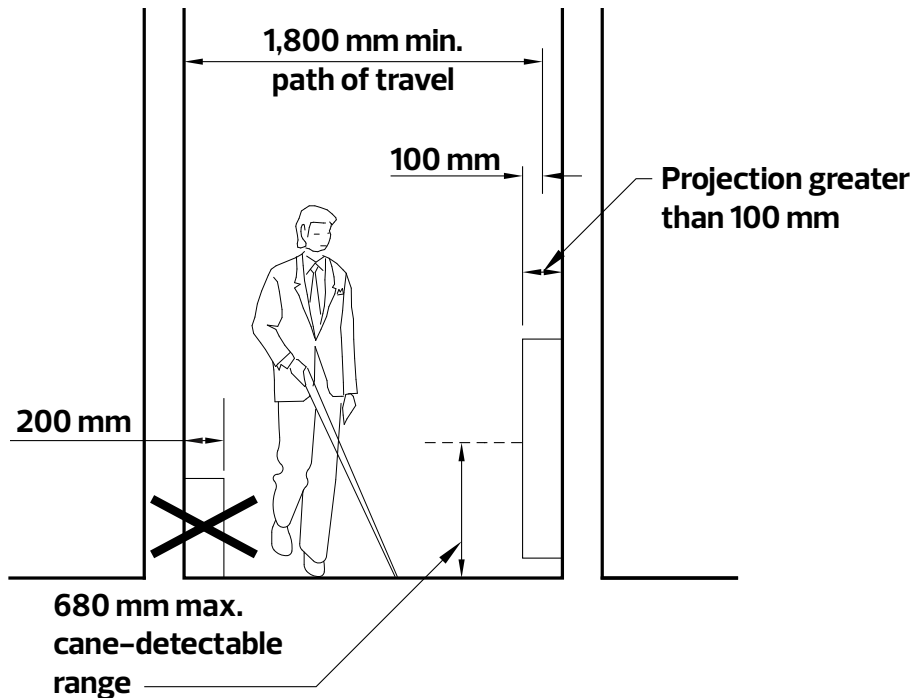


Figure B.2.1.1(d)  
Cane-detectable obstructions

10. Wall surfaces with mirror or glass and large viewing windows must include a warning strip that is visually contrasting to the background, i.e. etched glass or vinyl film. The warning strip must:
- be a minimum 150 mm wide
  - extend for the entire width of the glass
  - start at a height of 1,350 mm from the finished floor
  - be installed on both sides of the glass

Refer to figure B.2.1.1(e).

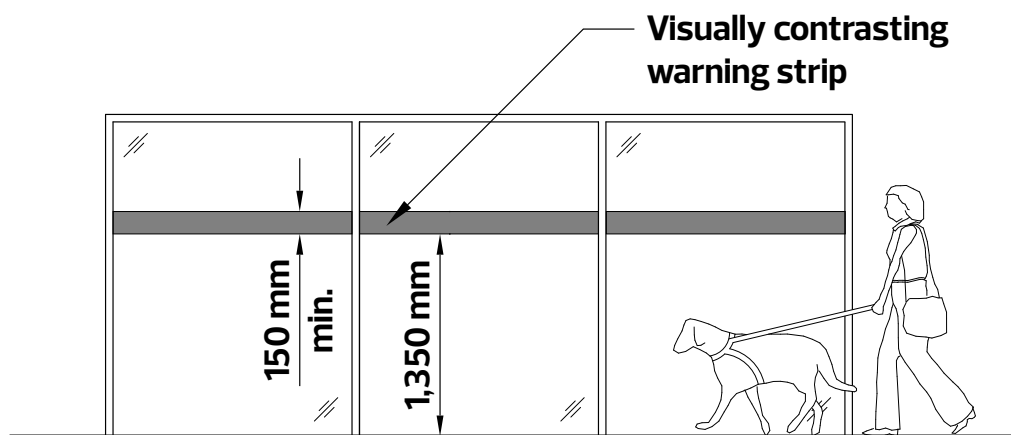


Figure B.2.1.1(e)  
Warning strip on glazed panels

11. All columns in an accessible path of travel must have luminance contrast with the adjacent surfaces to ensure high visibility.

**Note:** It is important to ensure columns are not the same colour as the background to prevent people from walking into them. Installation of wayfinding signage or seating around the columns could help make them more visible.

## B.2.1.2 Doors and Doorways

- Existing Buildings:** All doorways located along an accessible path of travel must have a minimum clear opening width of 850 mm. In existing buildings where space restrictions may prevent widening the door frame, use swing-clear hinges to maximize available opening width.

**Note:** Unlike standard hinges, swing-clear hinges pivot the door leaf completely outside the door frame when open. This removes the thickness of the door from the opening, maximizing the clear width.

**Best practice:** Where a door swings into an accessible path of travel, it should be recessed so that the door swing does not reduce the minimum required width of the accessible path of travel.

Refer to figure B.2.1.2(a).

**Note:** Doors impeding into the minimum accessible path of travel can create a hazard for people with low or no vision, especially automatic swing doors. The accessible path of travel may be made wider to accommodate the width of the door that swings into the path. A cane-detectable guard must be installed to reduce the risk of the door opening into someone with low or no vision.

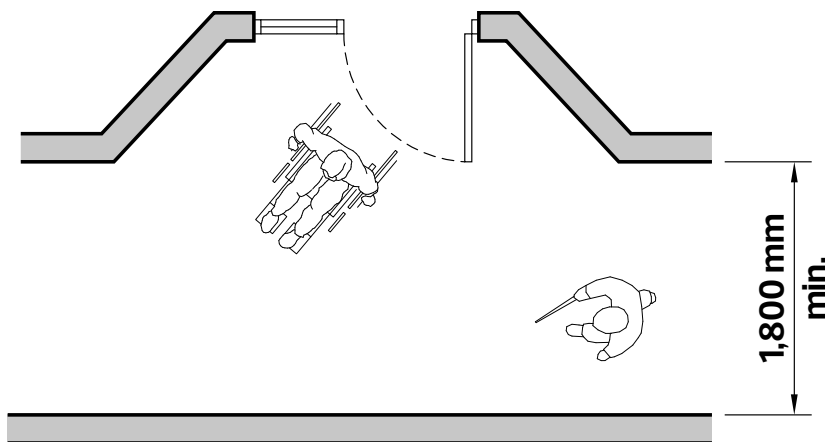


Figure B.2.1.2(a)  
Recessed doorway

**Best practice:** Provide automatic or power-operated doors to public spaces and entrances to work areas.

2. For outward swinging doors, the power door operator control must be located adjacent to a clear floor area of 800 mm by 1,350 mm that is clear of the door swing.

**Note:** Locating the control on a wall or post that meets the above requirement ensures the door doesn't swing open into people with low or no vision or people using mobility devices.

3. Install safety sensors on power operated doors to prevent the door from closing on someone in the doorway.

**Note:** Safety sensors ensure the door stays open for people who move more slowly, such as those using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers. This prevents the door from closing on someone who cannot get out of the way quickly.

4. Doors which are not equipped with power operators must have a handle that can be operated with a closed fist without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. For example, lever type or D shaped handle.

**Note:** Lever type handles are preferred by people with limited strength or ability to grasp with their hands and/or to turn their wrists/arms. Knob-type handles are difficult to manipulate. Lever handles with the ends turned toward the door are less of a hazard than are other handle designs with sharp or abrupt edges, because people with low or no vision often trail wall or door surfaces with their hands.

**Best practice:** Install kick plates on the push side of doors in busy areas. This requirement does not apply to glass doors and doors equipped with a power operator.

**Note:** Kick plates provide a durable surface for wheeled mobility device users to push against the door with their footrests to open the door, while protecting it from damage.

5. Door and door frames must have luminance contrast from their surroundings to make doorways easily identifiable.

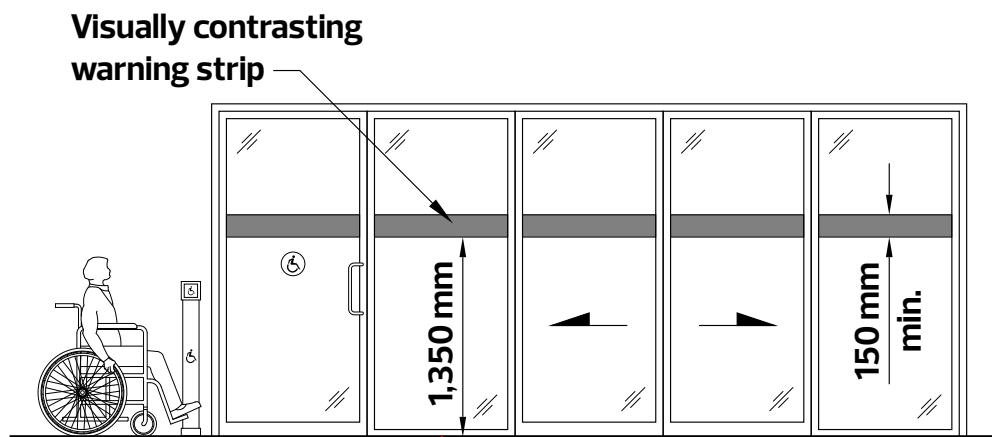
**Best practice:** Provide colour contrast between the kick plate and the door surface.

**Note:** This helps to determine if the door is closed and also to identify where to push against a door when using feet to open the door.

6. Where security cards are required to unlock a door, the card reader must be mounted with its centreline no higher than 1,100 mm above the finished floor.
7. Where a door has both a card reader and a power door operator control, provide a minimum gap of 150 mm between them.
8. Glass doors and side panels must include a warning strip that is visually contrasting to the background of the door from both inside and outside, i.e. etched glass or vinyl film. The warning strip must:
  - a. be a minimum 150 mm wide
  - b. extend for the entire width of the door
  - c. start at a height of 1,350 mm from the finished floor
  - d. be installed on both sides of the glass

Refer to figure B.2.1.2(b).

**Note:** Doors made entirely of glass and mounted in glass walls are difficult to detect. The warning strips aid in defining and signalling the presence of doors and glass walls to users.



**Figure B.2.1.2(b)**  
Warning strip on glazed panels

### B.2.1.3 Stairs

The requirements in this subsection do not apply to stairs within service rooms such as mechanical, electrical or elevator machine rooms which are accessed only by authorized maintenance personnel.



**Image B.2.1.3(a)**  
**Guide dog user on stairs**

1. If stairways are not easily visible from main circulation routes, directional signage should be added to indicate the location of the stairways.
2. Avoid decorative elements on stairs that interfere with the uniformity and predictability of the stairs. Examples of decorative elements include double height steps, integrated seating or planters.

**Note:** A key aspect for safe use of stairs is the rhythm based on the consistent height and depth of the first few steps. Any deviation from this pattern leads to a misstep and loss of balance. In addition, decorative elements can also create a safety hazard for people with low or no vision.

3. If seating is incorporated into a convenience stair, luminance contrast must be provided between the steps and seating sections for clear distinction.

**Note:** A convenience stair is an interior staircase that is not part of a building's required means of exit. Convenience stairs are provided to enhance connectivity between different floor levels.

4. Lighting for illuminating stairs must be designed to minimize glare and shadows to ensure safety and adequate visibility of stair edges.
5. Stair nosings must not project more than 38 mm beyond the riser. Where a nosing projects, the underside must be sloped towards the riser at an angle of at least 60 degrees from the horizontal.

Refer to figure B.2.1.3(a).

(Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))

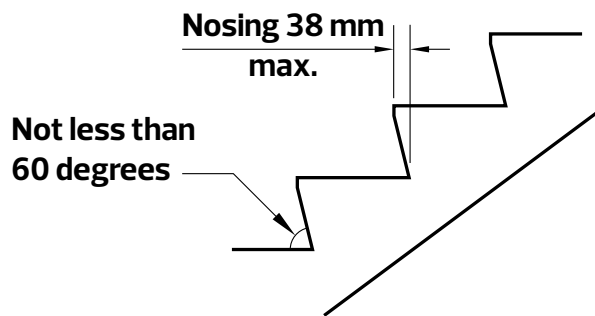


Figure B.2.1.3(a)  
Stair riser and nosing profile

6. Install an attention Tactile Walking Surface Indicator at the top of stairs that has luminance contrast with adjacent surface finish.

Refer to figure B.2.1.3(b).

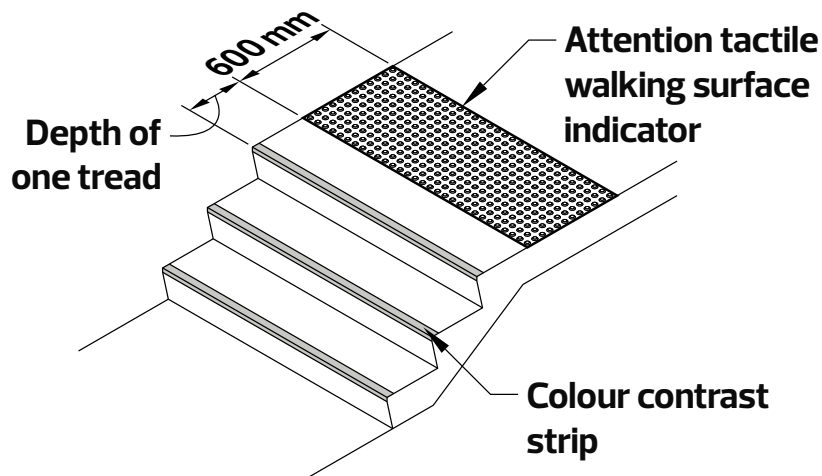


Figure B.2.1.3(b)  
Stair Tactile Walking Surface Indicator

7. If carpets are used on stairs, they must be securely attached and must not have busy or strong visual patterns.

**Note:** Busy and complex patterns on stairs distort depth perception and increase the risk of falls, especially for people with low vision or cognitive disabilities.

8. Avoid metal grate materials for interior stairs.

9. Stairs must have handrails on both sides.

**Note:** Handrails are necessary in all weather conditions for people with low mobility and those with low or no vision. Providing handrails on both sides of a stair ensures that a person can use their dominant or stronger side for support, whether going up or down the stairs.

### B.2.1.4 Ramps

Ramps are accessible paths of travel that have a slope steeper than 1:20 (5%).

**Best practice:** Provide a running slope of 1:15 (6.7%) for ramps.

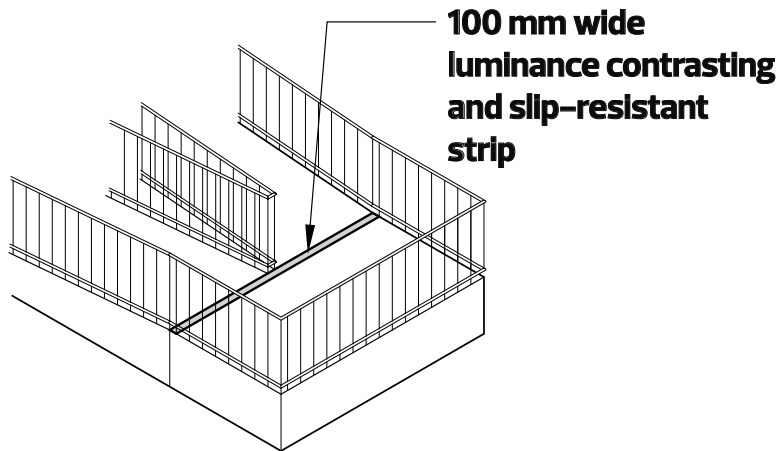
**Note:** Ramps steeper than 1:15 increases the physical effort required by people using manual wheelchairs to use the ramp. While motorized wheelchairs and scooters handle inclines more easily, steeper slopes can be a safety risk when going down the ramp, particularly in wet or icy conditions when traction is reduced.



Image B.2.1.4(a)  
An interior ramp

1. Where the landing meets a slope change, provide a 100 mm wide luminance contrasting and slip-resistant strip across the entire width of the ramp. This strip must be installed on the flat surface before the slope begins.

Refer to figure B.2.1.4(a).



**Figure B.2.1.4(a)**  
**Contrasting strip on ramp**

2. Ramp surfaces must be made of materials that do not cause glare.
3. If carpet is used on ramps, it must be low-pile, high density and securely fastened to ensure it does not impede the rolling of wheels or create a tripping hazard.

### **B.2.1.5 Handrails**

The requirements in this subsection apply to handrails on interior stairs and ramps.

1. All handrails must terminate to the wall, floor or a post.
2. Surface finish of handrails must be splinter and rust proof.
3. Handrails must have luminance contrast with the wall on which it is installed.

**Note:** Luminance contrast makes the handrails easier to locate for all users, especially for people with low vision.

4. **Existing Buildings:** If an existing handrail does not have luminance contrast with the wall on which it is installed, add a luminance contrasting strip at the beginning and end of the railing.



**Image B.2.1.5(a)** (Source: [Clearing our Path Version 2.0](#))  
**Luminance contrasting strip on handrail**

5. Handrails must provide a continuous gripping surface along their entire length. They must not be interrupted by newel posts or wall brackets that would require a user to break their grip while moving between floors.  
(Adapted from [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#))
6. Circular handrails are preferred for better grip that allows fingers and thumb to wrap around the handrail.
7. Non-circular handrails must provide a proper hand size grasping area. Avoid wide or deep handrails that allow only a pinched grip.

**Best practice:** In high-use public facilities, provide an additional handrail at a lower height for children and people of short stature.



**Image B.2.1.5(b)**  
Additional handrail at lower height

**Best practice:** Provide a consistent system of tactile cues, such as notches, dimples, grade 1 braille, raised numbers or other texture changes within the last 300 mm at both ends of the handrail before it changes direction to the ground, wall or post.

**Note:** The tactile cues indicate to people with low or no vision that they are approaching the beginning or end of the stairs or ramp.



**Image B.2.1.5(c)**  
Tactile characters on handrail

## B.2.1.6 Elevators

The requirements in this subsection draws upon recommendations from [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#) and Elevator Requirements for Persons with Physical Disabilities (CSA B44) Barrier-Free Design Guide, Appendix 2.

1. If elevators are not easily visible when entering a building, provide directional signage indicating location of the elevator.

**Note:** In certain buildings, stairs serve as the main vertical connection between floors and are prominently placed. Signs should be positioned at decision points to ensure users can easily find the elevator without having to backtrack.

2. In buildings with multiple elevator banks serving different floors, tactile signs should supplement visual signage to indicate which floors each bank of elevators serves.
3. The navigation system to use elevators must be simple, intuitive and self-explanatory. Audible communication systems must be available for people with low or no vision for accessing elevators.

**Note:** Touch screens are difficult to use for people with low dexterity and difficult to navigate for people with low or no vision.

4. The elevator lobby must have signage indicating the current floor level.
5. Provide a minimum clear space of 1,800 mm x 1,800 mm in front of elevator doors.

Refer to figure B.2.1.6(a).

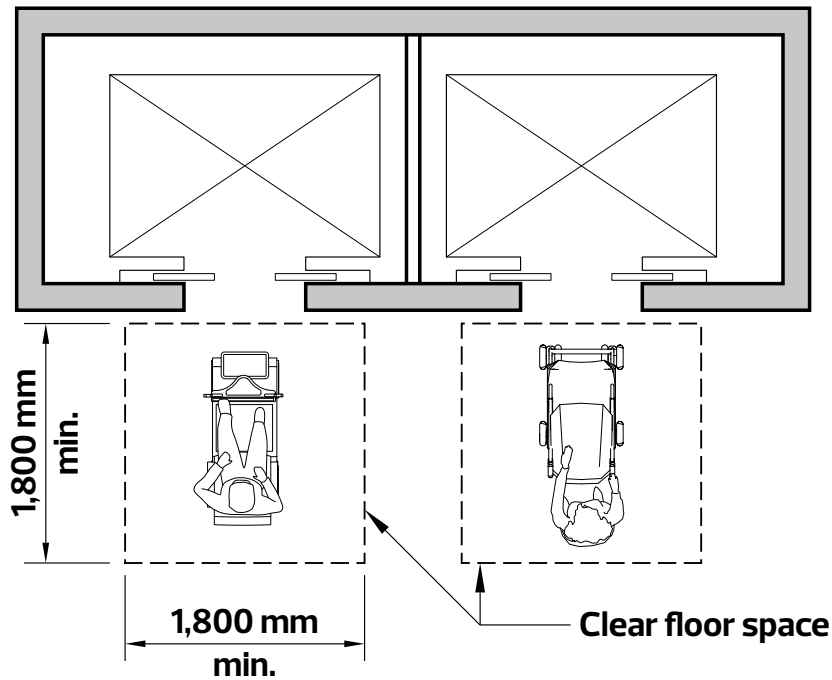


Figure B.2.1.6(a)  
Clear space in front of elevators

6. Elevator waiting areas in public facilities must have seating in close proximity.

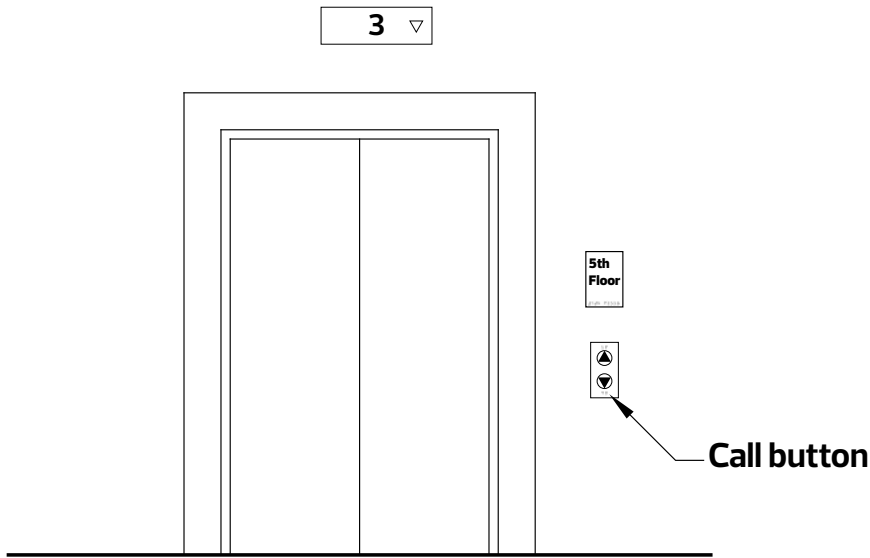
**Best practice:** Provide priority seating with signage for people with low mobility.

**Note:** This seating must not encroach upon the minimum required space in front of the elevator and should not create a new barrier. Priority seating signs should indicate that the seating is intended for those waiting for or using the elevators.

7. In lobbies with only one elevator, the call button panel must be located on the right side of the elevator door.

Refer to figure B.2.1.6(b).

**Note:** Consistent placement ensures predictability and ease of use for all individuals, particularly those with low or no vision or cognitive disabilities.

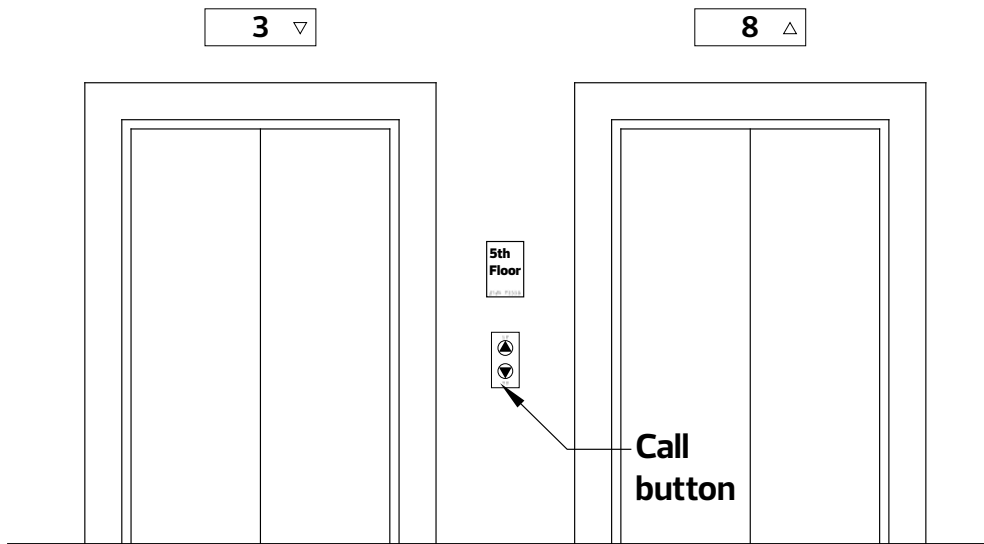


**Figure B.2.1.6(b)**  
Single elevator call button location

8. When two elevators are located side by side, the call button must be located on the wall between the two elevators.

Refer to figure B.2.1.6(c).

**Note:** This positions a person between the two elevators making it easier to get to the elevator that opens.



**Figure B.2.1.6(c)**  
Call button location - side by side elevators

9. Elevator call buttons must:
- be installed at a height of  $1,000 \pm 100$  mm above the finished floor, measured to the centre of the call button panel
  - have luminance contrast from adjacent surface finish
  - have visual and tactile symbols indicating “up” and “down” directions
  - protrude to enable a user to push easily
  - have braille, with the braille symbol for “up” placed above the “up” button and the “down” symbol below the “down” button

Refer to figure B.2.1.6(d).

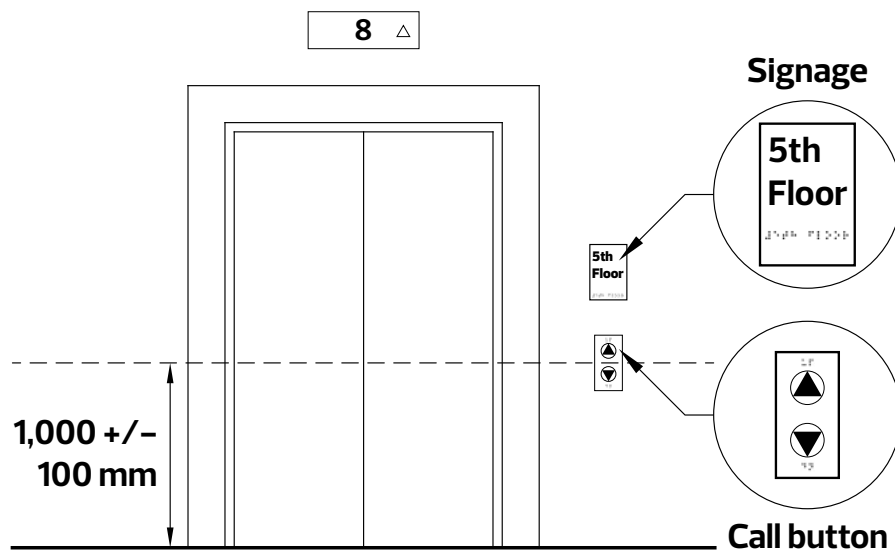


Figure B.2.1.6(d)  
Call button and floor level sign

10. The clear width of an elevator doorway must be at least 1,140 mm.
11. Elevator doors must remain fully open for a minimum of eight seconds before beginning to close.
- Note:** This allows time for someone with low or no vision to reach and enter the elevator safety.
12. The interior dimensions of at least one elevator must have a clear diameter of 1,800 mm.

**13.** The car operating panel inside the elevator must:

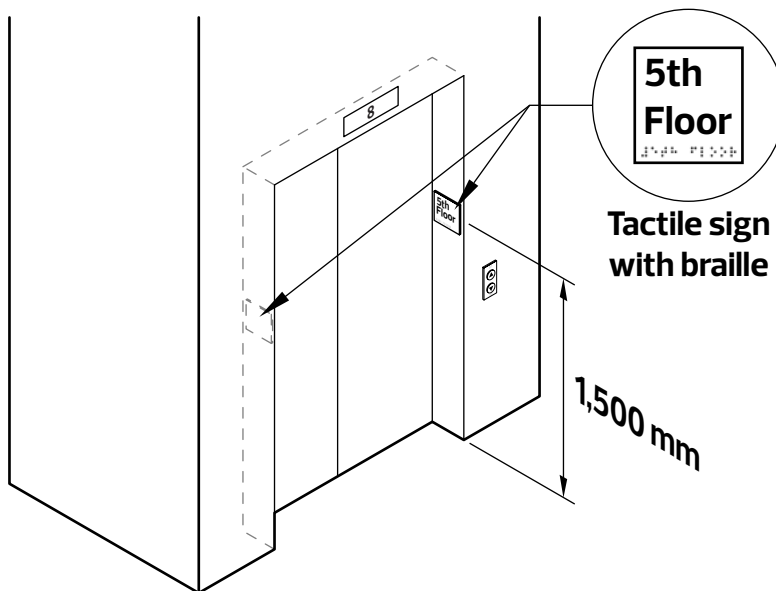
- a. have user controls or buttons no higher than 1,200 mm from the finished floor
- b. have tactile and braille characters, with the braille located just below the tactile character
- c. have luminance contrast between floor selection buttons and background surface

**Note:** Car operating panel is the panel inside the elevator cab that houses all the controls a passenger uses. This includes floor selection buttons, emergency call button and the door open and close buttons. If the interior of the elevator and the control panel are the same finish, the overall appearance is difficult to navigate for people with low vision. Luminance contrast or backlighting can be helpful to differentiate the buttons from the doors.

**14.** Elevators must have both visual identification and audible announcements indicating the direction of travel and floor number when the elevator arrives at a destination.

**15.** Provide signs with raised print and braille on both sides of the elevator door frames to indicate floor level. These signs must be located with its centreline at 1,500 mm above the finished floor.

Refer to figure B.2.1.6(e).



**Figure B.2.1.6(e)**  
Floor level identification sign

16. Light-coloured flooring surfaces in elevator cars are preferred to enhance visibility.
17. **Existing Buildings:** Where platform lifts are installed in an existing building, they must be operable without a key.
18. **Existing Buildings:** To ensure accessibility for users with limited arm strength or dexterity, avoid elevating devices that require an user to push and hold the control for operation.

## B.2.2 Components

### B.2.2.1 Lighting

1. Lighting in interior spaces must be designed to:
  - a. be uniform and comfortable throughout circulation routes and spaces
  - b. emphasize areas of:
  - c. potential hazard, and
  - d. information such as signage
  - e. reduce shadows and hotspots

**Note:** Shadows, whether caused by natural or artificial light, can hide important features, create optical illusions or hide an obstruction from view.

2. Light fixtures must use lenses and filters to evenly diffuse the light and minimize glare.

**Note:** High intensity lighting that creates glare can leave an afterimage on the retina of individuals with low vision. After being subjected to intense glare, it can take some time for a person's vision to recover leaving them disoriented and vulnerable to safety risks.

3. Skylights and other sources of natural light should be positioned so that sunlight does not shine directly into an interior space. If this isn't possible, use tinted glazing or incorporate a shading device.

(Source: [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#))

4. Natural daylight should be used where possible to illuminate entrances, corridors and workspaces, however design must include glare mitigation strategies such as blinds.
5. Provide lighting level controls in meeting rooms and multi-purpose rooms.

**Note:** The same level of light may be fine for a fully sighted person, excessive for someone with glaucoma and too low for someone with macular degeneration. Because of these variations, the ability to control lighting intensity is the best approach to meet the needs of most users.

## B.2.2.2 Acoustics

1. Acoustic and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) design must consider:
  - a. improving sound clarity and reducing unwanted noise that can interfere with hearing aids and cochlear implants
  - b. reducing sensory overload for people with sensory sensitivities
  - c. creating an intelligible acoustic environment that people with low or no vision can use to interpret their surroundings
2. Interior finishes must:
  - a. provide acoustic qualities that control ambient noise
  - b. absorb and dampen direct, reflected and reverberated sound using carpets, acoustic panels and upholstered furniture
  - c. use a good balance of sound absorption and sound reflective materials
  - d. create different sound qualities that can be audibly detected by building users

**Note:** Some sound reverberation helps people with low or no vision understand a space's size and layout, while sound absorption aids those with hearing loss by reducing background noise. Consideration for the intended use of the space, safety and the basic principles of universal design must guide design decisions that affect the acoustics of a room or space.

3. Spaces must be designed to reduce background noise and echoes.

**Note:** Reverberated sound can obstruct, distort and disorient individuals including persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing, or persons with low or no vision. Dome-shaped ceilings tend to distort sound and can disorient persons navigating through the building.

4. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) in interior spaces must be designed to reduce unwanted noise through sound insulation and proper seals.

**Note:** Noise from HVAC systems may mask other sounds intended to provide important directional cues for people with low or no vision and create a background noise that makes it difficult for individuals who are hard of hearing to discern speech.

5. Speakers, except those required for the fire alarm system, must not be placed near important areas of in-person communication, such as information or service desks.

**Note:** Noise from multiple sources makes it hard for people with hearing loss or sensory sensitivities to discern speech or communicate.

### B.2.2.3 Finishes

1. Avoid high-gloss finishes for floor, wall and ceiling surfaces to minimize glare.
2. Floor, wall and ceiling finishes must have luminance contrast between adjacent surfaces including:
  - a. floor to wall surfaces
  - b. wall surfaces to door frames, for doors located in an accessible path of travel
  - c. wall surfaces to elevator doors
  - d. wall surfaces and wall mounted fixtures and controls such as switches, electrical outlets and thermostats
  - e. wall surfaces to signage
  - f. ceiling surfaces to signage, where signage is ceiling mounted
3. Patterns on floor and wall surfaces must be minimal and non-directional.

**Note:** Busy patterns cause over stimulation and confusion for people with low vision, dementia, sensory sensitivities and cognitive disabilities. Non-directional means the pattern does not create a strong, discernible visual line, movement or path that could confuse or disorient a person. Examples of directional patterns to be avoided include stripes, checkerboards, geometric grids or patterns with a clear repeating flow.

4. All floor finishes must be slip-resistant.
5. Avoid the use of dark coloured floor finishes.

**Note:** Dark flooring can be perceived as a hole or change in level by people with low vision or cognitive disabilities. In addition, dark floors absorb light and the lack of reflected light can make it difficult for people with low vision to perceive contrast needed to identify obstacles and boundaries.

6. Carpet on floor surfaces must be securely attached and have a tight weave, low pile and firm underlay.

**Note:** This ensures that wheeled mobility device users can move without excessive physical exertion required by soft and plush surfaces. A tight weave and secure attachment prevents trip hazards and prevents mobility aids from getting caught in the fibres.

7. Use of carpets at entrances are not recommended. Primary entrances must have recessed floor grilles as mentioned in subsection B.1.1 Building Entrances.

8. Consider neurodiversity when selecting colours for interior finishes.

**Note:** Bright and saturated colours like reds, yellows and oranges can be jarring, overwhelming and anxiety inducing for people with sensory sensitivities. Simple and cohesive colour palettes create a predictable and less demanding sensory environment.

#### B.2.2.4 Public Communications and Alarms

1. Key information including safety warnings must be shared in various forms of communication such as visual and auditory cues.
2. Whenever audible public communication is provided, for example, narrated videos on screens or announcements on speakers, the same information must be provided visually by closed captioning or text on digital signage.

**Note:** Closed captioning is the process of displaying text on a screen or visual display to provide someone who is Deaf or hard of hearing with audio content that they would otherwise be unable to access. Closed captioning may also include descriptions of non-speech elements.

3. Visual signal devices for fire alarm systems must be installed so that the signal from at least one device is visible throughout all normally occupied floor areas including washrooms.
4. Spaces with public address systems should be designed to minimize sound deflection and reflection.

### B.2.2.5 Assistive Listening Systems

Noisy environment settings, particularly when speakers are far away, often present significant communication hurdles for individuals using hearing aids. To address the joint issues of background interference and distance, several assistive listening systems are available. Common examples include induction loops, infrared technology, and FM radio frequency systems.

- **Frequency Modulation (FM) systems** transmit sound on a specific frequency. The transmission is received by a small device that can be connected directly to a person's hearing aid via a Direct Audio Input. FM systems are generally used for large public facilities, such as airports and other transport terminals.
- **Infrared systems** use radiation instead of sound frequencies to transmit audio to a hard-of-hearing person's receiver or headset (which may work with a hearing aid's T-switch). The signal is contained within the enclosed space and will not transmit through walls or obstructions. It is suitable for public venues like meeting rooms and theatres, but systems must be shielded from the sun to avoid a decrease in transmission strength.
- **An induction loop system** uses a permanently installed wire (typically under flooring or in the ceiling) connected to a microphone. The speaker's voice creates an electromagnetic field, which is picked up directly by a hearing aid's telecoil when the T-switch is on. The user manages the volume with their hearing aid control, and a key benefit is that individuals do not need to request or wear any additional equipment.

This subsection outlines requirements for assistive listening systems. National Building Code – Alberta Edition provides direction on where the systems are required to be installed. For additional requirements, refer to subsections B.2.3 Public Spaces and B.2.7.3 Meeting Rooms in this Guide.

The appropriate locations and number of assistive listening devices required for each area can be determined with the assistance of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.

1. Signage with the symbol for assistive listening device must be provided. Reference to the T-switch must also be made on the sign where infrared or induction loop systems are provided.

**Note:** A T-switch (T-coil/telecoil switch) on a hearing aid or cochlear implant activates a small internal coil, allowing the device to pick up sound directly from a magnetic field, such as from a hearing loop system, rather than through the microphone. It reduces background noise and improves clarity in public venues.



**Figure B.2.2.5(a)**  
Induction loop system sign

2. Infrared systems must be installed where secure transmission of audio is a requirement.
3. Public areas that require public address systems for reasons of safety must be equipped with induction loop systems.
4. Where an induction loop system is deployed, the building must have one loop receiver for every 50 occupants.  
**Note:** People without hearing aids or with hearing aids that do not have a T-coil will be able to receive the audio using the loop receiver and a hearing appliance.
5. Hard wired systems, where a jack is provided at a particular seat, require special individual volume control provisions to accommodate people with varying degrees of hearing loss.

## B.2.3 Public Spaces

### B.2.3.1 Waiting and Rest Areas

1. Provide waiting area(s) near accessible entrances with priority seating for patrons with low mobility. Design waiting areas to provide an unobstructed view towards passenger drop-off and pick-up areas from waiting areas.

**Note:** This helps people with low mobility to observe the arrival of transit or private vehicles while they are waiting.

2. Provide signage for priority seating.
3. Provide rest areas with seating along long paths of travel within a building.

**Best practice:** Provide seating every 50 metres.

4. Provide a clear floor space of 900 mm by 1,500 mm adjacent to seating.

**Note:** This clear floor space accommodates a person using a wheeled mobility device, a service animal, stroller or walker.

Refer to figure B.2.3.1(a).

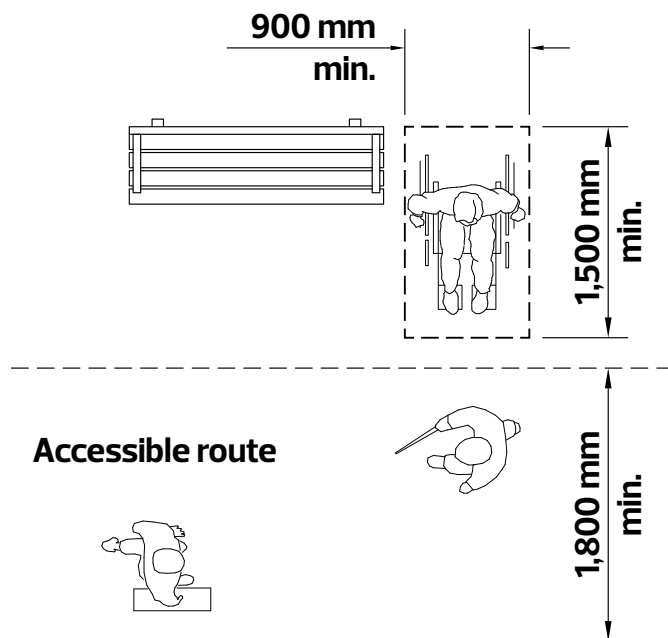


Figure B.2.3.1(a)  
Clear space adjacent to seating

5. Seats in waiting and rest areas must have a seat height between 430 mm and 480 mm from the floor.
6. If only one seat is provided, ensure that it has both a backrest and armrests. If there are more than one, provide a variety of options such as high backrests and a variety of armrests (two, one, none).

**Note:** A variety of seating options helps to address the diverse physical and cognitive needs of people with different disabilities. Armrests help individuals to push up from the chair without strain on knees or hips. Back rests provide necessary postural support and prevent falling backwards, especially for people with low balance.

### B.2.3.2 Service Counters

The requirements in this subsection apply to various types of counters that serve the public and staff including reception, registration, information, security, ticket, payment or food services.

1. Service counters must:
  - a. be connected to the interior accessible path of travel
  - b. have luminance contrast from their surroundings
  - c. have a non-glare surface finish
  - d. not be higher than 865 mm from the finished floor to the top of the counter

Refer to figure B.2.3.2(a).

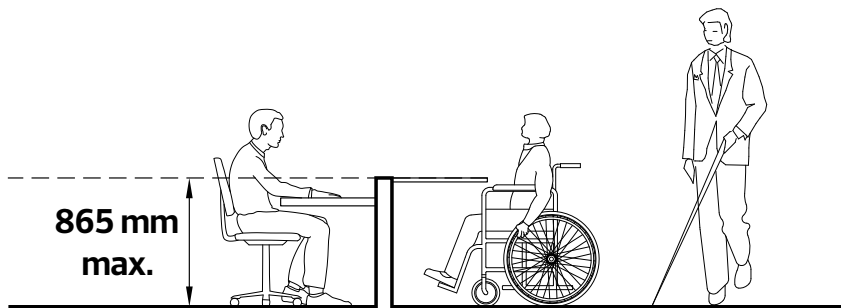


Figure B.2.3.2(a)  
Service counter height

2. An assistive listening system, preferably an induction loop system, must be installed at all information and transaction counters.
  3. Where a glass partition separates customers from the service personnel at a counter:
    - a. a speaker system must be installed
    - b. the glass partition must have clear finish to allow for lip reading and signing
  4. Service counters must include signage that indicates:
    - a. availability and type of assistive listening system
    - b. how to request accommodation for accessibility needs such as alternative communication methods
  5. Design consideration must include providing accessible sections for staff at service counters where a staff member is always present.
- Note:** Where accessible sections are provided on both sides of the service counters for customers and staff, they should be diagonal from each other to provide comfortable reach ranges across the shared counter for transactions.
6. Products in a self-serve counter must be within 450 mm from the edge of the counter and between 600 mm and 1,000 mm above the finished floor.

Refer to figure B.2.3.2(b).

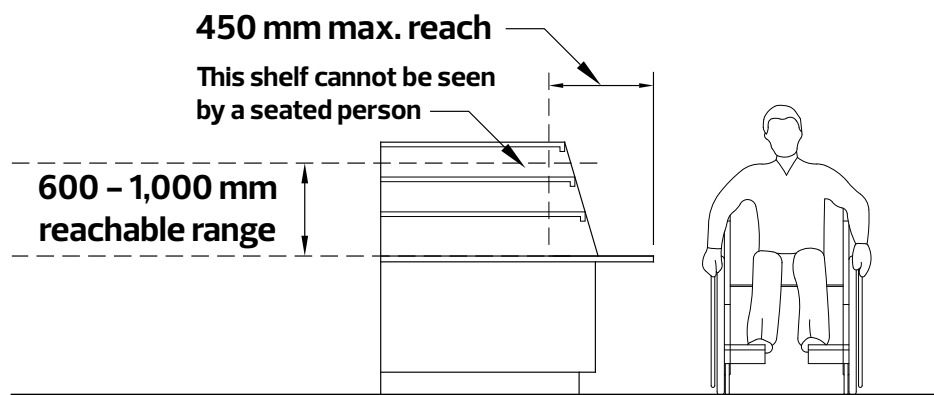


Figure B.2.3.2(b)  
Self serve counter reachable range

### B.2.3.3 Assembly Spaces

The requirements in this subsection apply to spaces that are used for the gathering of a group of people. This includes auditoriums, theatres, stadiums, community halls, classrooms, gallery spaces and multi-purpose rooms with seating.

1. All public entrances to assembly spaces must have a room identification sign with braille and tactile lettering.

**Note:** In addition to helping people with low or no vision to find the space independently without requiring assistance, room identification signs help building users to easily find the space, creating an accessible experience for everyone.

2. Places of assembly must be designed to limit glare for the audience.

**Note:** If a speaker/presenter is in front of a window or has lights shining from behind, this will create glare for the audience.

3. Assembly spaces must be designed to reduce unwanted background noise by providing:

- a. acoustic treatments that absorb or scatter sound waves
- b. acoustic materials and soundproofing measures for structural noise, HVAC and noise from adjacent rooms
- c. assistive listening devices such as an induction loop system for people who use hearing aids

**Note:** When speech is unintelligible, it creates a frustrating and isolating experience for some individuals with sensory or cognitive disabilities. Acoustic treatment reduces unwanted background noise and allows people with hearing loss or sensory sensitivities to more easily perceive and understand speech allowing them to participate and connect with others effectively.

4. Provide lighting to facilitate wayfinding along the edges of the aisle steps in assembly spaces with tiered seating.
5. Aisles with steps must have luminance and texture contrasting strips at the edge of the treads that extend for the entire length of the tread.

**Note:** This helps a person with depth perception issues, or low vision to detect the change in elevation.



**Image B.2.3.3(a)**  
**Contrasting strips on aisle steps**

6. Designated wheelchair spaces must be clearly identified by signage on the floor.  
If there is a wall or partition adjacent to the space, add a raised sign on the wall or partition.
7. Guardrails provided in designated wheelchair spaces must not interfere with viewing.
8. If the fixed seats in a venue have cup holders, the same feature must be provided for designated wheelchair spaces, for example, a table or counter surface at an accessible height. This surface must not interfere with the clear floor space required for the designated wheelchair spaces.

**Note:** This provides a convenient space for people using wheelchairs to place their drink or other personal items avoiding the safety risk of spills from placing the items on their lap or floor.



**Image B.2.3.3(b)**  
**Designated accessible seating**

**Best practice:** Provide power outlets adjacent to designated viewing spaces to allow charging of electric mobility devices.

9. Provide priority seating along the aisles for seniors and for persons with limited mobility.
10. Seating surfaces must be visually contrasting with surrounding surfaces such as the floor and aisle steps.

**Note:** This makes it easier for people with low vision to find the seats.



Image B.2.3.3(c)  
Spectator seating

### B.2.3.4 Activity Areas

The requirements in this subsection apply to areas or rooms designed for the gathering of people for various activities like social events, group classes, meetings, fitness sessions or other social activities. This includes activity or multi-purpose rooms in recreation centres, senior centres and community centres.

1. All Activity areas and rooms must be located along an accessible path of travel.

**Note:** All building users must be able to participate in activities taking place in that facility, regardless of their abilities. For example, if a multi-purpose room is located on the mezzanine level, there must be an elevating device or ramp to that level.

2. If an assistive listening device is available, install signage outside the room to inform users about the availability of the device.

**Note:** The sign is intended to inform the user of the presence of a hearing loop and the sign must be placed in a visible location.



Image B.2.3.4(a)  
Assistive listening system sign

**Best practice:** Provide a portable hearing loop that can be used in different activity areas.

3. Acoustic design must reduce noise, echo and reverberation within the space and ensure acoustic separation from adjacent spaces.

**Note:** Unwanted noise and reverberation makes it difficult for a person who is hard of hearing to discern speech thus hindering their ability to be an active participant.

4. Design must consider minimizing elements that contribute to sensory overload such as bright or intense colours, complex patterns, reflective surfaces or flickering lights.

**Note:** Sensory overload occurs when a person's brain is overwhelmed by an excessive amount of sensory information from their environment and the brain is unable to effectively process all the input. Interior spaces can trigger sensory overload for people with sensory sensitivities such as autism spectrum disorder or sensory processing disorders.

5. Quiet zones must be provided within large activity areas.
6. Provide multi-level lighting in activity rooms.

**Note:** Multi-level lighting allows for adjustable brightness and focused light, suitable for various activities and also to accommodate various abilities.

### B.2.3.5 Quiet Rooms

1. Provide a designated quiet room or space in public use buildings that have activity areas, for example recreation centres.

**Note:** A busy activity area can create sensory overload for individuals with autism or other sensory sensitivities. Quiet rooms or spaces offer a calm and private space for individuals to decompress and regulate their sensory experiences when feeling overwhelmed.

2. Quiet rooms must have a clear and intuitive layout to make it easy for users to navigate.
3. Provide dimmable soft lighting or access to natural light in quiet rooms to accommodate varying sensory needs.
4. Incorporate low-stimulation colour palette such as neutral, mellow or pastel tones for interior finishes to create a soothing environment and minimize sensory overload.

5. Use solid colours and simple patterns for surface finishes to minimize visual noise and prevent disorientation for users with sensory sensitivities.
6. Incorporate sound absorbing materials and soft furnishings to prevent echos that can be overstimulating.

**Note:** Sound absorbing materials include acoustic wall panels and ceiling baffles.

7. Provide furniture that facilitates gentle, controlled movement such as rocking chairs to support self-regulation and stress reduction.

### B.2.3.6 Exhibits and Displays

An exhibit is a curated collection of objects, materials or media presented with a narrative or educational purpose.

A display is a general arrangement or presentation of objects designed primarily for public visibility or visual interest.

The requirements in this subsection apply to exhibits and displays meant for public viewing at art and cultural facilities including, but not limited to, art galleries, concert halls, theatres, heritage sites, attractions, recreation and leisure centres.

1. Exhibits and display areas must be connected to an accessible path of travel.
2. Provide accessible paths of travel throughout the exhibits and display areas.
3. Ensure availability of wayfinding signage to enable easy navigation.
4. Exhibits and displays must be located so that they are viewable from a seated position.
5. Objects, signs, exhibits or displays that are mounted lower than 2,050 mm above the floor surface on walls, columns or freestanding supports must not protrude more than 100 mm, unless they are cane-detectable.

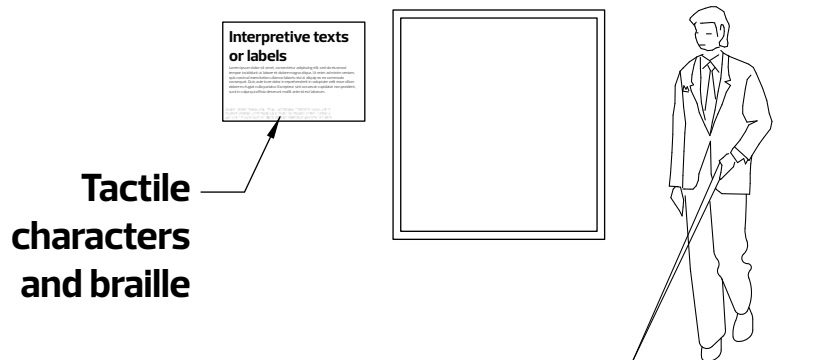
**Note:** To be cane-detectable, a protruding object must be located with its leading edge no higher than 680 mm above the floor surface.

6. Ensure that interpretive text and labels are positioned to be accessible for people using mobility devices, allowing for a close approach to view the content.
7. Interpretive text and labels must be located between 1,000 mm and 1,500 mm above the finished floor or ground.

**Best practice:** For optimal viewing, labels on horizontal surfaces above 1,200 mm should be tilted.

8. Use a matte finish for the interpretive text and label surfaces to minimize glare.
9. Interpretive text and labels must have luminance contrast between the text and background. Those located at a reachable range must include tactile characters and braille.

Refer to figure B.2.3.6(a).



**Figure B.2.3.6(a)**  
Interpretive text and labels

10. Provide an alternative method of interpreting exhibits and displays such as audio version or QR code that links to a narrated description and large print text.

**Note:** Large print text, audio and visual presentations provide an alternative method of interpreting the information for people with cognitive and sensory disabilities. Use a simple and concise writing style without complex sentence structures.

11. Interactive display controls must be located between 900 mm and 1,200 mm above the finished floor and be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist.
12. Videos must include captions or transcriptions.
13. Exhibits and display lighting fixtures must be designed and located to minimize glare and reflection.

## B.2.4 Recreation Areas

### B.2.4.1 Aquatic Areas

1. Provide an accessible path of travel from accessible change areas and washrooms to the pool deck.
2. Provide a zero depth, sloped entry or ramp with handrails on both sides for entering the swimming pool.

**Note:** This serves the varying needs of people getting into and out of a pool. The gradual entry allows people with autism and sensory sensitivity to control their transition and acclimate to the water temperature slowly. For people with low vision, steps and ladders can be difficult to perceive, especially under water. In addition, pool lifts tend to have problems with maintenance and battery life rendering them unreliable.

**Best practice:** Provide a ramp with a running slope of 1:15 (6.7%).

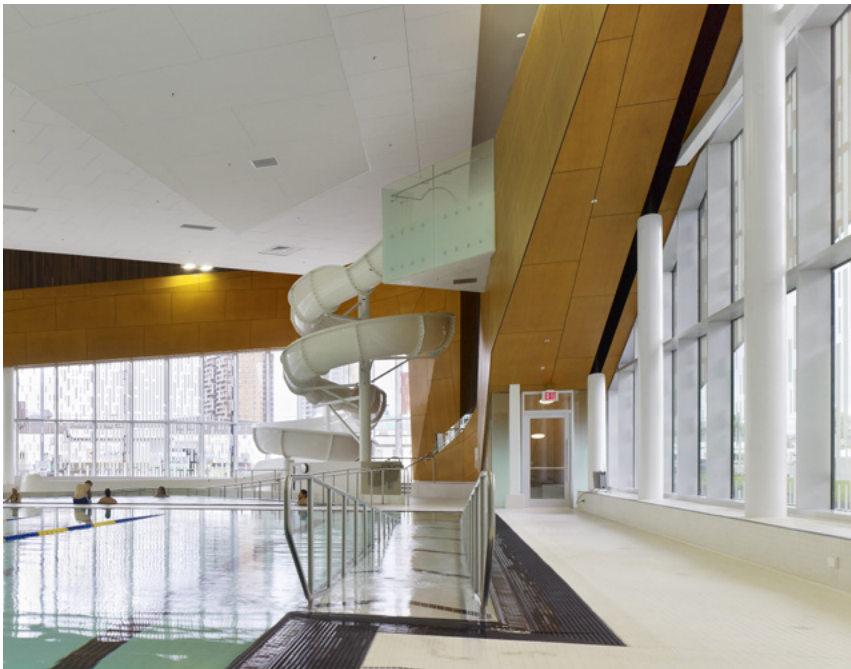


Image B.2.4.1(a)  
Accessible ramp entry into pool

3. **Existing buildings:** Where a sloped entry or ramp is not feasible due to space constraints, provide a poolpod for pool access.

**Note:** Poolpod is a specific type of submersible lift that is designed to provide dignified, independent and flexible access to pools. Unlike pool lifts, poolpods do not require staff assistance for operation and allow the user to enter the pool standing, seated or in a water wheelchair.



**Image B.2.4.1(b)**  
A poolpod

4. Stairs into pools should have:
  - a. Handrails on both sides of the steps
  - b. Handrails extending beyond the top and bottom steps and terminating on the floor
  - c. Luminance contrasting finish at nosing extending for the full width of the tread
5. All pool markings must have luminance contrast to the surrounding areas.

**Note:** This makes it easier for swimmers with low vision to identify the information.
6. A luminance and texture contrasting finish of minimum 300 mm wide must be provided around edges of pools and hot tubs.

**Note:** Drain can be a part of this finish and it provides an additional level of safety for people with low or no vision and depth perception issues.

7. If the aquatic area has a hot tub, a ramp must be provided for entry into the hot tub. Refer to B.2.1.4 Ramps for specific requirements.
8. **Existing buildings:** If a ramp into the hot tub is not feasible due to space restrictions, other means of access such as a poolpod or portable lift must be provided.
9. A sauna or steam room must:
  - a. be located along an accessible path of travel
  - b. have a clear door opening width of 850 mm
  - c. have a door threshold height of less than 13 mm
  - d. have a door handle that is easy to operate with a closed fist (e.g. lever type)
  - e. have clear space inside of at least 1,800 mm diameter

**Note:** People using a sauna or steam room with a wheelchair may transfer onto the bench and park the wheelchair outside the room so it does not become hot. The 1,800 mm clear floor space inside must be positioned to allow a transfer. If feasible, provide grab bars to facilitate transfer.

Refer to figure B.2.4.1(a).

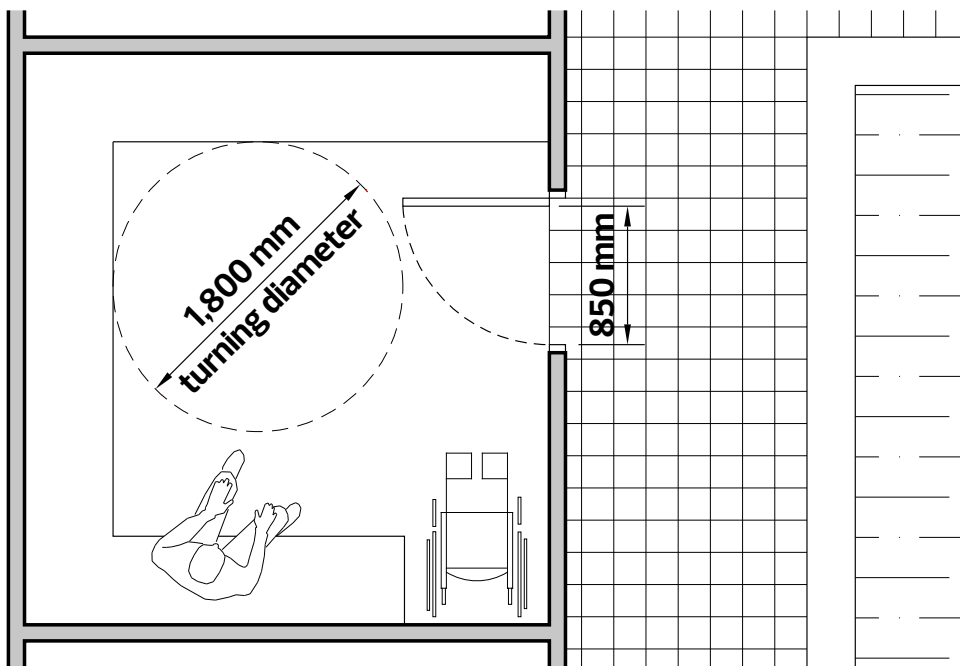


Figure B.2.4.1(a)  
Sauna or steam room opening width and turning diameter

10. Provide warm pool areas suited for wading and light activity. This could be achieved through a warmer temperature for the main pool.

**Note:** Some disabilities are more sensitive to cold water, for example Multiple Sclerosis. Warm areas make it more suitable for multiple uses such as light activity versus lane swimming.

11. Provide space for pool users to leave their mobility devices, if they choose to transfer into a water wheelchair or shower commode chair.

**Note:** Individuals transferring to a water wheelchair from a mobility device or from the pool need space to safely store their personal mobility device.

12. Design of the pool deck must include storage space for water wheelchairs and shower commode chairs. Shower commode chairs and water wheelchairs are provided for use in the accessible shower and change areas.

**Note:** These provide access from the accessible shower area to the pool deck and ramp access into swimming pools.

13. Provide information signs letting users know about the availability of water wheelchairs and shower commode chairs and how to access them.

### B.2.4.2 Fitness Areas

1. Fitness areas must be located along an accessible path of travel.

**Note:** If the fitness area is located on the mezzanine level of a building, there must be an elevating device to access this level.

2. Ensure fitness areas have accessible washrooms and change rooms nearby.
3. Space must be provided for the inclusion of accessible fitness equipment in exercise areas and it should be distributed throughout the area.

**Note:** Accessible fitness equipment enables people with various abilities to benefit from a full body, cardiovascular and resistance based workout.

4. Accessible fitness equipment must be provided that is usable by people with varying abilities. Provide low-impact active equipment within existing fitness areas and buildings, for example, senior centres or community centres.

**Note:** Examples include some exercise equipment that does not require transferring from wheelchair to machine (cables, dumbbells, arm ergometer, wheelchair training roller, chair cycle, strap style stander), swing away seating, lightest setting on weight machines suitable for individuals who are not used to exercising or may have low strength levels (2.5 to 5 lbs), portable wheelchair blocks, hand hooks/grips, combination of upper extremity and lower extremity options for cardio equipment, alternative formats used for descriptions of controls on exercise equipment (raised buttons, audible cues on equipment, large print, pictures).

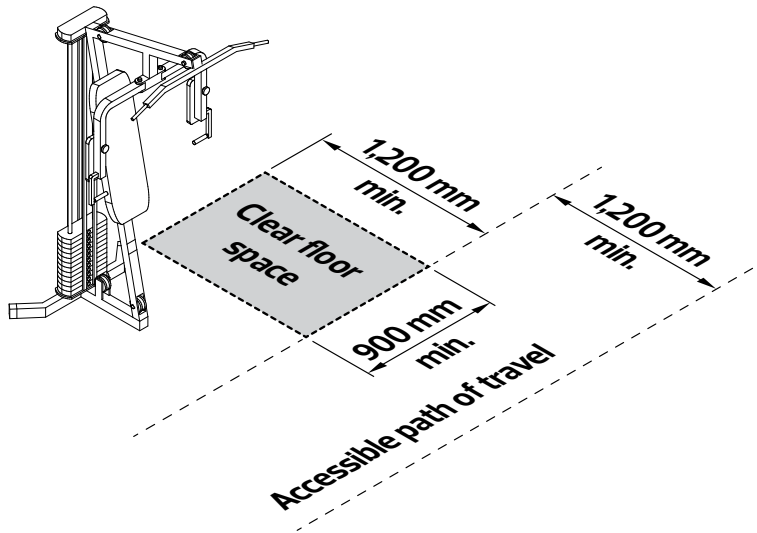


**Image B.2.4.2(a)**  
**Accessible exercise equipment**

5. Accessible fitness equipment must be clearly identified, indicating that its use is prioritized for individuals with disabilities.
6. Any accessible fitness equipment that could be used by a person using a wheelchair must:
  - a. be adjacent to an accessible path of travel of at least 1,200 mm wide
  - b. have a clear floor space of not less than 900 mm by 1,200 mm beside the equipment

**Note:** This ensures accessible equipment can actually be accessed by people using mobility devices. If handrails are provided, they must be properly positioned to facilitate transfer to and from exercise equipment. A 1,200 mm accessible path of travel ensures there will be sufficient wheelchair clearance to get to the exercise equipment and a clear floor space beside it facilitates the transfer process.

Refer to figure B.2.4.2(a).



**Figure B.2.4.2(a)**  
**Accessible fitness equipment clear space**

7. Raised exercise mats at a height of 450 mm from the finished floor must be available as an alternative to stretching on the floor.

**Note:** This makes it easier for wheelchair users, people with low mobility, and others who find it difficult to use a lower floor mat.

8. Provide sufficient clear space around free weight areas for people using mobility devices to be able to use the weights.
9. Where running or walking tracks are provided:
  - a. The surface must be firm, stable and slip-resistant.
  - b. Ensure the cross slope of the track is not steeper than 1:50 (2%).
  - c. Ensure clear lane markings of luminance contrast.
  - d. At least one lane must be at least 1,500 mm wide to allow wheelchair users to access and utilize the track.

- e. Provide benches at regular intervals to allow people to take breaks, especially those with low mobility or seniors.

**Best practice:** Provide a bench every 30 to 100 metres of the track.

10. Provide accessible drinking fountains or combination units with water bottle filling stations in fitness areas and in close proximity of the track. Refer to subsection B.2.8.2 Drinking Fountains for more details.

### B.2.4.3 Playgrounds

1. Indoor playgrounds must be located along an accessible path of travel.
2. Accessible amenities such as an accessible washroom and drinking fountain should be located in close proximity of the indoor playground.
3. There must be a minimum turning diameter of 1,800 mm within the play area for mobility device users.
4. Provide accessible seating areas with line of sight to the play area for caregivers.
5. Incorporate diverse sensory experiences (visual, auditory, tactile) through different textures, colours, sounds (e.g., chimes, drums) and interactive panels.

**Note:** This benefits children with sensory processing disorders.

6. The playground surface under accessible play equipment should be firm, stable, impact resistant and allow wheeled mobility devices to turn easily.
7. Provide a reasonable number and variety of accessible play components to ensure play opportunities for children with different abilities.
8. Provide quiet areas for children to take a break when they feel over-stimulated. This is especially important for children with sensory sensitivities or developmental disabilities.
9. Provide some accessible play components at ground level that could be accessed without transferring onto a raised platform.
10. Ensure a variety of elevated play components are accessible via ramps or transfer systems. Examples include accessible slides, activity panels, accessible swings, inclusive spinners.

### B.2.4.4 Sport Fields and Courts

1. When multiple courts are available in a facility, an accessible path of travel of at least 1,200 mm wide connecting the courts and around the playing surfaces must be provided.

**Note:** This allows a mobility device user to access the courts and manoeuvre.

2. Accessible paths of travel must be provided from the sport fields and courts to accessible change room, washroom, shower and locker areas.
3. Where fixed seating is provided, space for mobility device users should be incorporated into the seating. The space must be not less than 900 mm wide and 1,700 mm for side approach and 900 mm wide and 1,350 mm long for a front or rear approach.
4. Design considerations in indoor sport fields and courts must include strategies to reduce echo and sound reverberation.

**Note:** This helps people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to discern speech and reduces sensory overload for people with sensory sensitivities.

5. All digital signage including the scoreboard must have high luminance contrast between text and background.
6. Design considerations should include storage area for handcycles and other adapted equipment such as sport wheelchairs.
7. The floor must:
  - a. be free from highly distracting and complex visual patterns that could disorient individuals with cognitive disabilities
  - b. have a matte finish to reduce glare and reflection from lighting
8. For multi-sport fields with several sets of lines (e.g. basketball, volleyball, badminton), avoid colours that are difficult for individuals with colour vision deficiency to distinguish when placed next to each other. For example, red and green or blue and purple.

### B.2.4.5 Ice Rinks

This subsection outlines requirements for ice rinks to allow the ice to be also used for parasports such as sledge hockey. It is important that ice rinks that are designed for sledge hockey consider the needs of players, spectators, families, visitors and staff with disabilities.

For an additional resource, refer to the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council's publication, [Sledge Hockey Accessibility: Design Guidelines For Arenas](#).



**Image B.2.4.5(a)**  
**Sledge hockey player on ice**

1. Accessible paths of travel to players' benches, penalty boxes and timekeeper's box must be provided in ice rinks.
2. Level access onto the ice surface must be provided from players' benches, penalty boxes and other access points.

**Note:** A minimal threshold onto the ice allows for quick access and exit required when changing players, without needing assistance or lifting by another person.

3. Change room doors leading to the corridor and the players' benches must be equipped with power operators.

**Note:** This makes the doors easy to operate for those playing sledge hockey.

4. A removable flooring surface, such as acrylic, must be installed from changeroom through to the space between the player's bench and outer board and run the entire length in front of the bench.

Refer to figure B.2.4.5(a).

**Note:** This will allow sledge hockey players the ability to glide from the changerooms to the ice surface.

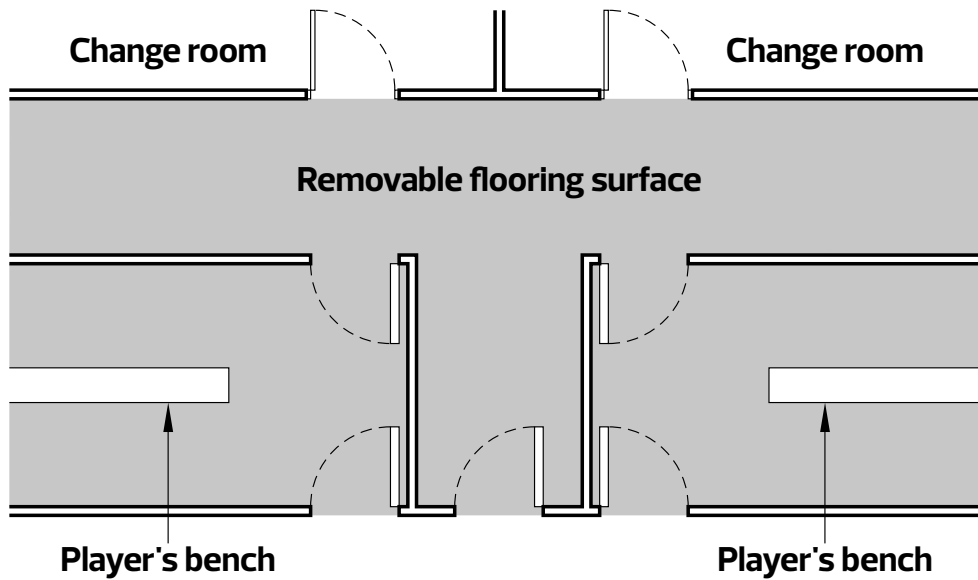


Figure B.2.4.5(a)  
Removable flooring between changeroom and outer board

5. Minimum 1,800 mm clear space must be provided between the changeroom and the players' bench. Where a corridor is provided between the change room and players' bench, the corridor must be at least 1,800 mm wide.

Refer to figure B.2.4.5(b).

**Note:** This space allows coaches or parents using a wheelchair to manoeuvre between the change room and the players' bench.

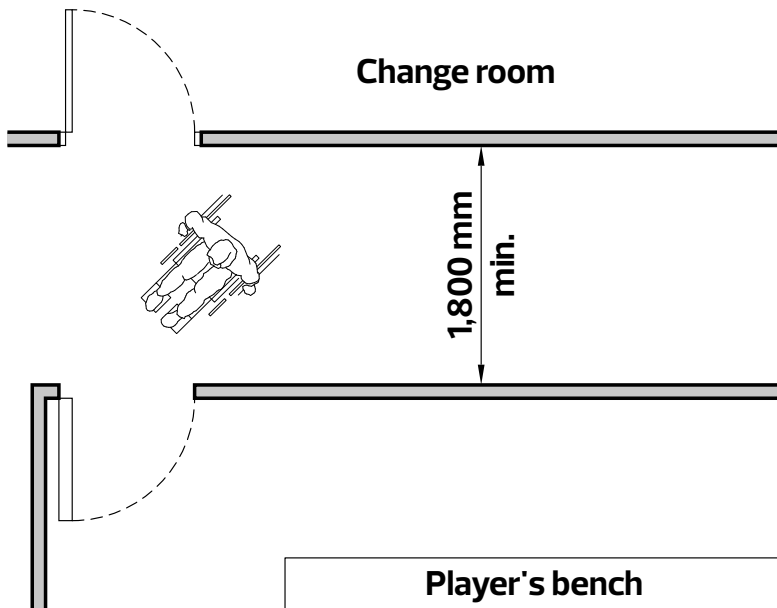


Figure B.2.4.5(b)  
Changeroom hallway minimum width

6. The players' bench areas must be designed to have removable benches or must have a minimum of 1,200 mm distance between the bench and surrounding boards or walls.

Refer to figure B.2.4.5(c).

**Note:** Removable benches provide room to manoeuvre sledges.

7. Each players' bench must have two doors which open fully, and have at least 920 mm clear opening width, leading onto the ice surface.

Refer to figure B.2.4.5(c).

**Note:** Having two separate doors on each players' bench is essential for efficient player changes in sledge hockey. Unlike ice hockey where players can hop over the boards, sledge hockey players need clear, wide and smooth access points. Two doors allow for a flow through system for line changes, minimizing congestion. Although 920 mm is the minimum, wider doors will make it easier for a sledge player and their stick to pass through.

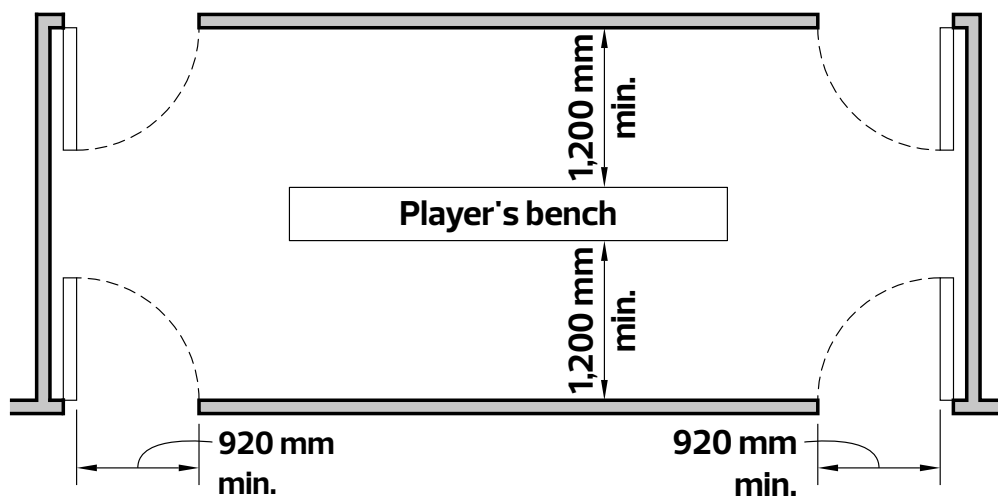


Figure B.2.4.5(c)  
Players' bench minimum clearances

8. Players' benches, penalty boxes and timekeeper's box must have clear acrylic in the lower part of the boards, in place of the white boards.

**Note:** A clear acrylic in place of white boards in front of the players' benches, penalty boxes and timekeeper's box ensures ice is visible for people using wheeled mobility devices or sledges.

9. Provide designated accessible seating for spectators in different viewing locations within the general arena seating area. Designated accessible seating must be integrated into the general arena seating layout. Refer to subsection B.2.3.3 Assembly Spaces for specific requirements.

**Note:** Integrating accessible seating with general seating allows individuals in accessible seating to fully engage in and enjoy the entire arena experience.

10. Design consideration should include a storage room for sledges, that is connected to the accessible path of travel.

**Note:** Consider the number of sledge hockey teams and potential for hosting tournaments or community programs when determining the size of the storage room.

## B.2.5 Washrooms

Thoughtful design of washrooms is a key aspect in maintaining a person's independence and dignity. Accessible washroom design must consider the needs of people with invisible disabilities, in addition to people using mobility devices.

- Clear signage and high visual contrast to distinguish washroom fixtures makes it easier for people with low vision to find and use the washroom.
- Visual fire alarms within washrooms help a person with hearing loss in an emergency.
- Simple and intuitive layouts avoid disorientation and anxiety for people with cognitive and neurological disabilities.

The requirements in this subsection apply to washrooms in public and office buildings.

### B.2.5.1 General Requirements

1. There must be a minimum of two universal washrooms on every floor intended for public use in attractions, recreation and leisure centre facilities.

**Note:** Universal washrooms offer an accessible and private facility for individuals of all abilities, ages, and gender identities. These washrooms are used by people with disabilities, families requiring more space and anyone seeking additional privacy or an alternative to gender inclusive or gender specific washrooms.

2. Where washrooms are provided in a work area, a minimum of one universal washroom must be provided.
3. All multi-stall washrooms must include a minimum of one accessible water-closet stall and one water-closet stall for use by persons with limited mobility.

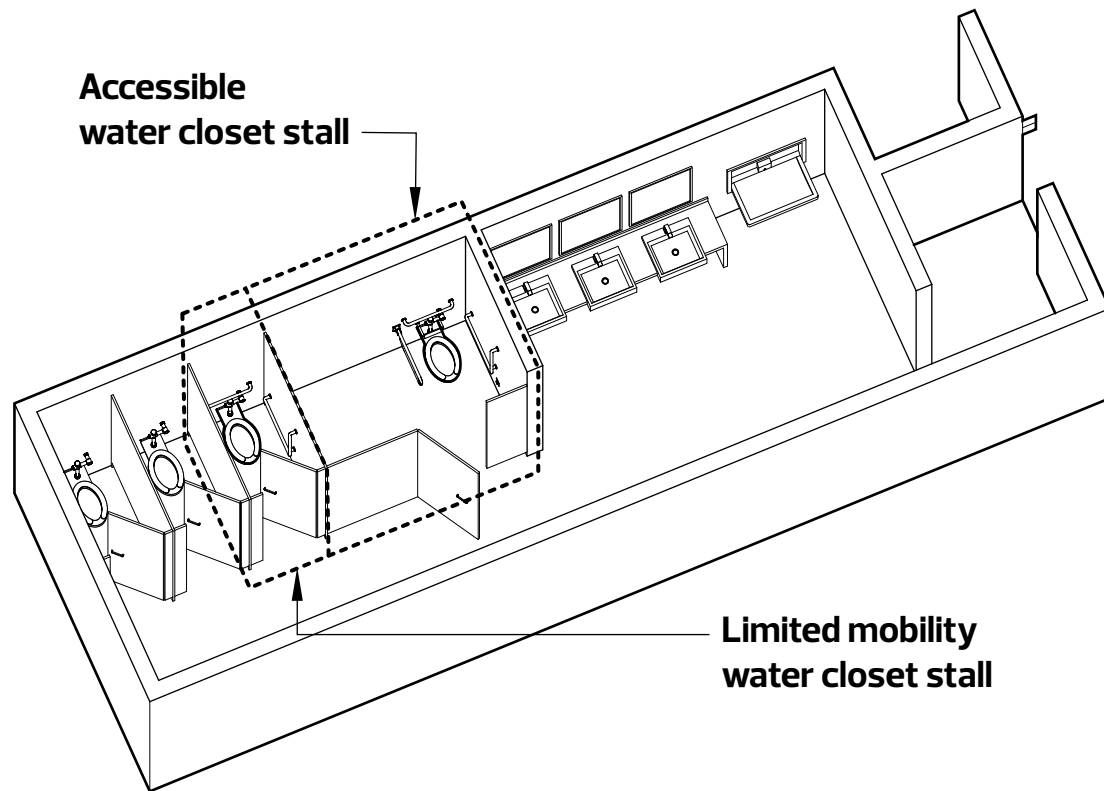


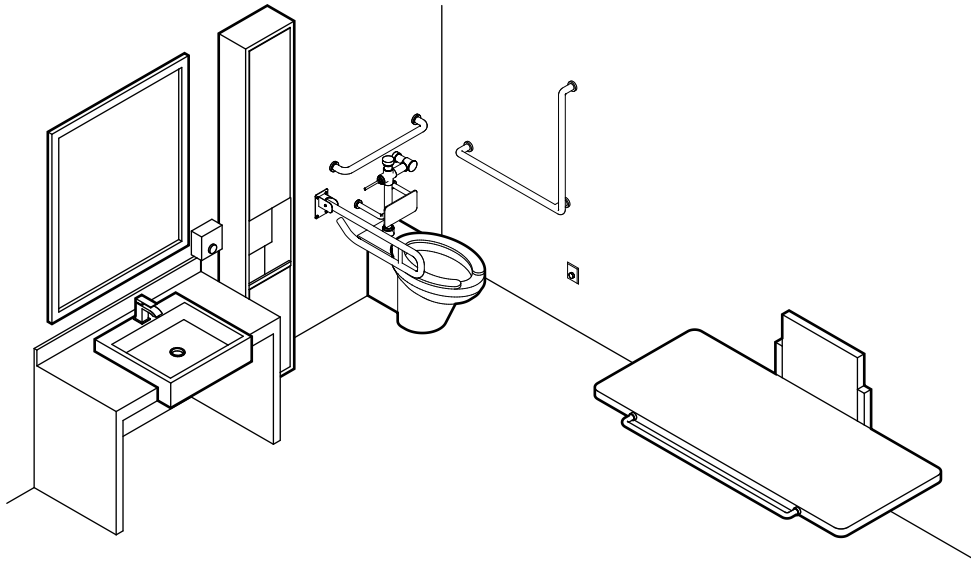
Figure B.2.5.1(a)  
Accessible and limited mobility stalls

- 4. Existing Buildings:** If the washroom is not accessible, use directional signage to indicate the location of the nearest accessible washroom.
- 5.** If an adult-sized change table is available in the facility, provide a directional sign at each washroom area to indicate the location of the washroom with the adult-sized change table.

**Note:** Adult-sized change table is a height adjustable platform that provides a safe and dignified space for adolescents and adults who require assistance with personal care.

## B.2.5.2 Universal Washrooms

Multi-stall washrooms can create anxiety and discomfort for those who prefer privacy, especially people with cognitive or neurological disabilities or those using medical devices. Universal washrooms provide a separate single user space that is big enough for individuals with disabilities who may require assistance of a caregiver or a family member of the same or another gender.



**Figure B.2.5.2(a)**  
A universal washroom

1. A universal washroom must include an adult-sized change table in public use buildings that have change facilities.
2. Availability of an adult-sized change table must be indicated on the room identification sign. Refer to Image B.2.5.2(a) for the City of Edmonton pictogram included in the Facility Signage Design Guidelines.



**Figure B.2.5.2(b)**  
Adult-sized change table pictogram

3. The door to a universal washroom must be equipped with a power door operator and an occupancy indicator integrated with the locking mechanism. Provide a clear distance of at least 100 mm between the two devices.

Refer to image B.2.5.2(a)



Image B.2.5.2(a)  
Power door operator controls

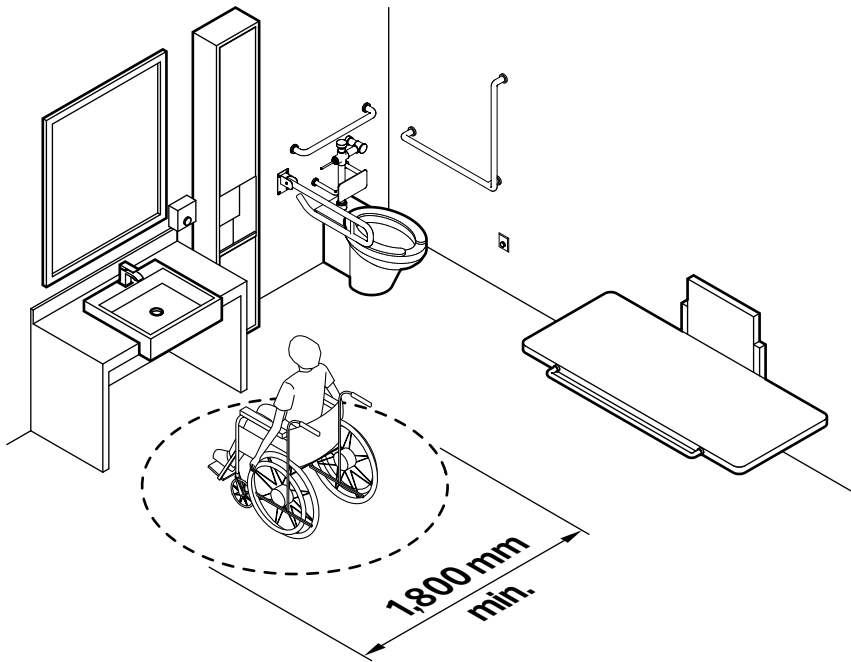
**Best practice:** The occupancy indicator should provide both audible and visual feedback to help users with low or no vision to confirm if the door is successfully locked or unlocked.

**Note:** When integrated with the locking mechanism, locking the door from the inside will disable the exterior power door operator button and activate a visual indicator such as “Occupied” or “Locked” sign. This occupancy indicator sign must be large, clear and have luminance contrast. This ensures privacy and prevents someone from accidentally opening the door when the washroom is in use.

4. Provide a clear turning diameter of minimum 1,800 mm inside the universal washroom.

Refer to figure B.2.5.2(b).

**Note:** In addition to having sufficient space for a mobility user to turn around, universal washrooms must have enough space to accommodate an attendant or caregiver to assist an individual with a disability.



**Figure B.2.5.2(c)**  
**Universal washroom minimum turning space**

5. Provide luminance contrast between:
  - a. door and adjacent surfaces
  - b. wall and floor finishes
  - c. fixtures and surrounding finishes
6. Washroom accessories such as soap and paper towel dispensers must be sensor activated.

7. In addition to the L-shaped grab bar required by National Building Code – Alberta Edition on one side of the water closet, provide a drop down grab bar that is:
  - a. 750 mm long
  - b. mounted on the side of the water closet opposite the L-shaped grab bar
  - c. mounted 750 mm above finished floor and between 390 mm to 410 mm from the centre line of the water closet

**Note:** A drop down grab bar supports users with low mobility to maintain their balance and stability during the transfer process and when repositioning themselves on the water closet. The bar can be left in the upright position to ensure it doesn't get in the way or encroach into the clear space.

Refer to figure B.2.5.2(c).

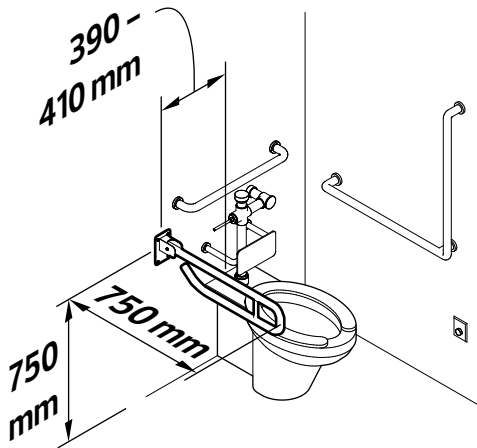


Figure B.2.5.2(d)  
Drop down grab bar dimensions

8. A universal washroom must be equipped with an emergency call button in facilities that are staffed during open hours.

**Note:** Refer to subsection B.2.5.5 Washroom Accessories for more information on emergency call buttons.
9. 2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition has minimum clear space requirements for adult-sized change tables. Refer to subsection 6.3.4 of [CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible Design for the Built Environment](#) for specification of adult-sized change tables.
10. Provide space for a wide tear-off paper roll to cover the adult-sized change table or other options to sanitize the table.

### B.2.5.3 Multi-stall Washrooms

Multi-stall washrooms are designed for simultaneous use by more than one individual. It includes a shared common area for handwashing, two or more water-closet stalls and/or urinals.

Refer to figure B.2.5.3(a).

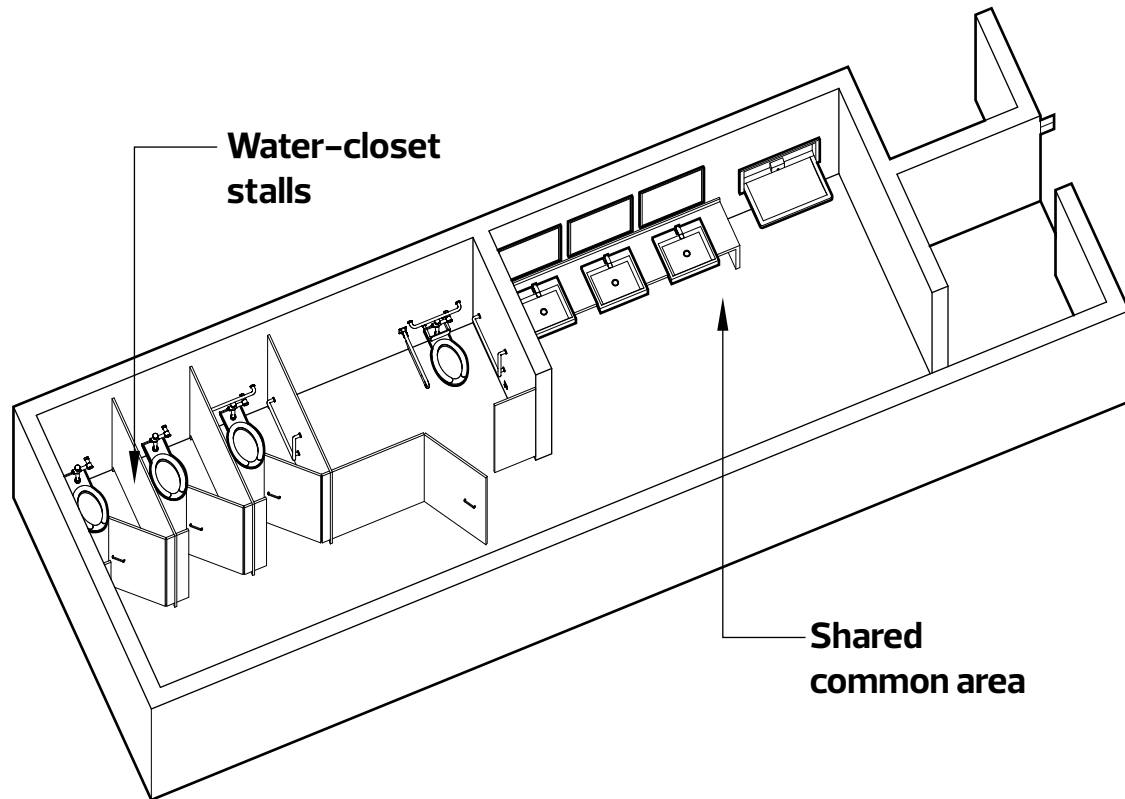
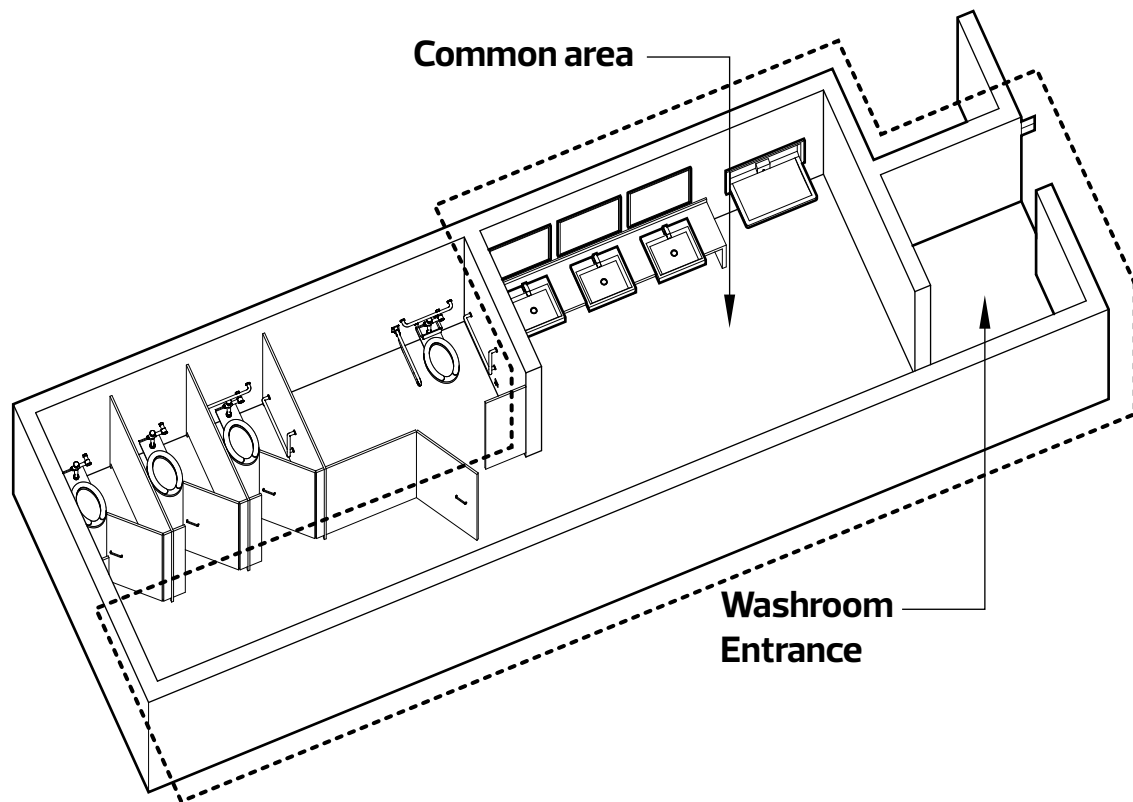


Figure B.2.5.3(a)  
A multi-stall washroom

### B.2.5.3.1 Entrances and Common Areas



**Figure B.2.5.3.1(a)**  
**Multi-stall washroom entrance and common area**

1. Provide doorless entrance, for example, an L-shaped entrance to the washroom common area.

**Note:** Having a doorless entrance to the washroom common area removes the need for the physical effort to open and go through the door. The lack of a door and hardware eliminates a potential source of confusion and obstruction for people with sensory and cognitive disabilities, and the risk of the door opening into a person with low or no vision.

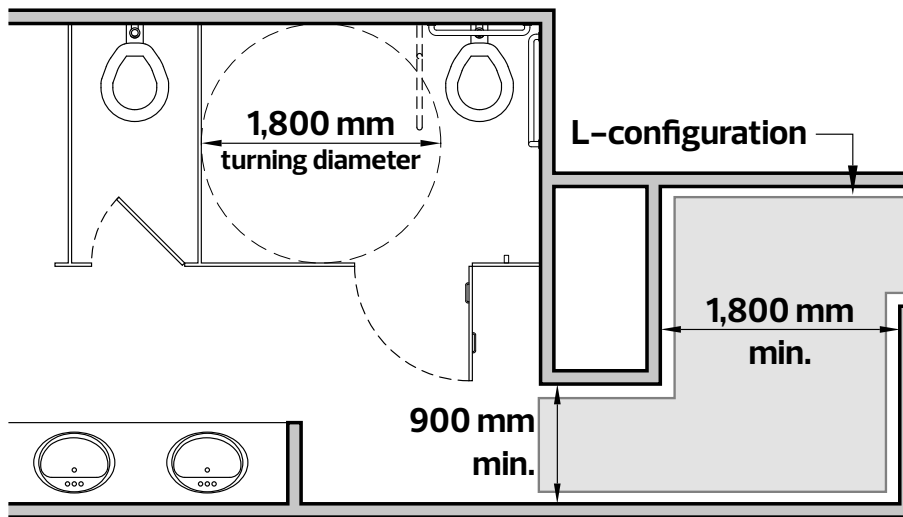


**Image B.2.5.3.1(a)**  
**Doorless washroom entrance**

2. Entrances with an L-configuration must have:
  - a. only one turn with a clear corner to reduce the risk of people with low or no vision getting disoriented
  - b. a minimum depth of 1,800 mm to allow a wheelchair to turn the corner easily
  - c. a minimum opening width of 900 mm

Refer to figure B.2.5.3.1(b).

3. **Existing buildings:** L-shaped entrances should be as wide as possible to enable easy wheelchair access and exit. If there are space constraints to achieve this in existing buildings, the depth can be reduced to 1,200 mm.



**Figure B.2.5.3.1(b)**  
**Multi-stall washroom doorless entrance**

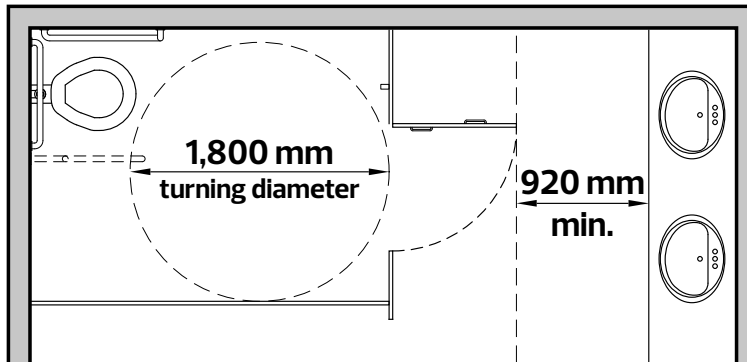
4. If doors are provided to washroom common areas, they must:
  - a. be equipped with a power operator
  - b. be easy to approach (i.e. not recessed in a narrow hallway)
  - c. have luminance contrast with the adjacent surfaces

**Note:** Avoid providing two doors in quick succession

5. Baby change tables must be located in the washroom common area and not inside the accessible water-closet stall.

**Note:** Locating baby change tables inside accessible stalls leads to them being occupied for longer periods of time. Locating them in the washroom common area helps to keep accessible stalls open and available for people with disabilities.

6. For outward swinging water-closet stall doors, provide a minimum of 920 mm clear space from the leading edge of the door in open position.



**Figure B.2.5.3.1(c)**  
**Clear space for outward swinging door**

7. Provide luminance contrast between:
  - a. floor and wall finishes
  - b. stall partitions, floor and wall finishes
  - c. lavatory counter and adjoining wall finish
  - d. faucets and surface in which they are installed, where possible

**Note:** Same or similar colour partitions, walls and floor finishes makes it difficult for people with low vision to perceive where one surface ends and another begins. High contrast helps to locate the stalls, fixtures and avoid falls or collisions.



**Image B.2.5.3.1(b)**  
**A water-closet stall**

8. Water-closet stalls for users with limited mobility must be identified using a sign. Refer to image B.2.5.3.1(d) for City of Edmonton pictogram for limited mobility stalls.



**Figure B.2.5.3.1(d)**  
**Limited mobility stall pictogram**

9. If there is no lavatory counter, provide a fixed or fold down shelf mounted not higher than 1,200 mm from the finished floor.

**Note:** The shelf provides a space to keep medical, personal hygiene or personal belongings at a reachable height for someone in a seated position.



**Image B.2.5.3.1(c)**  
**Fixed shelf in a washroom**

10. Provide a wall-mounted sharps disposal container with an opening:
- at a height of  $1,000 \pm 100$  mm above the finished floor
  - within 500 mm forward reach of a person using a mobility device

### B.2.5.3.2 Standard Water-Closet Stalls

Accessibility of washrooms goes beyond the requirements for accessible water-closet stalls. Incorporating accessibility best practices for standard water-closet stalls makes them easier to use for people with low mobility, low or no vision and other invisible disabilities. The requirements in this subsection apply to standard water-closet stalls only. For water-closet stalls designated for persons with limited mobility, refer to the minimum requirements in 3.8.3.15 of the National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition.

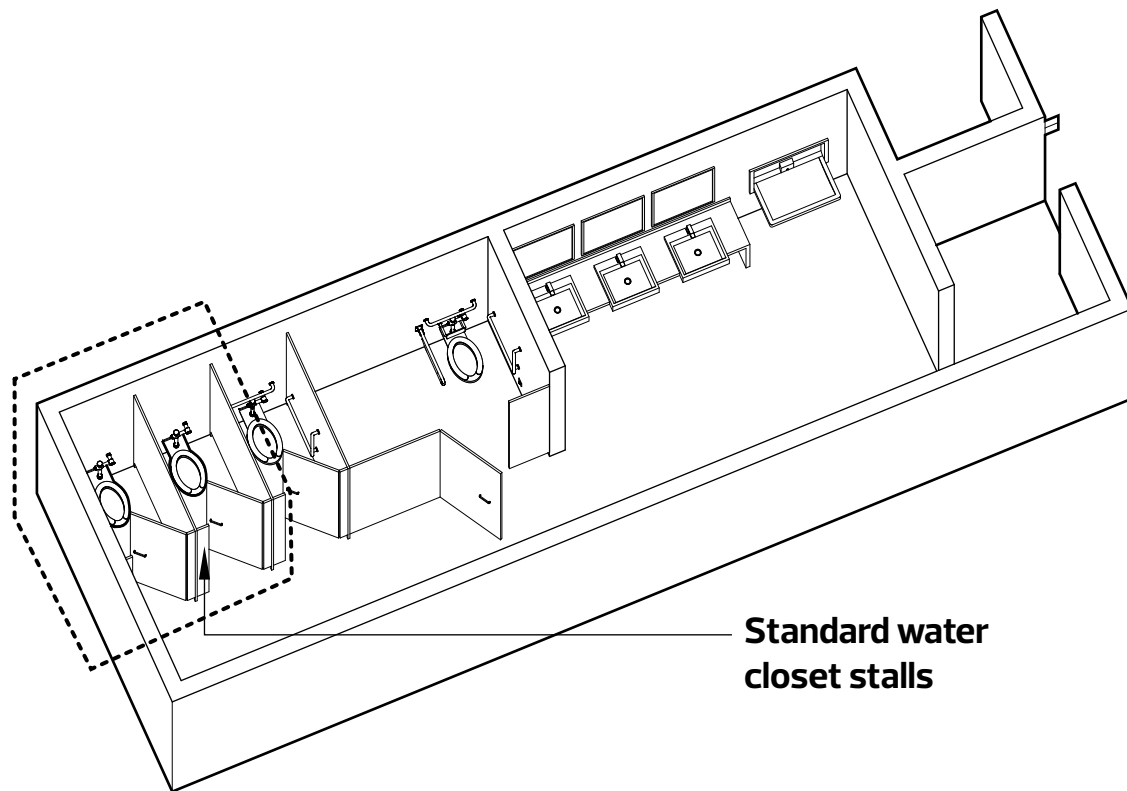
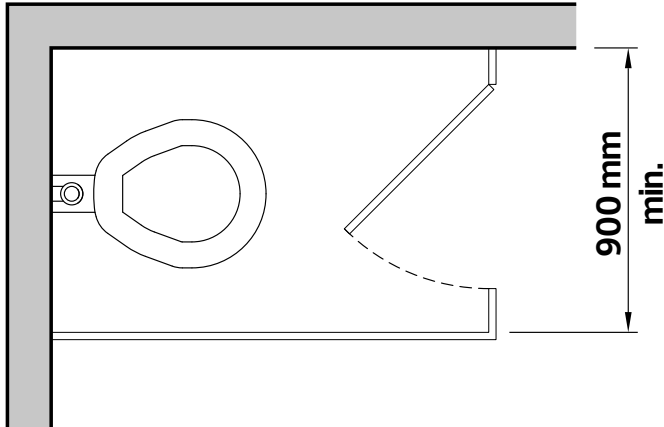


Figure B.2.5.3.2(a)  
Standard water-closet stalls

1. Standard water-closet stalls must have a minimum interior width of 900 mm.

**Best practice:** Provide a size of at least 1,000 mm wide by 1,500 mm deep.



**Figure B.2.5.3.2(b)**  
Standard water-closet stall minimum width

2. Provide luminance contrast between the water closet, wall and floor finishes.
3. Provide sliding latch for door locking mechanism to ensure they are operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist.

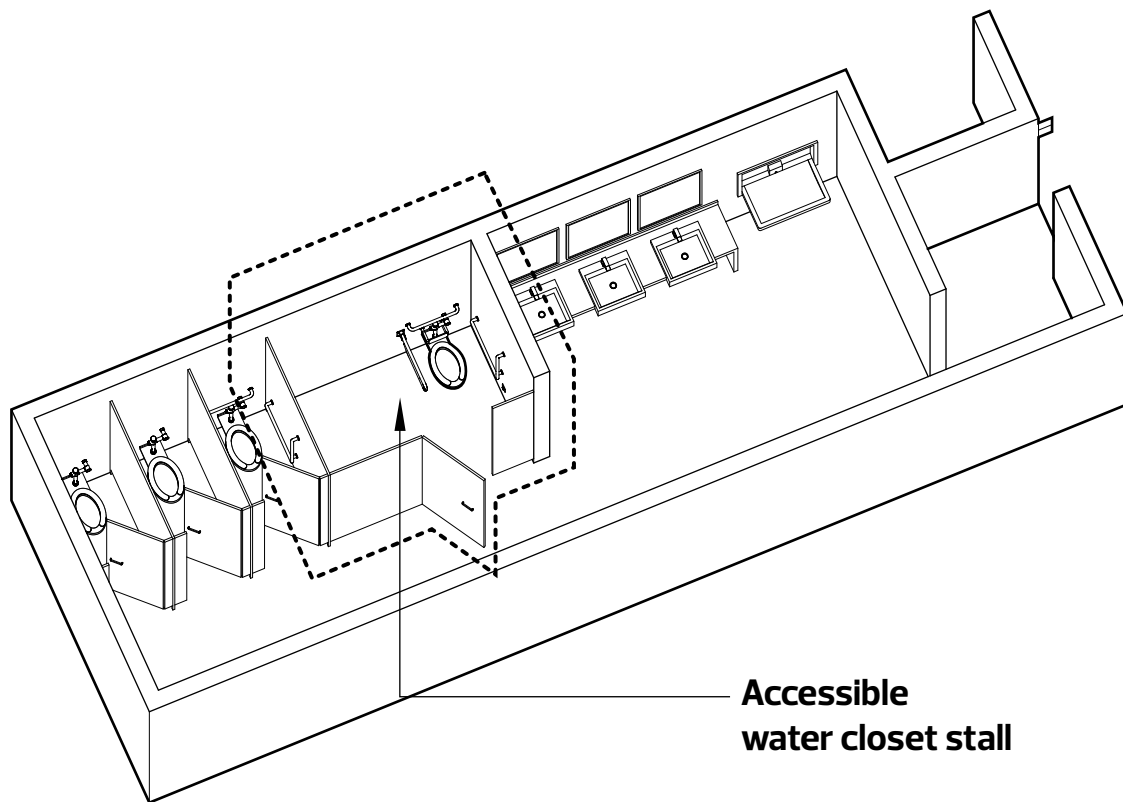
**Note:** Sliding latches only need minimal force to slide the bolt into place. This allows people with low dexterity due to arthritis, muscular dystrophy, carpal tunnel syndrome or other conditions to operate the door with a closed fist, elbow or the back of their hand.

4. Where door pulls are provided, they must be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist. For example, "D" shaped door pull.
5. Provide flush controls that are sensor activated.

**Note:** In addition to making it easier for people with low dexterity, sensor-activated flush control also helps people with low or no vision from having to find and operate the manual flush valve.

**Best practice:** Provide grab bars in standard water-closet stalls to make them more comfortable for users with low mobility.

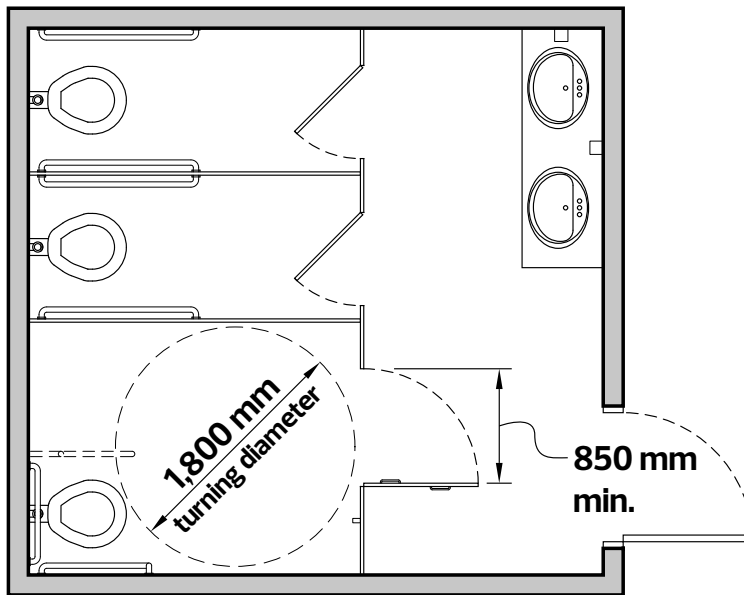
### B.2.5.3.3 Accessible Water-Closet Stalls



**Figure B.2.5.3.3(a)**  
**Accessible water-closet stall**

1. A minimum clear turning diameter of 1,800 mm must be provided inside the accessible water-closet stall.  
Refer to figure B.2.5.3.3(b).
2. Accessible water-closet stall doors must swing outwards and have a minimum clear opening of 850 mm when the door is in the open position.  
Refer to figure B.2.5.3.3(b).

**Best practice:** Accessible stall doors should swing against a side wall so as not to impede the flow of traffic and reduce the risk of the door opening into a person.



**Figure B.2.5.3.3(b)**  
**Accessible water-closet stall dimensions**

3. Provide luminance contrast between the water closet, walls and floor finishes.

**Note:** This helps people with low vision to locate the water closet and distinguish between the different surfaces.

4. If the water closet does not have a seat lid, provide a back support centered with the water closet.

**Note:** The design should ensure that the back support itself does not interfere with the operation of the water closet flush mechanism or the use of grab bars.



**Image B.2.5.3.3(a)**  
**Back support for water-closet users**

5. Provide sufficient backing for the installation of grab bars.

**Note:** Backing of at least a 19 mm sheet of plywood or reasonable alternative behind the cement board from floor to ceiling is preferred for optimal strength and placement.

6. In addition to the L-shaped grab bar on one side of the water closet, provide a drop down grab bar on the opposite side.

Refer to figure B.2.5.3.3(c).

**Note:** A drop down grab bar supports users with low mobility to maintain their balance and stability during the transfer process and when repositioning themselves on the water closet. The bar can be left in the upright position to ensure it doesn't get in the way or encroach into the clear space.

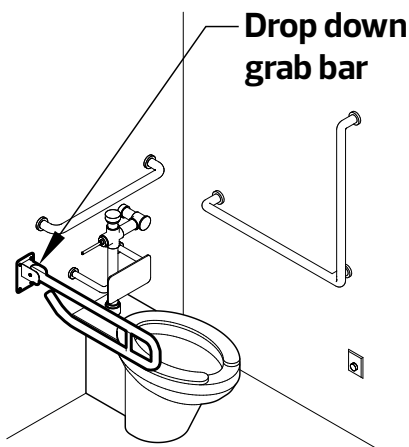


Figure B.2.5.3.3(c)  
Drop down grab bar

**Best practice:** Install emergency call buttons inside accessible water-closet stalls in facilities that are staffed during open hours.

**Note:** Call buttons enable a user to call for help in the event that the user falls or encounters some other situation that requires assistance.

## B.2.5.4 Washroom Fixtures

The requirements in this subsection apply to B.2.5.2 Universal Washrooms, B.2.5.3 Multi-stall Washrooms, B.2.5.3.2 Standard Water-Closet Stalls and B.2.5.3.3 Accessible Water-Closet Stalls.

### B.2.5.4.1 Lavatories

1. There must be no sharp or abrasive surfaces under accessible lavatories. If the lavatory is mounted in a counter, the counter must have no sharp or abrasive edges at the top and bottom of the counter.

**Note:** Sharp or abrasive edges can cause scrapes or cuts on the legs of people using mobility devices who are in close proximity to the underside of the lavatory. This also poses a concern for someone with low or no vision who may use their hands to locate the lavatory.

2. All washroom lavatories must have sensor-operated faucets.
3. Provide luminance contrast between:
  - a. faucets and surfaces in which they are installed
  - b. counters and adjoining wall finish

### B.2.5.4.2 Water Closets

1. Provide wall-mounted water closets or floor models with recessed bases in accessible water-closet stalls.

**Note:** They provide the least amount of obstruction for a person using a mobility device to manoeuvre in front of or beside the water closet.

2. A water closet must have sensor-activated flush.
3. Water closet seats must be durable, stable and tightly fastened to prevent them from becoming loose easily.

**Note:** Loose water closet seats make it difficult and unsafe for mobility device users to transfer to the water closet. Loose seats can also cause a person to lose their balance.

4. Select quiet or low noise water closets, preferable between 40 – 50 dBA.

**Note:** Excessive and sudden noise can cause anxiety for people with dementia, autism and sensory sensitivities.

### B.2.5.4.3 Urinals

1. Provide sensor-activated flush controls for urinals.
2. Provide luminance contrast between urinals and adjoining surface finishes.

**Note:** A strong contrast makes the urinal stand out and easily identifiable for individuals with low vision.

3. If privacy screens are installed between urinals, they must have luminance contrast with the wall surfaces.

**Note:** This helps to prevent the privacy screens from becoming an unexpected protruding object for someone with low vision.

### B.2.5.5 Washroom Accessories

1. Provide unobstructed access to washroom accessories.

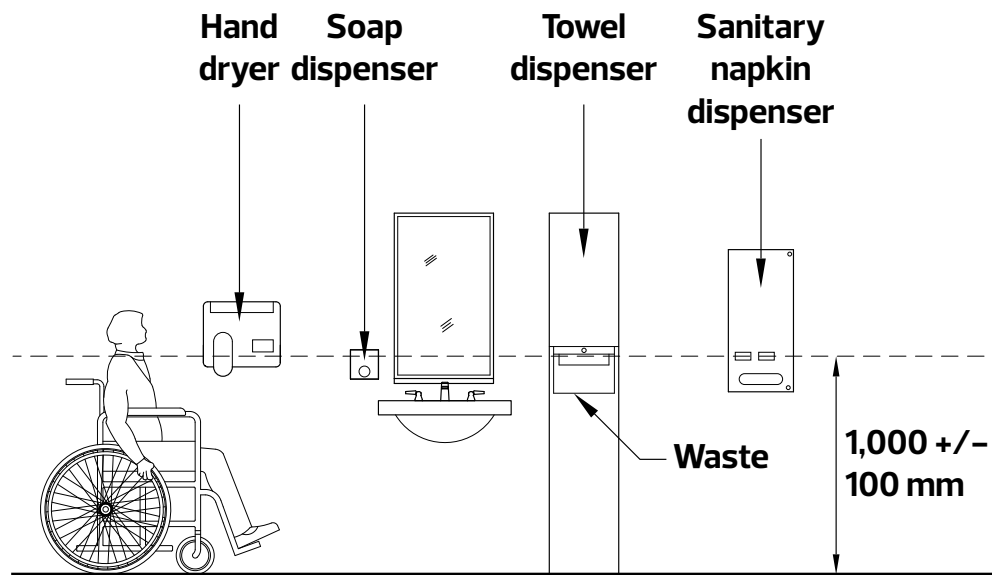
**Note:** For unobstructed access, an adjacent clear floor space of at least 800 mm by 1,350 mm is required to use washroom accessories.

2. Ensure washroom accessories such as towel dispensers and waste receptacles are either recessed or located such that it does not obstruct the accessible path of travel or the use of other fixtures.

**Note:** Locating waste receptacles such as garbage bins directly under the paper towel dispenser prevents someone using a mobility device from getting close enough to use the paper towel dispenser.

3. Paper towel dispenser or dryer must be located adjacent to the lavatory and soap dispenser.
4. All washroom accessories that have operational controls must be sensor-operated. These include soap dispensers, towel dispensers and hand dryers.
5. Openings and user controls of washroom accessories such as soap dispensers, towel dispensers and waste receptacles must be at  $1,000 \pm 100$  mm above the finished floor.

Refer to figure B.2.5.5(a).



**Figure B.2.5.5(a)**  
**Washroom accessories mounting height**

6. Select quiet or low noise fixtures for hand dryers and exhaust fans.

**Note:** Excessive and sudden noise can cause anxiety for people with dementia, autism and sensory sensitivities. Preferred sound levels: Hand dryers – 65 dBA or less; Exhaust fans – between 40 and 45 dBA.

7. Emergency call buttons on strings or pressable strips must be:
- a. installed on the same wall as the side grab bar
  - b. installed within 600 mm reach of the water closet
  - c. installed at a height of 300 mm above the finished floor
  - d. connected to an audible and visual alarm system
  - e. operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist.

## **B.2.6 Change Facilities**

For the purposes of this Guide, change facilities are defined as spaces and amenities provided for building users to change their clothes before and after using facilities such as pools, gyms or sports courts.

### **B.2.6.1 Universal Dressing and Shower Rooms**

Universal dressing and shower rooms, as defined by the 2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition, are equipped with a lavatory, mirror, shower, change bench, and coat hook. This subsection supplements those minimum requirements by requiring the addition of a water closet in Universal Dressing and Shower Rooms.

The requirements in this subsection are in addition to those specified in National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition, 3.8.2.17(2).

1. The door to the universal dressing and shower room must be equipped with a power operator.
2. Universal dressing and shower rooms must have a water closet, shower bench, and waste receptacle.
3. Provide a clear space of minimum 1,800 mm diameter inside the universal dressing and shower room.

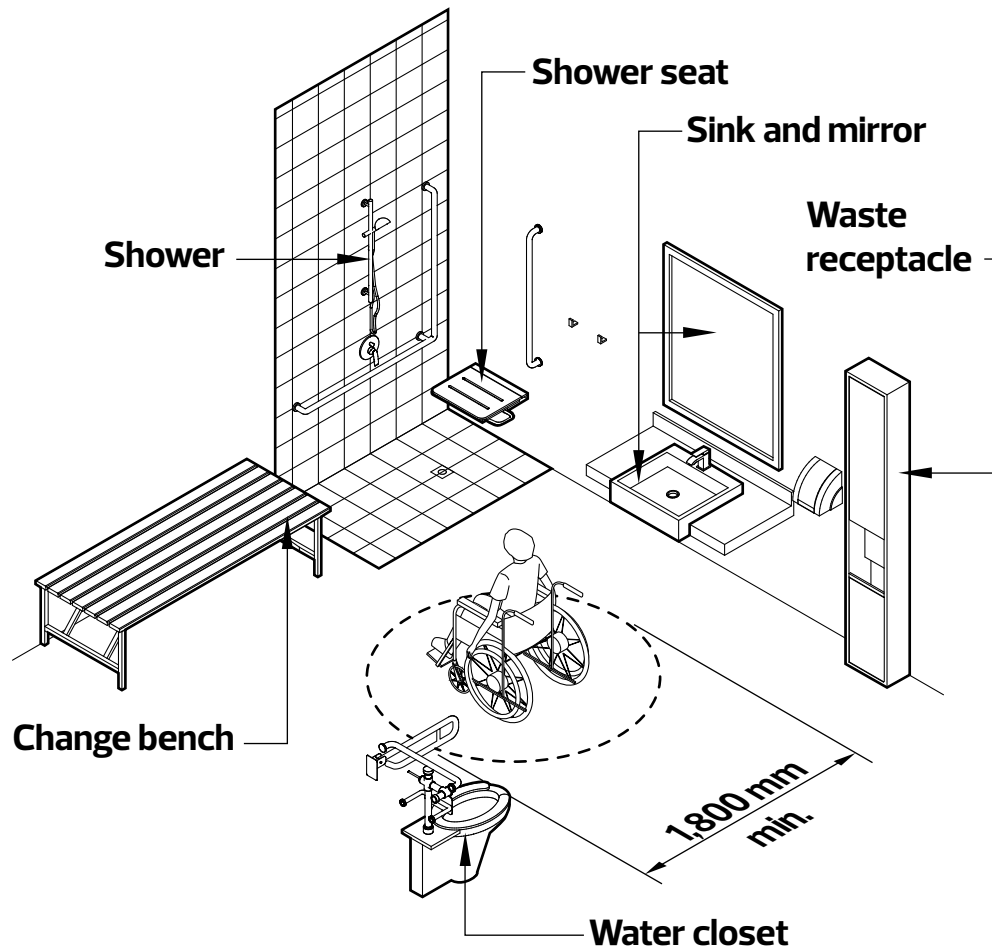


Figure B.2.6.1(a)  
Universal dressing and shower room

**Best practice:** Install a motorized ceiling mounted lift that has access to the change bench, shower, and water closet. Ensure the shower curtain or any partition does not interfere with overhead lift operation.



**Image B.2.6.1(a)**  
**Motorized ceiling mounted lift**

4. Shower location must take into account separation of wet and dry areas in the universal dressing and shower room.
5. Provide grab bars for the water closet that meet the following.
6. An L-shaped grab bar that:
  - a. is mounted on the side wall closest to the water closet
  - b. has horizontal component not less than 760 mm long
  - c. has vertical component not less than 760 mm long
  - d. is mounted with the horizontal component 750 mm to 850 mm above finished floor and vertical component 150 mm in front of the water closet

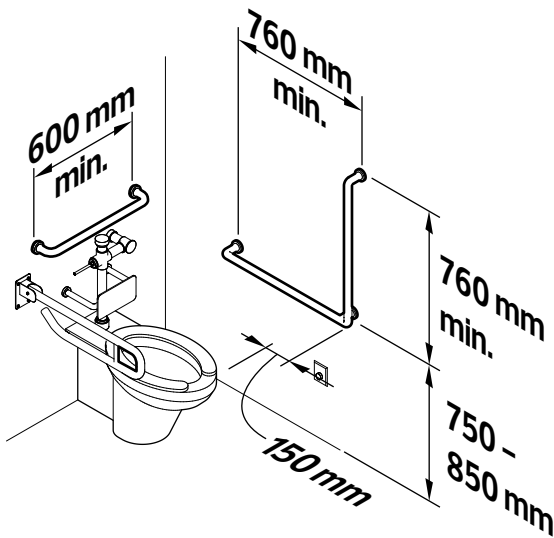
Refer to figure B.2.6.1(b).

7. A horizontal grab bar that is:
  - a. at least 600 mm long centred over the water closet
  - b. mounted on the rear wall
  - c. mounted at the same height as the grab bar on the side wall

Refer to figure B.2.6.1(b).

8. A drop down grab bar that is:
  - a. 750 mm long
  - b. mounted on the side of the water closet opposite the L-shaped grab bar
  - c. mounted 750 mm above finished floor and between 390 mm to 410 mm from the centre line of the water closet

Refer to figure B.2.5.2(c) for dimensions of drop down grab bar.



**Figure B.2.6.1(b)**  
**Water closet grab bar dimensions**

9. Provide grab bars for the change bench that meet the following.
10. A horizontal grab bar that:
  - a. is 900 mm long
  - b. is mounted 750 mm above finished floor
  - c. has its centre line aligned with the middle of the change bench

11. A vertical grab bar that:
  - a. is 1,000 mm long
  - b. is mounted with the lower end at 750 mm above finished floor
  - c. is 150 mm from the edge of the bench

(Source: [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))

**Note:** Change bench is a sturdy, fixed seating surface designed to support an adult's weight. It provides a large enough area for a person to sit or lie down comfortably while changing, or to safely transfer between the bench and a mobility device.

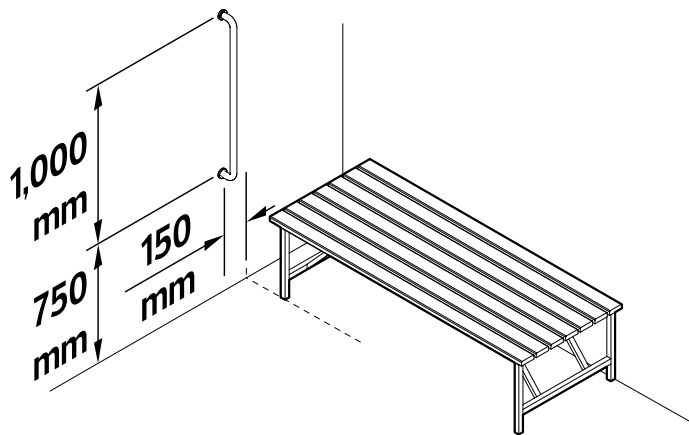


Figure B.2.6.1(c)  
Change bench grab bar dimensions

## B.2.6.2 Change Areas

A change area refers to a dedicated changing area that contains lockers, benches, showers and change cubicles.

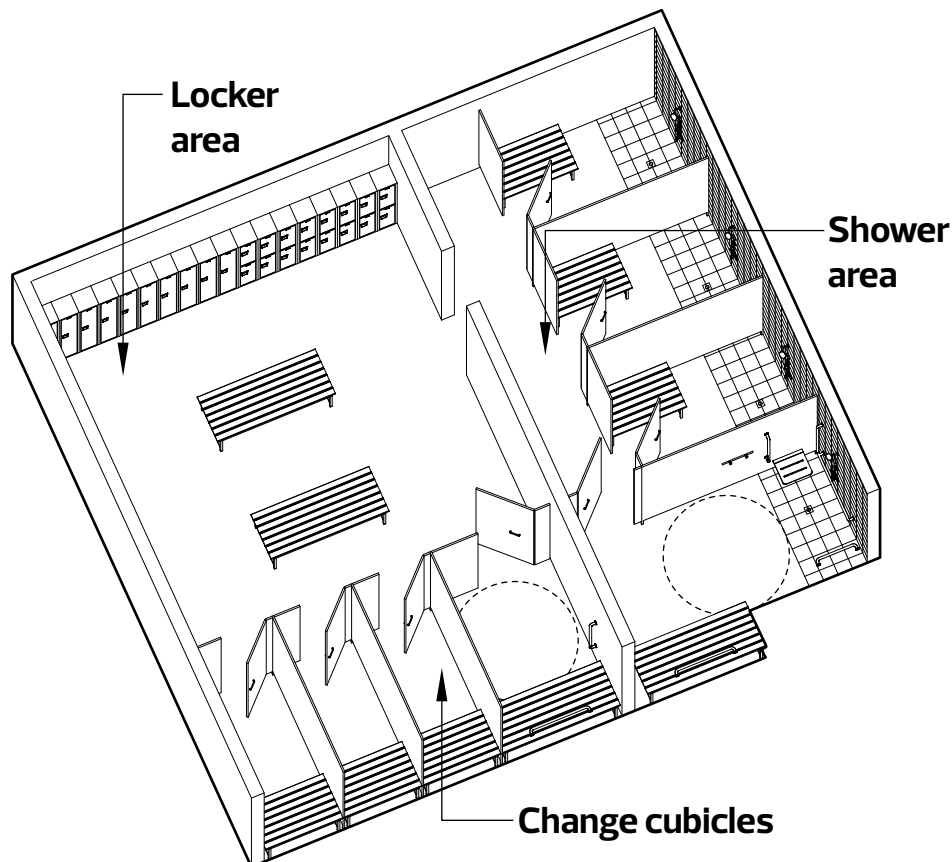


Figure B.2.6.2(a)  
A change area

1. All change areas must include at least one accessible change cubicle.

**Note:** This is in addition to the universal dressing and shower room described in the subsection B.2.6.1.

2. The change area must be free of any protruding objects that are not cane-detectable.
3. Floor finish must be non-glare and slip-resistant.
4. Change areas with accessible change cubicles must be located on an accessible path of travel that connects other accessible elements such as entrance, elevator, washroom and activity areas in the facility.

5. Provide a room identification sign with tactile and braille lettering. The sign must include the International Symbol of Access, if accessible amenities such as a change cubicle, shower or adult-sized change table are available in the change area.
6. A minimum 1,500 mm wide accessible path of travel must be provided throughout the change area.

**Note:** Change areas have different use areas such as lockers, change cubicles, washrooms and showers. A 1,500 mm wide path of travel ensures access to all areas and provides the minimum clearance for two people using mobility devices to pass.

7. Where hooks are provided, a minimum of 50% of the hooks must be mounted at a height of not more than 1,200 mm from the finished floor.
8. Provide luminance contrast between change cubicle partitions and adjoining surfaces such as floor and walls.
9. Door locking mechanism of all change and shower cubicles must be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist.

### B.2.6.2.1 Lockers

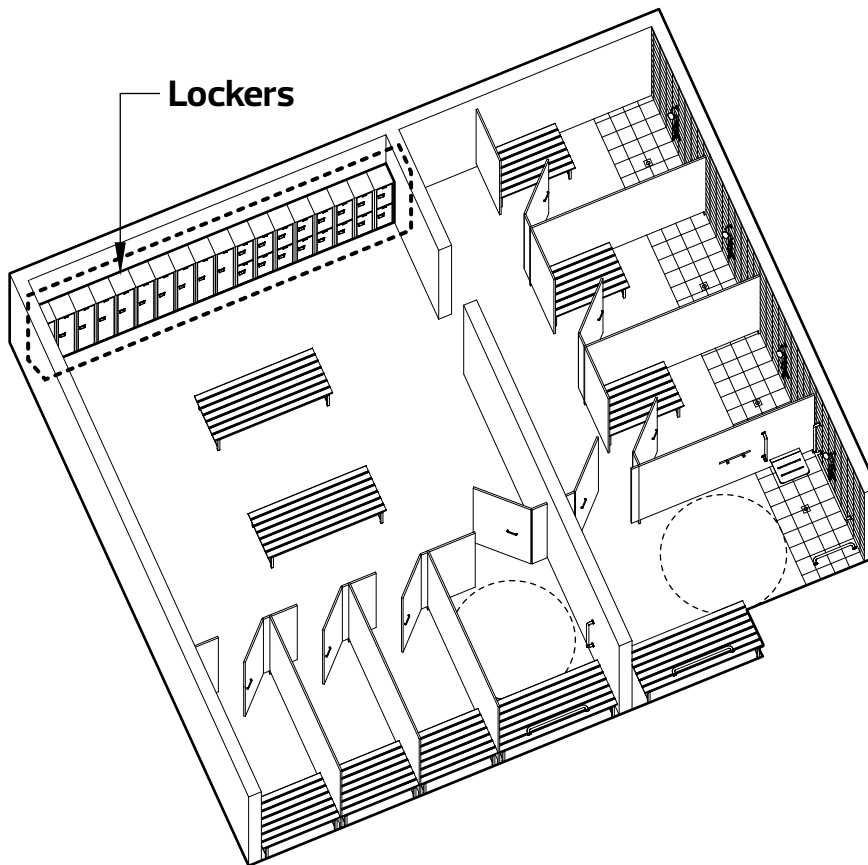


Figure B.2.6.2.1(a)  
Lockers in a change area

1. If the total number of lockers is 10 or more, provide a minimum of 10% accessible lockers. If the total number of lockers is less than ten, a minimum of one accessible locker must be provided.

**Note:** Accessible lockers are at a lower height and can be easily operated by people using mobility devices.



**Image B.2.6.2.1(a)**  
**Mobility device user accessing lockers**

2. Accessible lockers must be located adjacent to an accessible path of travel of minimum 1,500 mm width.
3. Provide a clear floor space of 1,800 mm turning diameter directly in front of the accessible lockers.

**Note:** The clear floor space is measured when the lockers are in a closed position and allows someone using a mobility device to access the lockers without obstructions and turn around without having to backtrack.

4. Accessible lockers must be operable between 400 mm to 1,200 mm from the finished floor.

**Note:** Lockers must be available for persons using wheelchairs and the lower height ensures access in a seated position.

5. Lockers must have luminance contrast with adjoining surface finish such as wall surfaces.
6. Locker identification numbers must be raised text and have luminance contrast with the surface on which they are installed.

7. Latches of lockers must be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist.

**Note:** Latches that are easy to operate allow people with limited dexterity and strength to use the lockers independently.

8. Benches with slip-resistant surfaces must be located adjacent to accessible lockers and must be a minimum of:
  - a. 1,100 mm long
  - b. 510 to 610 mm deep
  - c. 450 mm to 500 mm high

Refer to figure B.2.6.2.1(b).

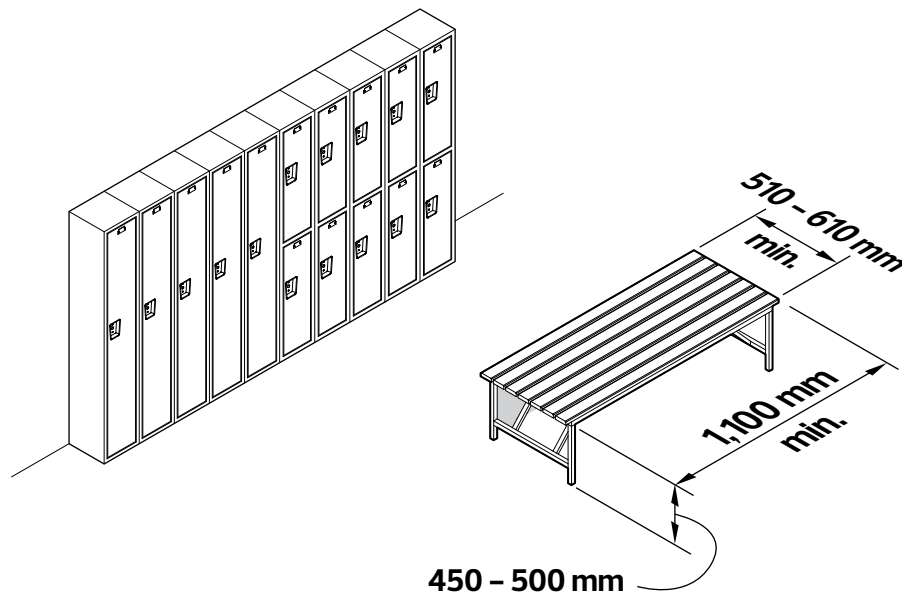


Figure B.2.6.2.1(b)  
Locker room bench dimensions

### B.2.6.2.2 Accessible change cubicles

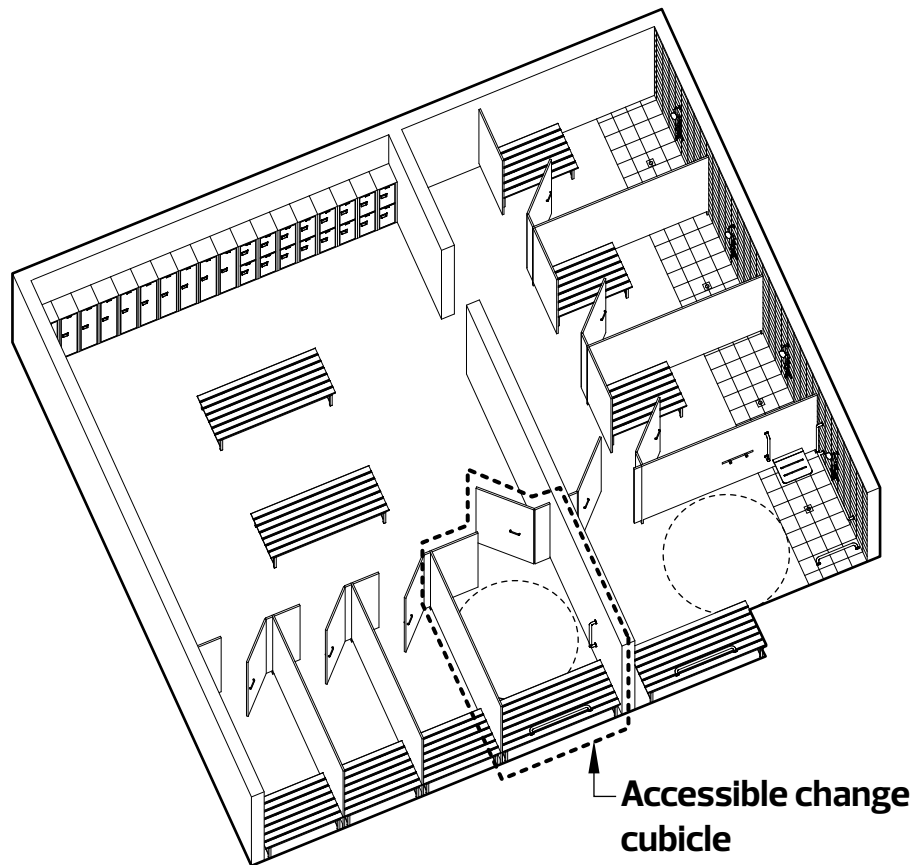


Figure B.2.6.2.2(a)  
Accessible change cubicle

1. Provide a room identification sign with tactile lettering and braille that includes the International Symbol of Access outside the accessible change cubicle.
2. Doors to accessible change cubicles must swing outwards and have a clear opening of 850 mm.

**Note:** Outward swinging door prevents an user from being trapped inside the change cubicle, if they happen to fall and block the doorway. Outward swing also prevents the door from obstructing the clear floor space inside the cubicle.

3. Provide a minimum clear turning diameter of 1,800 mm inside accessible change cubicles.
4. Provide a coat hook that is:
  - a. mounted less than 1,200 mm above the finished floor
  - b. mounted on a side wall
  - c. do not protrude more than 50 mm from the wall

5. Provide a securely fastened bench inside the accessible change cubicle that is:
  - a. a minimum of 760 mm wide and 1,830 mm long
  - b. between 480 mm and 520 mm high from the finished floor
  - c. free of any sharp edges or corners and abrasive materials on surfaces

Refer to figure B.2.6.2.2(b).

(Source: Clause 6.4.1, CSA/ASC B651:23, Accessible design for the built environment. ©2023 Canadian Standards Association. Please visit [store.csagroup.org](https://store.csagroup.org))

**Best practice:** Provide wall mounted benches to ensure legs or brackets do not interfere with a person's ability to use the bench.

**Note:** Securely fastened benches can withstand the forces required for safe transfers and provide a stable surface for users who rely on the bench for balance or when moving between a mobility device and the seat.

6. Provide a clear floor space in front of the bench of minimum 900 mm wide and extending for the whole length of the bench.

(Source: Clause 6.4.1, CSA/ASC B651:23, Accessible design for the built environment. ©2023 Canadian Standards Association. Please visit [store.csagroup.org](https://store.csagroup.org))

Refer to figure B.2.6.2.2(b).

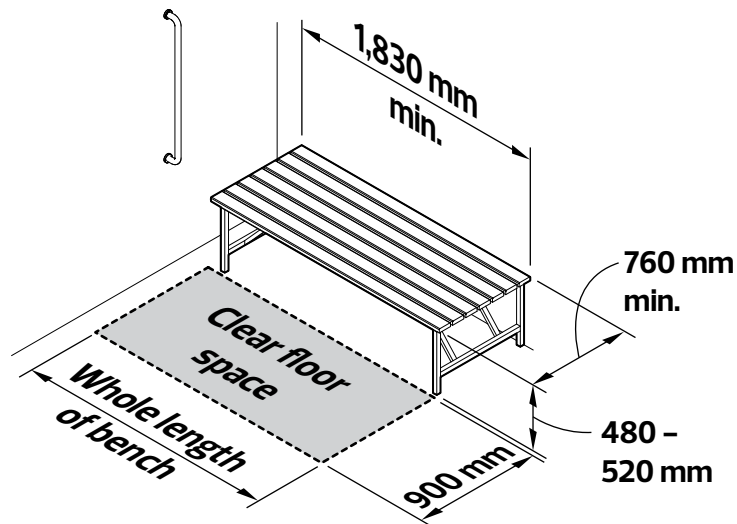


Figure B.2.6.2.2(b)  
Change bench dimensions

7. Provide a vertical grab bar for the change bench that:
  - a. is 1,000 mm long
  - b. is mounted with the lower end at 750 mm above finished floor
  - c. is 150 mm from the edge of the bench

(Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#))

Refer to figure B.2.6.2.2(c).

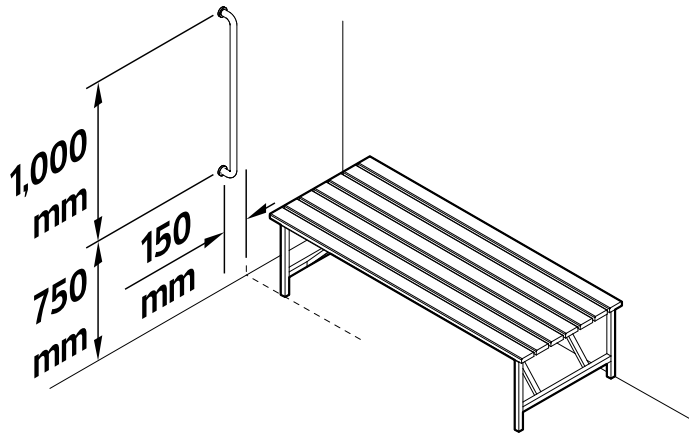
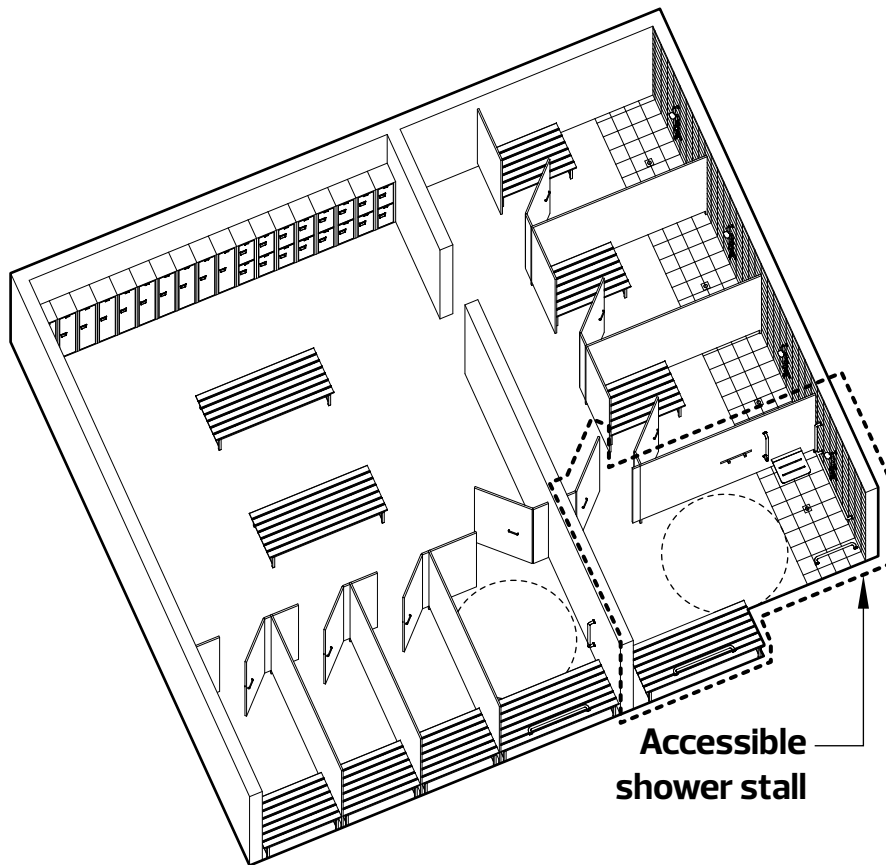


Figure B.2.6.2.2(c)  
Change bench grab bar dimensions

### B.2.6.2.3 Accessible Shower Stalls



**Figure B.2.6.2.3(a)**  
**Accessible shower stall**

1. The clear space at the entrance to an accessible shower must not be obstructed by fixtures such as wall-hung lavatories, fixed benches, island counters or garbage receptacles.
2. The accessible shower stall must be equipped with a shower seat, grab bars, pressure-balancing single-lever water control, handheld shower head, and coat hooks.
3. Provide coat hooks of a button or similar design that are mounted lower than 1,200 mm and adjacent to the fixed seating.
4. Provide luminance contrast between the shower seat and adjoining surface finishes.

## B.2.7 Workspaces

Workspaces must create an environment where employees are able to participate and contribute their talents, regardless of their abilities. In addition to the physical aspects, the sensory environment of a workspace also impacts well-being and productivity.

The requirements in this section are in addition to other relevant sections in Chapter B. Interior and draw upon best practices, recommendations and requirements found in the sources listed below:

- [Accessibility Standards Canada office: a model of accessibility](#)
- [City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)
- [CNIB clearing our path version 2.0](#)
- [Neuroinclusive Office Design by AtkinsRealis](#)

### B.2.7.1 General Requirements

1. Doors located along primary paths of travel and provide entry into workspaces, including doors with card reader access, must be equipped with power operators.



Image B.2.7.1(a)  
Workspace door with power operator

2. Primary corridors in work areas must have a minimum clear width of 1,800 mm.

Refer to figure B.2.7.1(a).

**Note:** Primary corridors are high-use paths that have a frequent flow of persons. This also includes paths that lead to washrooms and lunchrooms.

3. Secondary corridors and aisles between workstations must have a minimum clear width of 1,200 mm.

Refer to figure B.2.7.1(a).

**Note:** Secondary corridors are low-use paths that have an occasional flow of persons.

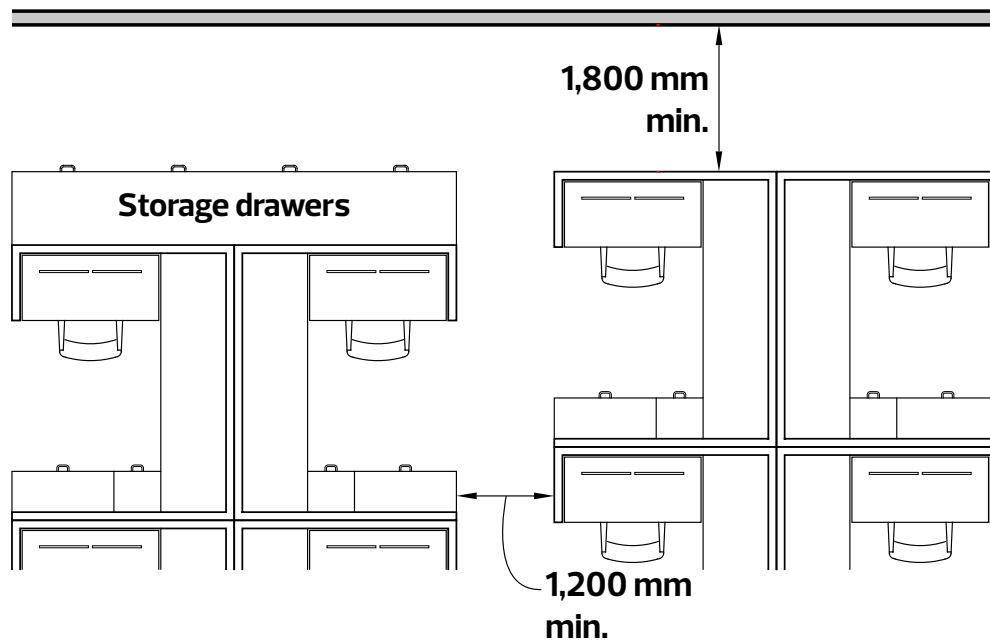


Figure B.2.7.1(a)  
Work area primary and secondary corridor widths

4. In control rooms, the width may be reduced to a minimum of:
  - a. 1,500 mm for primary corridors
  - b. 1,100 mm for secondary corridors

**Note:** Control rooms refer to dispatch offices, emergency services, transit control rooms or similar workspaces that require continuous operations.

- Corridors and hallways must be free of clutter or obstructions.

**Note:** Clutter and obstructions not only impact people with low mobility or low or no vision, but also have an impact on people with sensory sensitivities.

- Resource rooms must provide a clear floor space of at least 800 mm by 1,350 mm in front of user-operated equipment, such as printers and plotters, and office supply storage.

Refer to figure B.2.7.1(b).

**Note:** Resource rooms are rooms with printing equipment, recycling bins and storage. The clear floor space allows individuals using wheeled mobility devices to approach and use the equipment and storage.

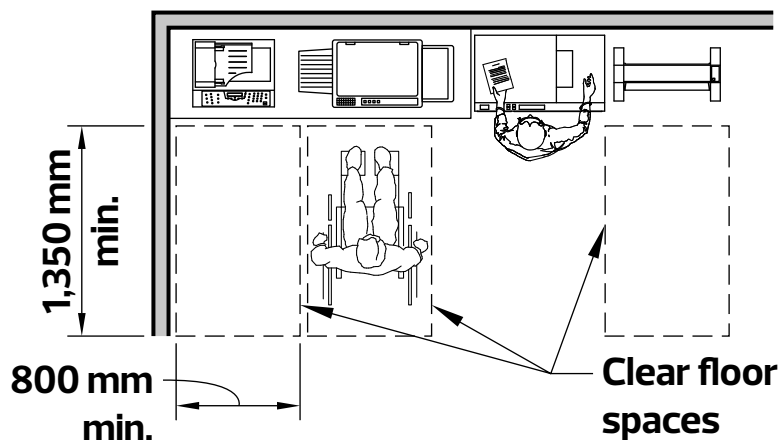


Figure B.2.7.1(b)  
Resource room equipment clearances

- Provide a variety of workspaces that support various levels of privacy, for example, enclosed pods, semi-enclosed areas, hotelling stations.

**Note:** This provides a choice workspace for employees who experience social anxiety or have sensory sensitivities.

- Work spaces must have a consistent auditory environment. Design solutions include using acoustic panels and carpet tiles to absorb sound and reduce reverberation and echo.

**Note:** The auditory workspace environment is important to minimize distracting or disorienting sounds. Installing white noise machines in high-traffic areas may also help support a consistent auditory environment.

9. Uniform lighting must be provided throughout the work area.

**Best practice:** Provide different temperature zones for larger workspaces, each with its own thermostat and sensor, to give opportunity to users for adjusting the temperature.

10. When a service dog is present in the workspace, add signage indicating the presence of a service dog and etiquette.

Refer to figure B.2.7.1(b) for the City of Edmonton service dog signage poster.

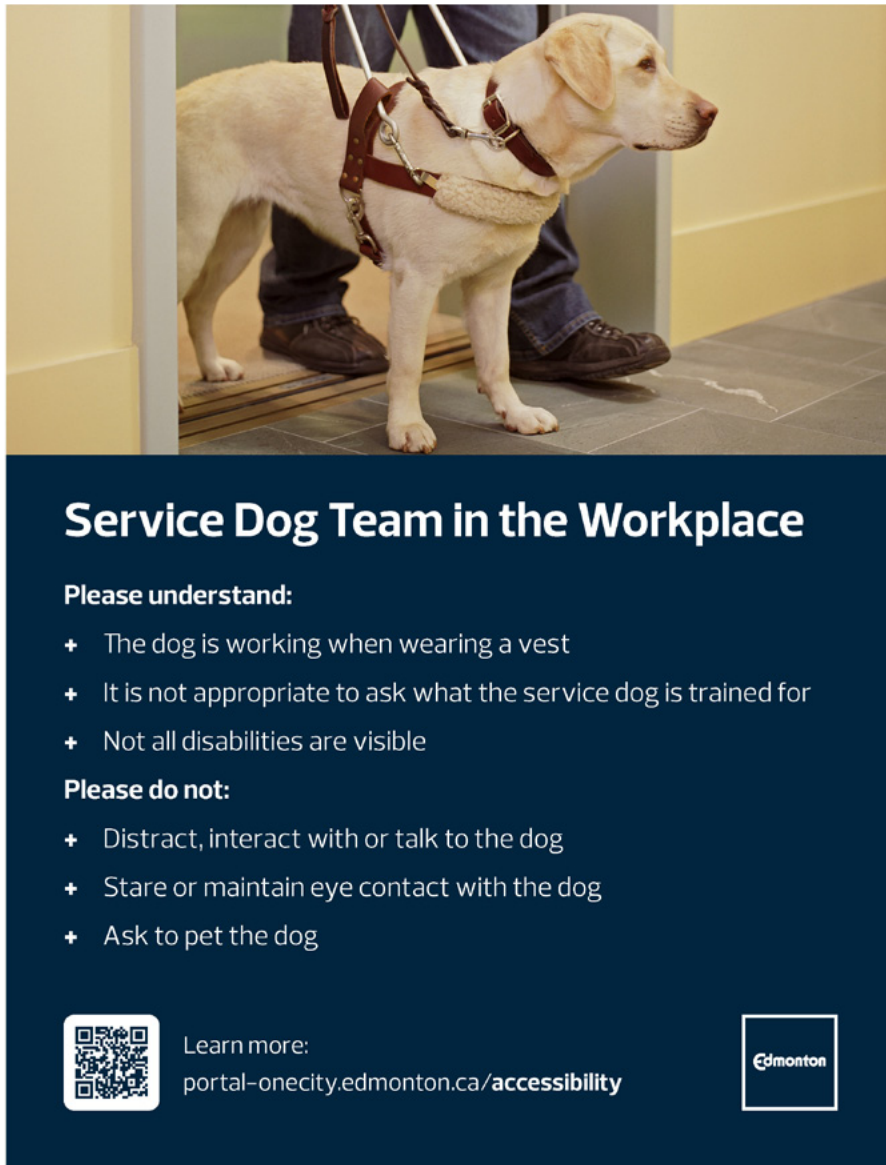


Image B.2.7.1(b)  
Service dog workplace etiquette poster

11. Emergency evacuation plans must include specific information on procedures for assisting employees and visitors with disabilities in the event of an emergency.
12. Where washrooms are provided, ensure there is at least one universal washroom per floor.
13. Where showers are provided, ensure there is at least one accessible shower.
14. If fitness areas are provided, they must:
  - a. be located along an accessible path of travel
  - b. include accessible fitness equipment
  - c. have sufficient clear space around exercise machines for a person using mobility device to transfer to and from the equipment

Refer to subsection B.2.4.2 for requirements related to fitness areas.

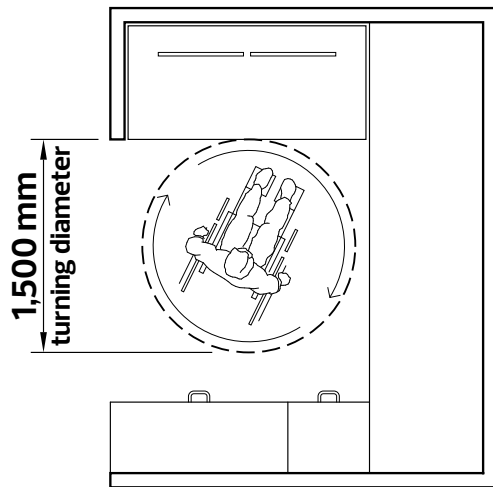
### B.2.7.2 Workstations

Workstation refers to a single user setup within the larger workspace. Workstations include open or closed offices, cubicles, touch-downs and hotelling stations.

1. Clear and legible signage must be provided to identify workstations. Refer to [Clear Print Accessibility Guidelines](#) for best practices on typography, colour contrast and finishes.
2. Workstations must be located along an accessible path of travel.
3. Workstations must provide a turning diameter of 1,500 mm within the workspace.

Refer to figure B.2.7.2(a).

**Note:** In addition to providing manoeuvring space for mobility devices such as wheelchairs and scooters, this unobstructed space enables safe use of a white cane, gives a service animal clear space to guide its handler, and allows space for someone with hearing loss to maintain the optimal distance required for lip reading. Less confined spaces also helps with a greater sense of personal space and reduced stress contributing to mental health.



**Figure B.2.7.2(a)**  
**Workstation turning diameter**

4. If all workstations cannot meet the minimum turning diameter requirement due to space constraints, a minimum 30% of workstations must have a 1,500 mm turning diameter. If there are less than 10 workstations, provide a minimum of two workstations that meets the turning diameter requirement.
5. Workstations with a 1,500 mm turning diameter must be placed in a variety of locations within a workspace, and the workstation placement must be consistent on all floors throughout a building.

**Note:** It is important to design a furniture layout with workstations placed in a variety of locations throughout the floor to provide staff with multiple options. However, it is also important to create consistency throughout a building to create a dependable layout where someone could easily navigate multiple floors. For example, an office building with multiple floors should have similar workstation layouts across the different floors.

6. Workstations should have neutral colour schemes and avoid busy patterns and bright colour schemes.

**Note:** Busy patterns and bright colour schemes may impact people with sensory sensitivities.

7. Every workstation must have a height-adjustable desk, also known as a sit-stand desk.

**Note:** This meets diverse employee needs and promotes ergonomic well-being. An L-shaped height-adjustable desk may provide more flexibility within a workstation.

8. Ensure cables are routed and organized to prevent tripping hazards.

**Note:** This is especially important for people using mobility aids and those with low or no vision.

9. Provide individual dimmable task lights at workstations.

**Note:** This allows employees with low vision or light sensitivity to control the lighting in their workstation.

**Best practice:** Provide adjustable monitor arms that enable positioning screens at optimal height, distance and angle.

**Note:** This is beneficial for employees with low vision or neck pain and reduces neck and eye strain.

10. Workstations with larger monitors must have deeper desks or additional ergonomic accessories.

11. If coat hooks are provided, include coat hooks that are mounted less than 1,200 mm above finished floor to allow use from a seated position.

### B.2.7.3 Meeting Rooms

Meeting rooms refer to any multi-use space for collaboration, training, presentations or conferences and are categorized as:

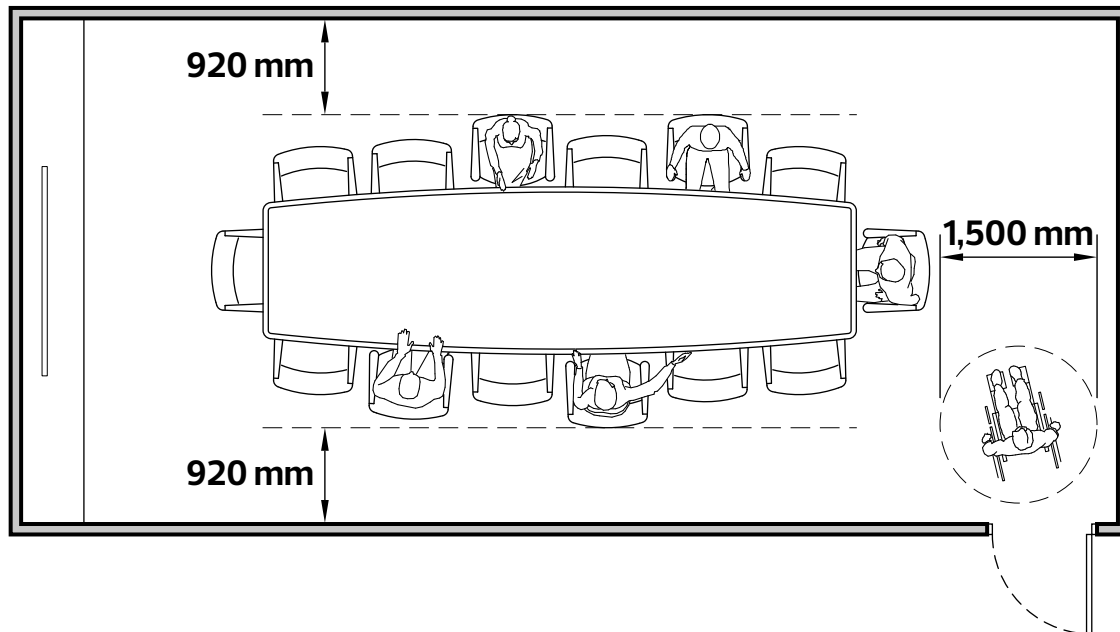
- Small meeting rooms with a seating capacity of two to four persons
  - Medium meeting rooms with a seating capacity of six to eight persons
  - Large meeting rooms with a seating capacity of nine to 14 persons
  - Extra large meeting rooms with a seating capacity of 15 or more persons
1. Meeting rooms must have a minimum clear turning space of minimum 1,500 mm in diameter within the room.

**Note:** This enables a wheeled mobility device user to manoeuvre and use the room easily. It also provides sufficient space for people using crutches, walkers, canes or service animals.

2. A minimum clear space of 920 mm must be provided behind occupied chairs at meeting room tables.

Refer to figure B.2.7.3(a).

**Note:** Users typically push chairs back 450 mm to 600 mm to stand up. The required clear space ensures that even with chairs pushed out, the path of travel is not blocked.



**Figure B.2.7.3(a)**  
**Meeting room clearances**

3. Meeting room tables must have knee clearance of minimum 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high.

**Note:** This allows someone using a wheeled mobility device to pull up closer to the table and fully participate in activities.

4. A height adjustable table must be provided in at least one of the medium meeting rooms within a workspace.

**Note:** Height adjustable tables allow for proper knee clearance and a comfortable working surface for all attendees.

5. Extra large meeting rooms used for audio-visual presentations, must have an assistive listening device and signage indicating the availability of the device.

**Note:** This ensures people who are hard of hearing are able to fully participate in meetings. Regular testing must be done to ensure the devices are connected and working properly.

6. Power operators must be installed on doors that provide entry into meeting rooms with seating capacity of 30 or more persons.
7. Placement of electrical outlets must consider ease of use from a seated position, to allow for plugging in mobility devices. Outlets should be placed to ensure cords do not become a tripping hazard.
8. If designated accessible table locations are provided, install power outlets for charging assistive devices.

9. Design must consider acoustics within the meeting room. Ambient noise must be controlled to help improve clarity of speech and provide speech privacy from adjoining workspaces.
10. Screens such as televisions, projectors, monitors or walls with multiple displays should have the screens mounted with the bottom edge no higher than 1,000 mm above finished floor.

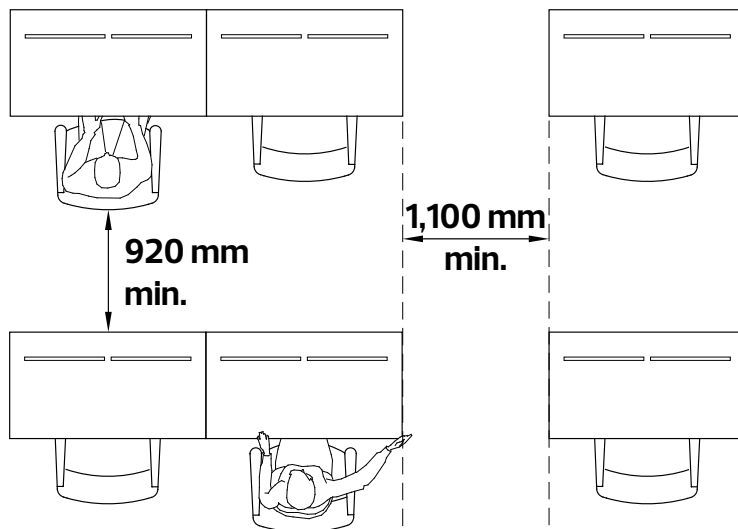
**Best practice:** Mount the screen at a height where the centre of the display is placed around the average eye level height of a person in a seated position.

**Note:** Another placement reference is to mount the screen at the height so that the bottom of the display is level with the top of the table within the meeting room.

11. Training rooms with tables and chairs such as computer training labs must have:
  - a. aisles with a minimum clear width of 1,100 mm
  - b. a minimum clear space of 920 mm behind occupied chairs at work tables

Refer to figure B.2.7.3(b).

**Note:** Users typically push chairs back 450 mm to 600 mm to stand up. The required clear space ensures that even with chairs pushed out, the path of travel is not blocked.



**Figure B.2.7.3(b)**  
Training room clearances

## B.2.7.4 Now Rooms

Now rooms are enclosed and non-bookable spaces intended to be used for various purposes.

- Now rooms intended for a single user can be designed as:
  - a quiet room or to have a private phone conversation, or
  - a focus space for one person for focused work
- Now rooms intended for two to four users are designed as a collaborative space for impromptu small meetings.
- Now rooms designed as quiet rooms or wellness spaces provide a tranquil and distraction-free environment for individuals to retreat for a moment of quiet reflection or relaxation or for medical needs and nursing mothers.



**Image B.2.7.4(a)**  
**Examples of now rooms**

1. Now rooms must have:
  - a. at least 1,500 mm turning diameter within each room
  - b. minimum visual clutter, avoiding busy patterns and distracting colour schemes

**Note:** These spaces support neurodivergent individuals who are sensitive to external stimuli. Reducing visual clutter reduces sensory stimulation and creates a space conducive to relaxation, focus and emotional regulation.

2. Now rooms intended for a single user must be designed to include the following:
  - a. If multiple now rooms are provided, there must be a variety of seating options provided across the different now rooms. Options should include ergonomic height adjustable desk and task chair for focused work or soft seating.
  - b. If soft seating is used, provide a surface for placing a laptop, like a tablet arm or separate table to pull up. If an adjustable tablet arm or table is provided it must be operable with a closed fist or operable with one hand without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.

**Best practice:** Provide a notification system or process to signal if the now room is occupied or available.

3. Now rooms intended for 2 to 4 users must be designed to include one of the following:
  - a. A small meeting room table with knee clearance of minimum 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high and seating for two people with arm rests.
  - b. Soft seating and multiple surfaces for placing laptops.
4. Now rooms designed as quiet rooms or wellness spaces must be designed to include the following:
  - a. Quiet Room etiquette signage with large print.
  - b. Soft seating and tables. Seating must include a variety of seating options including a combination of armrests, armless, backrests, lower seating and higher seating.
  - c. Adjustable lighting. Floor lamps could be used as an option for different lighting levels.
  - d. A quieter space, for example, additional acoustic panels to absorb sound and reduce reverberation and echo.
  - e. A small storage cabinet to store things such as hand sanitizer, tissues and cleaning wipes.
  - f. A minimum clear aisle width of 1,200 mm if the room is designed for multiple people.

**Best practice:** A small fridge may be provided for nursing mothers requiring the space.

## B.2.7.5 Lunchrooms

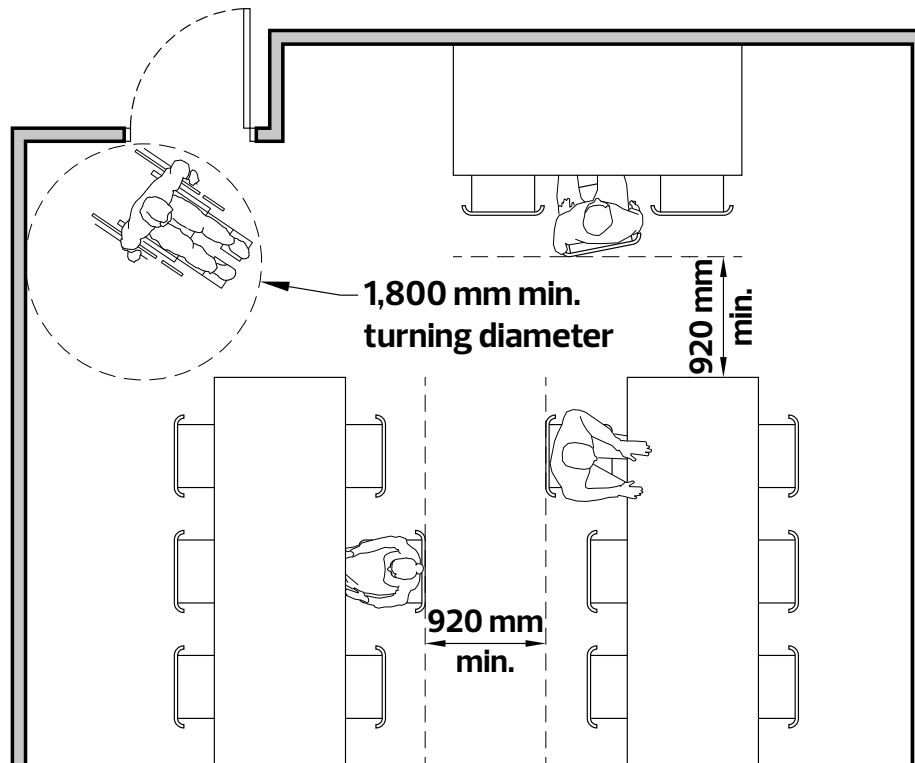
1. Furniture layout in lunchrooms must accommodate an 1,800 mm clear turning diameter between the entrance to the lunchroom and the furniture when people are seated.

Refer to figure B.2.7.5(a).

2. A minimum clear space of 920 mm must be provided behind occupied chairs at lunchroom tables.

Refer to figure B.2.7.5(a).

**Note:** Users typically push chairs back 450 mm to 600 mm to stand up. The required clear space ensures that even with chairs pushed out, the path of travel is not blocked.



**Figure B.2.7.5(a)**  
Lunchroom turning diameter and clearances

3. Dining tables must have knee clearance of minimum 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high from the floor to the underside of the table.

4. Provide a variety of heights for both tables and chairs to accommodate different mobility devices and user preferences.
5. If tables are located on raised platforms, a minimum of 50% must be accessible (e.g. ramped access).
6. Tables and chairs should be luminance contrasting to their surroundings and to each other. Tables and chairs must be arranged in a regular and logical pattern.
7. Ensure lighting throughout the lunchroom is even to avoid pools of light or shadow.
8. At least 25% of chairs must be bariatric chairs with wider seats and higher weight capacities.
9. Provide an even distribution of chairs with and without arm rests.

### B.2.7.6 Kitchenettes

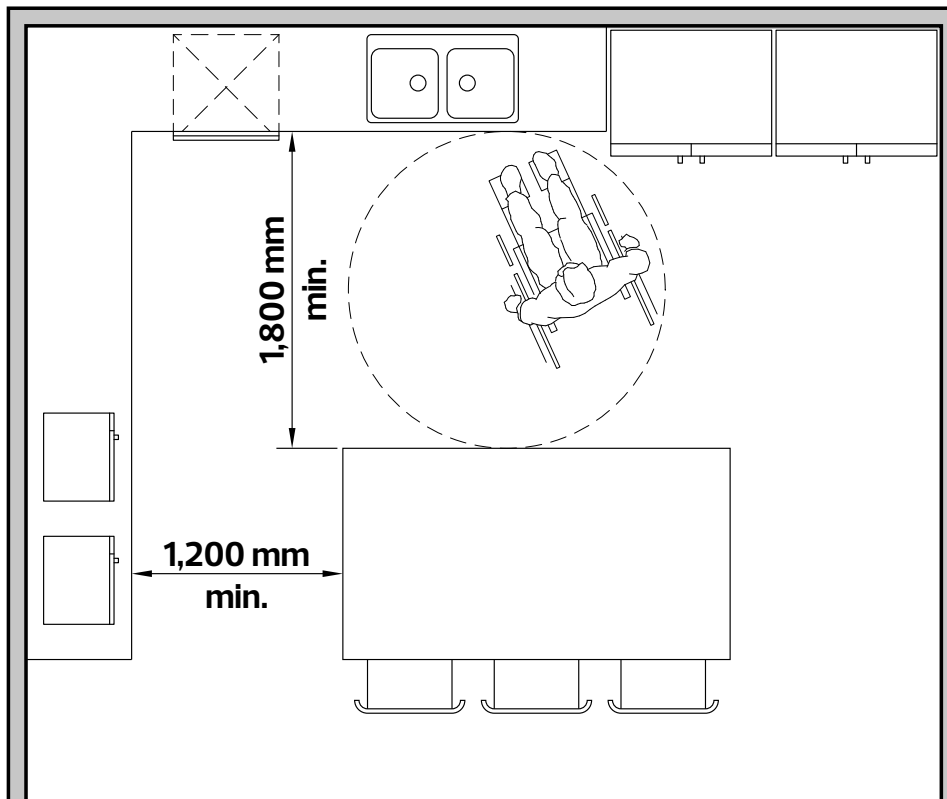
1. Kitchenettes must have a clear turning diameter of minimum 1,800 mm in front of counters and service areas for manoeuvring.

Refer to figure B.2.7.6(a).

**Note:** Kitchenettes are high-traffic areas and it is important to create a usable space for everyone.

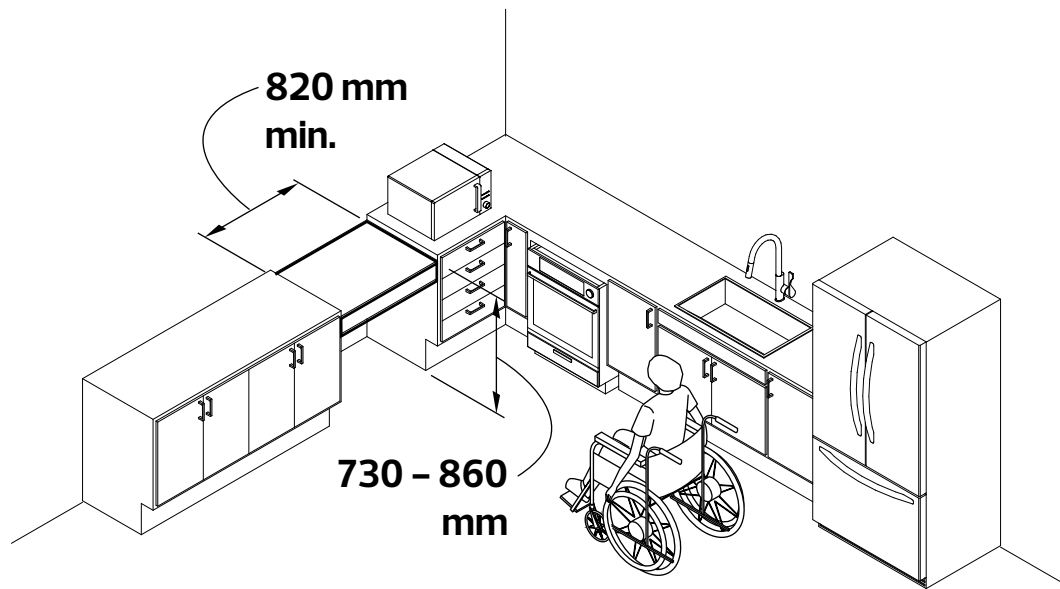
2. Where kitchenettes have kitchen islands that create an aisle between counters and service areas, best practice is to provide a minimum clear width of 1,200 mm.

Refer to figure B.2.7.6(a).



**Figure B.2.7.6(a)**  
**Kitchenette clearances**

3. Kitchenettes must have a section of at least 900 mm wide where the counter or worksurface is no higher than 860 mm above the finished floor.  
Refer to figure B.2.7.6(b).



**Figure B.2.7.6(b)**  
**Lowered work surface in kitchenette**

**Best practice:** Provide a sink no higher than 860 mm above the finished floor.

4. Cabinets must be operable with a closed fist without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.
5. Cabinets and counter tops must have luminance contrast with walls and floor finishes.
6. Fixtures such as soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers must be sensor operated. Sinks must be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist.
7. The refrigerator door must swing 180 degrees and have a bottom or side freezer.
 

**Note:** Top freezer is difficult to reach for people seated in a wheeled mobility device.
8. Space for a microwave must be provided either:
  - a. at counter height with knee clearance underneath, or
  - b. in a shelf where the bottom of the microwave is no higher than 860 mm above the finished floor
9. Waste receptacles must:
  - a. be located in an accessible path of travel
  - b. have openings not higher than 1,200 mm from finished floor

- 10.** Vending machines, water dispensers and other appliances such as coffee maker and toaster must be:
- a.** operable at a height of not more than 1,200 mm
  - b.** sensor operated
  - c.** operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist, if not sensor operated

**Best practice:** Provide lighting under upper cabinets to illuminate work surfaces to help reduce shadows and glare for people with low vision.

## B.2.8 Furnishing and Equipment

### B.2.8.1 Furniture

In addition to accommodating mobility device users, furniture layout and selection needs to consider a wide range of disabilities including people with low or no vision, Deaf or hard of hearing, sensory and cognitive disabilities.

- Furniture layout that is clear, consistent and intuitive makes navigation easier for people with low or no vision.
- Avoiding crowded and confusing layouts helps people with sensory and cognitive disabilities from sensory overload and anxiety.
- Furniture layout and design that improves acoustic clarity and enhances visual communication helps people with hearing loss who rely on visual cues such as lip reading, facial expressions and body language for communication.

#### B.2.8.1.1 General Requirements

1. Selection of furniture must consider the primary facility users.

**Note:** For example, furniture selection in a senior centre should prioritize seating with armrests to provide support to get up. Additionally, it is important to avoid seating that is positioned too low as this can make it difficult for users to rise comfortably.

2. Furniture design and placement in a room must:
  - a. accommodate 1,800 mm clear turning diameter between the entrance and furniture when chairs are occupied
  - b. have a minimum clear space of 920 mm behind occupied chairs at tables

Refer to figure B.2.8.1.1(a).

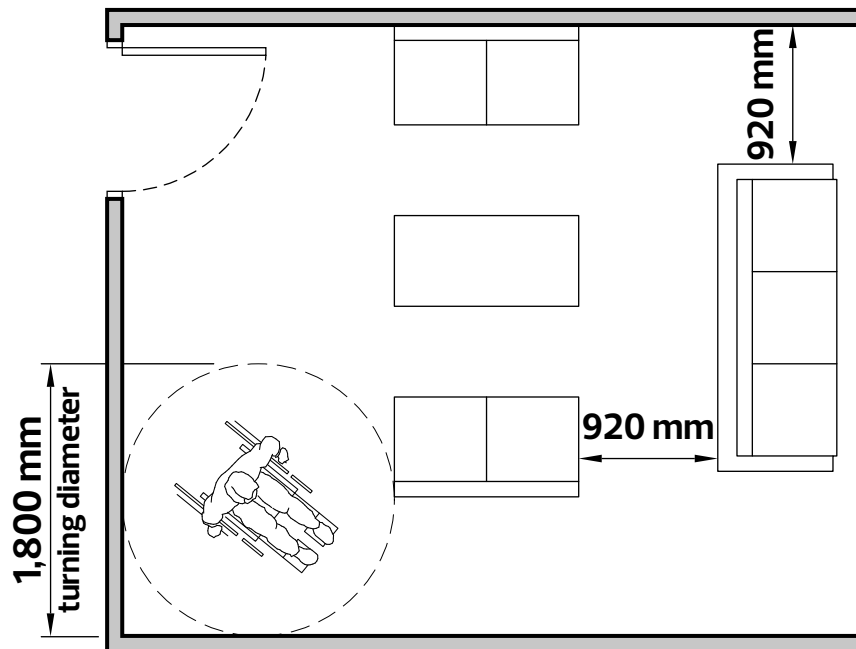


Figure B.2.8.1.1(a)  
Furniture layout clearances

- Seating layout must be designed to allow face to face interaction between the occupants and allow a clear view of the speaker.

**Note:** This is especially helpful for people who rely on visual cues for communication, such as people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

- Avoid furniture with sharp corners or other protruding objects that are not cane-detectable.

**Best practice:** Select furniture with rounded or blunted corners.

**Note:** These can pose risk of tripping or collision, especially for people with low or no vision.

- Avoid low lying furniture that is not cane-detectable.
- Furniture must have luminance contrast with the surroundings.
- Include furniture with noise absorbing surfaces such as upholstered seating with fabric.

**Note:** Hard and reflective surfaces such as glass tables and metal furniture creates echo or reverberation. This makes it difficult for people who are hard of hearing to perceive and process speech clearly.

8. Prevention of glare must be a consideration in furniture selection and lighting design.

**Note:** Glare on surfaces like polished tables can make it difficult for people with low vision to see and can hinder lip-reading for people who are hard of hearing.

**Best practice:** Where dining tables are provided, ensure a variety of table heights to accommodate different users and a variety of mobility devices.



**Image B.2.8.1.1(a)**  
**Varied height dining room furniture**

9. Tables on raised platforms are not preferred, but if it is required then a minimum of 50% must be accessible.

**Note:** Tables on raised platforms impede access for people with low mobility and those using mobility devices. They can be made accessible by providing ramps to the raised platforms.

### **B.2.8.1.2 Office Furniture**

1. Furniture must be a different colour from immediate surroundings such as the floor and wall finishes.
2. Furniture must be selected with consideration for materials that reduce glare.

3. Seating such as office chairs must:
  - a. be height adjustable
  - b. have adjustable armrests, that is, adjustable height and width
  - c. have adjustable seat pan depth
  - d. have back support and ability to recline
  - e. have intuitive controls that are easy to reach and operate with minimal force

**Note:** This allows for customization to fit diverse body types and needs, including those with chronic pain or other invisible disabilities.
4. Hotelling pod openings must have a minimum clear opening width of 920 mm.

**Note:** Hotelling, office or privacy pods are a type of modular, free standing furniture designed to provide a quiet, private and acoustically controlled space within a larger open office environment.
5. Include bariatric chairs with wider seats and higher weight capacities in common areas and meeting rooms.
6. File cabinets, shelves and storage units must have:
  - a. drawers and shelves that are operable between 400 mm and 1,200 mm from the finished floor
  - b. handles that are operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist, for example, D-pulls or lever handles

### B.2.8.2 Drinking Fountains

1. In each drinking fountain location, a water bottle filling station or a combination unit must be provided.

**Note:** A combination unit is a fixture that has both a drinking fountain and a bottle filler.
2. Drinking fountains, water bottle filling stations or combination units located in hallways or corridors must meet one of the following:
  - a. Recessed in an alcove such that the unit does not protrude more than 100 mm into the hallway or corridor; or
  - b. Be cane-detectable.

**Note:** Recessing the unit in an alcove removes it as a protrusion hazard for people with low or no vision. To be cane-detectable, the fixture must be located with its leading edge no higher than 680 mm above the floor surface.

3. The drinking fountain must have push bars, if the controls are not sensor-activated.



**Image B.2.8.2(a)**  
**Water fountain with push bar**

4. The fixture must have a luminance contrast with the surface on which it is installed.

### B.2.8.3 Self-Service Devices

Self-service devices include vending machines and self-service kiosks with touch screen or keypad technology that provide access to information. For detailed requirements, refer [CSA/ASC B651.2:22 “Accessible design for self-service interactive devices including automated banking machines”](#).

1. Self-service devices must have a clear floor space of minimum 800 mm wide by 1,350 mm long in front of the device.
2. The highest operable part of a self-service machine must be located no higher than 1,200 mm above the finished floor and have luminance contrast with adjacent surfaces.
3. **Best practice:** Where a forward approach is used, self-service kiosks must have a clear knee space of not less than 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high below the machine.
4. Interactive transaction machines, such as point-of-sale machines must have both text and audio messages.

## B.3 Signage and Wayfinding

This section outlines requirements for signage and wayfinding systems and must be used in conjunction with the City of Edmonton Facility Signage Design Guidelines. This document is not publicly available. External consultants and contractors can request access from the City Project Manager.

For detailed specifications on braille and raised print, refer to the [Accessible Signage Guidelines](#) published by Braille Literacy Canada.

Definitions of terms used in this section:

- **Signage** is a collection of signs used to communicate information about the built environment and includes an entire network of signs that work together.
- **Sign** refers to a single sign used to convey one specific piece of information in one specific spot.
- **Wayfinding** uses cognitive and perceptual information to help a person reach a destination. It uses visual information, along with other sensory cues, to help people know where they are, where they want to go, and how to get there efficiently.
- **Directional signage** guides the user from their current location toward a destination.
- **Room identification signage** marks the purpose of a room and is primarily used to confirm the user's arrival at a destination.
- **Tactile signage** includes tactile characters and/or braille that are raised and can be read through the sense of touch.
- **Pictograms** or icons in signage and wayfinding systems communicate information using a common visual language. For example, the International Symbol of Access. The use of graphics and internationally recognized symbols is beneficial to people with developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, brain injuries or mental illnesses causing disorientation or confusion.

## B.3.1 Exterior Building Signage



**Image B.3.1(a)**  
**Exterior building identification sign**

1. Signage used to identify a facility must be clearly visible from the primary approach.
2. Signs mounted over a pedestrian path of travel must have a minimum overhead clearance of 2,050 mm from the ground surface to the lowest point of the sign.
3. Freestanding or protruding signs with a leading edge lower than 2,050 mm above the surface of a pedestrian path of travel must be cane-detectable.
4. If a primary path of travel leads to a barrier such as a flight of stairs, directional signage must be provided at the point of divergence to indicate the location of the nearest accessible route.

**Note:** Example includes multiple entry points to a LRT substation where some entrances may only have stairs.

5. Materials and finishes used for exterior building signage must be non-glare and non-reflective, e.g. matte surface.

6. Exterior signage must have luminance contrast between the characters and the background.
7. If public washrooms are present in the facility and are not clearly visible or immediately apparent, ensure adequate signage is provided outside of the building to indicate that there are public washrooms located inside the building. The availability of accessible washrooms should be specifically noted using the International Symbol of Access.



**Image B.3.1(b)** (Source: City of Edmonton's Public Washroom Strategy)  
**Public washroom directional sign**

## B.3.2 Building Directories and Maps

1. A tactile directory and map must be provided at all main entrances of a public use facility. The directory should have a destinations list and the map should include the user's current location, location of elevators, ramps, stairs, accessible washrooms and rest areas along accessible paths of travel.

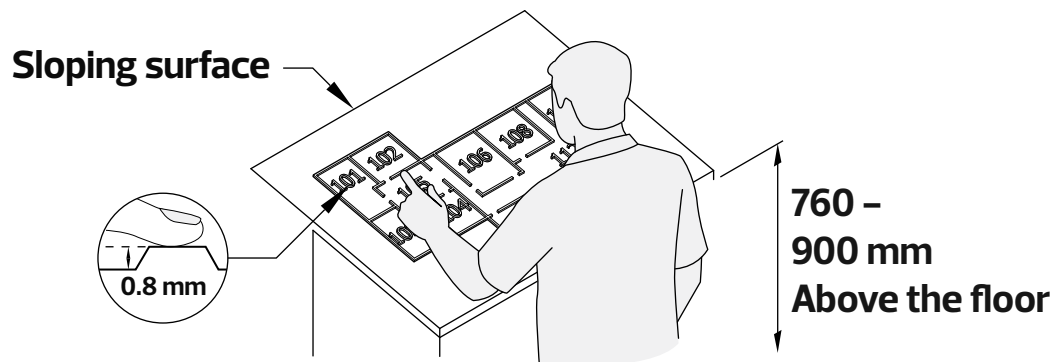
**Note:** Tactile maps allow people with low or no vision to orient themselves and plan their own routes without needing to rely on assistance from facility staff or a sighted guide. In addition, tactile maps provide a multi-sensory learning experience that can benefit individuals with certain cognitive or learning disabilities, by reinforcing information through touch. The user's current location or "You are here" helps the user to orient themselves and build a cognitive map.



Image B.3.2(a)  
Tactile map with raised icons

2. Tactile building directories and maps should be conveniently located and positioned on a sloping plane with the bottom of the plane between 760 mm and 900 mm above the finished floor. If mounted on a wall, the bottom edge must be at a height of 900 mm above the floor.

Refer to figure B.3.2(a).



**Figure B.3.2(a)**  
Tactile building map dimensions

3. Surface material of directories and maps must prevent glare.
4. Provide characters that are raised at least 0.8 mm.
5. Building directories should incorporate a braille overlay.



**Image B.3.2(b)**  
Building directory with braille overlay

### B.3.3 Interior Wayfinding Signs

1. Wayfinding signs must be located near the entrance of all buildings and at key decision points along the accessible path of travel to direct people upon entering and navigating through the building.



**Image B.3.3(a)**  
Interior wayfinding sign

2. Wayfinding signs must show the location of accessible amenities using the International Symbol of Access.
3. Wayfinding signs located at a reachable height, i.e. between 1,200 mm and 1,500 mm above the finished floor, must have tactile characters.
4. Safety information must be installed at a reachable height, i.e. between 1,200 mm and 1,500 mm above the finished floor and must include braille.
5. Wayfinding signs must have luminance contrast between:
  - a. the sign and the surrounding surfaces
  - b. characters in the sign and the sign surface

## B.3.4 Room Identification Signs

2023 National Building Code – Alberta Edition includes minimum requirements for accessible signs that are required by subsections 3.4.5, 3.4.6 and 3.8.2.10. The requirements in this subsection apply to all room identification signs in public and office facilities.

For more information refer and detailed specifications refer to [Accessible Signage Guidelines](#).

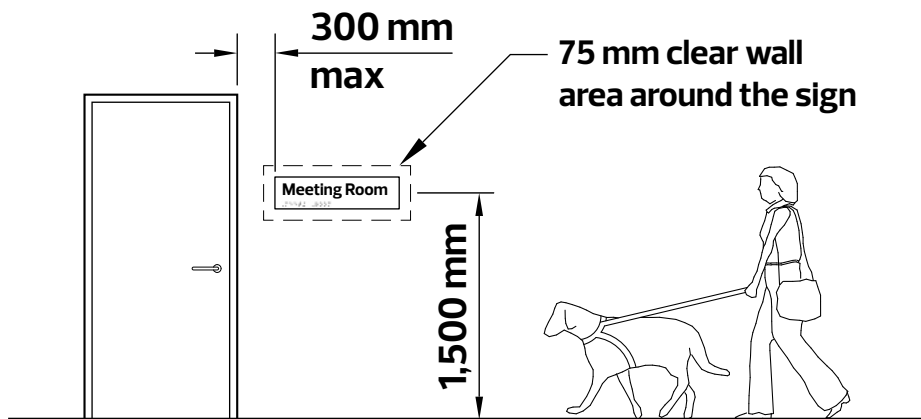


**Image B.3.4(a)**  
**Room identification sign**

1. International Symbol of Access must be used to identify all accessible amenities in a building.
2. All room identification signs must include room names and/or numbers and have braille and tactile characters.
3. Install room identification signs on the wall nearest to the door's latch side. If there is no wall on the latch side, install it on the closest wall to the right side of the door.

4. Room identification signs must be mounted:
  - a. at a height of 1,500 mm from the finished floor, measured to the centreline of the sign
  - b. with the edge of the sign located not more than 300 mm from the door
  - c. with a clear wall area of at least 75 mm around the sign

Refer to figure B.3.4(a).



**Figure B.3.4(a)**  
Room identification sign mounting dimensions

5. Room identification signs must be located to allow a person to approach the sign close enough to touch and read the tactile characters.
6. Measured from the baseline of the braille text, braille must be located a minimum of 1,015 mm and a maximum of 1,525 mm above floor level.
7. Use uncontracted braille for signs that have 10 words or less and contracted braille for signs with more than 10 words.

**Note:** Uncontracted braille follows a one-to-one correspondence with the printed text where the word is spelled out exactly as it is in print, letter by letter. Contracted braille is a shorthand form of the braille code that uses special symbols to represent common words or groups of letters.

## B.4 Exterior Amenities

### B.4.1 Patios and Balconies

A patio is an outdoor, paved area on the ground level, adjacent to the building and with access from the building.

A balcony is a platform protruding from a building's upper floor(s) and enclosed by a railing or wall.

1. Patios and balconies must be connected to an accessible path of travel and have step free access.

**Note:** Step free access means the patio or balcony is at the same level as the adjoining accessible path of travel. This allows a person using a mobility device to access the space independently.

2. Thresholds at doorways leading to the patio or balcony must be less than 13 mm high and bevelled.

Refer to figure B.4.1(a).

3. A minimum clear turning diameter of 1,800 mm must be provided on patios and balconies.

Refer to figure B.4.1(a).

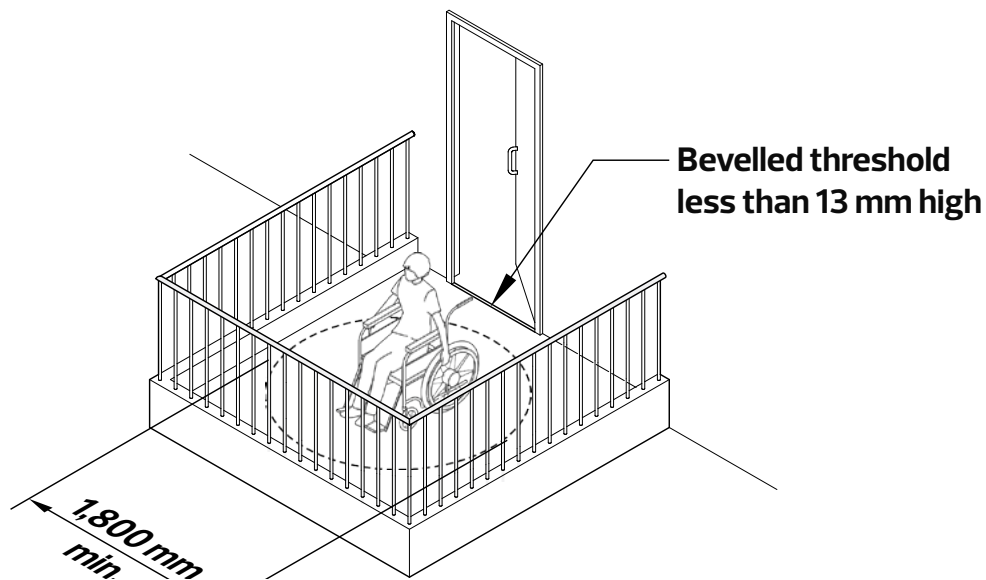


Figure B.4.1(a)  
Balcony turning space and threshold dimensions

4. Planter boxes and other obstructions on a patio or balcony must not encroach into the accessible path of travel or the clear turning diameter.
5. The floor surface of the balcony or patio must be stable, firm and slip-resistant.
6. Clear sightlines to the surrounding environment must be a design consideration for guard rails.

## B.4.2 Service Dog Relief Areas

1. Service dog relief areas must:
  - a. be connected to an accessible path of travel
  - b. easily accessible from an accessible entrance, preferably following a straight path of travel
  - c. be located away from high traffic or noisy areas
  - d. not be combined with a designated smoking area

(Adapted from [Clearing our Path 2.0](#))

2. Floor or ground surface must be level, firm, stable, slip resistant, easy to clean and permeable.

**Note:** The surface should accommodate both the handler and the service dog. Provide a hard surface for the handler area. Organic mulch or grass works well in a relief area, but service dogs are also trained to relieve themselves on hard surfaces like concrete.

(Adapted from [Toronto Accessibility Guidelines](#))

3. The area should be enclosed with a fence and a gate to promote safety.
4. The gate must be a minimum of 1,200 mm wide and operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist.
5. The dedicated relief area must have a minimum clear turning diameter of 3,000 mm.

Refer to figure B.4.2(a).

**Note:** A minimum of 3,000 mm clear turning diameter area allows a service dog on a 1,500 mm leash to circle its handler prior to relieving itself.

6. Provide a garbage receptacle for hygienic disposal of waste.

Refer to figure B.4.2(a).

7. Provide a water source for handwashing and effective drainage to facilitate the cleaning and maintenance of the area.

Refer to figure B.4.2(a).

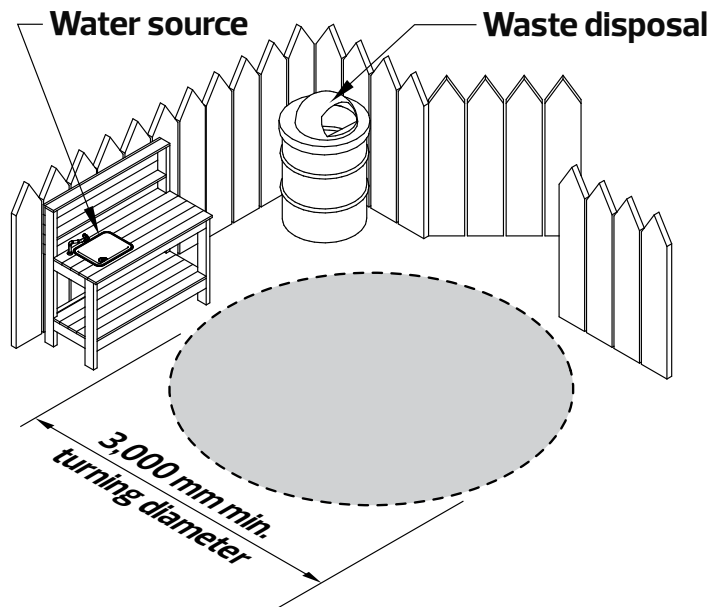


Figure B.4.2(a)  
Service dog relief area

8. Tactile signage with braille must be provided:
  - a. to identify the designated area
  - b. to identify available amenities such as handwashing and garbage disposal
  - c. to remind users to clean up after their dogs

### B.4.3 Long-Term Bike Parking

Long-term bike parking is a weather-protected, secure location for bicycles. Typical examples include a room within a building, an enclosure within a parkade or a cluster of bike lockers or cages. This subsection applies to long-term bike parking provided in City of Edmonton facilities and must be used in conjunction with [The Bike Plan](#) and [Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw 5.80.8 Bike Parking](#).

The requirements in this subsection draw upon best practices and recommendations in the sources listed below:

- [Accessibility Standards Canada – Draft Outdoor Spaces](#)
  - [City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)
  - [City of Toronto Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities](#)
1. Long-term bicycle parking must provide a direct and unobstructed passageway to the exterior street, sidewalk or bike lane.
  2. Provide signage to help building users locate the bike parking and alert pedestrians and motorists to expect bicycle traffic on the premises. Where parking spaces for adaptive bicycles are provided, the signage must indicate availability of these spaces.
  3. Where long-term bike parking is provided, provide at least one extra-large parking space for adaptive bicycles such as hand cycles, adaptive tricycles, recumbent bikes, tandem bikes and carrier bikes.

Refer to figure B.4.3(a).

**Note:** Adaptive bicycles are wider, longer and heavier than standard bicycles. They also require different clearance for mounting and dismounting often involving a transfer from a mobility device.

4. The extra-large parking space for adaptive bicycles must be a minimum of:
  - a. 1,200 mm wide
  - b. 2,400 mm deep
  - c. 1,900 mm high

Refer to figure B.4.3(a).

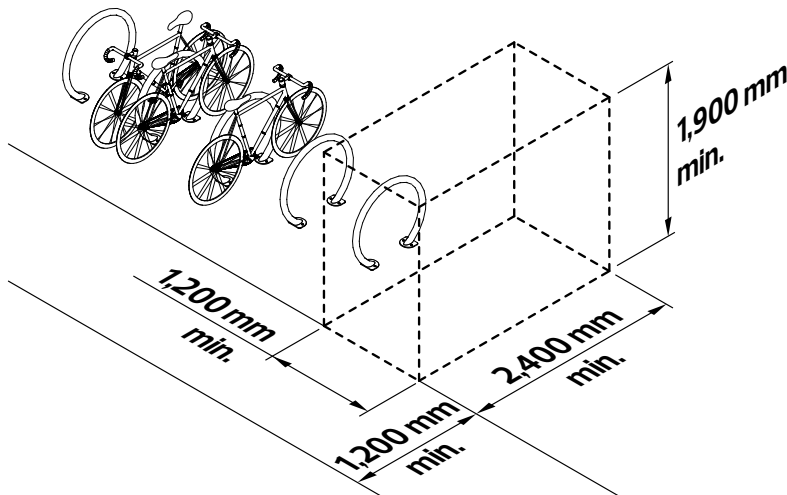
5. Provide an access aisle adjacent to the extra-large parking space. The access aisle must be at least 1,200 mm wide and the same depth as the parking space.

Refer to figure B.4.3(a).

**Note:** The access aisle provides a clear and level area for users to transfer from a mobility device onto the bike.

6. Extra-large parking spaces for adaptive bicycles must:
  - a. be located on a level surface and must not be a stacked bicycle parking space placed in a vertical position on a wall
  - b. have locking point on the rack that can be reached from a seated position without excessive bending or reaching, that is not higher than 1,200 mm from finished floor
  - c. have an accessible path of travel from the parking space to the primary building entrance or lobby, that is at least 1,200 mm wide and separated from vehicular traffic

Refer to figure B.4.3(a).



**Figure B.4.3(a)**  
Extra-large bike parking space

7. If doors or gates are provided into an enclosed bike parking area with adaptive bicycle parking spaces, they must:
  - a. have a minimum clear opening width of 1,200 mm
  - b. have a locking mechanism that is operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist.

## B.5 Transit Facilities

Edmonton's transit facility buildings are located across the city to help transit riders access the places where they live, work and play. Many LRT stations are connected to transit centres, allowing for easy transfers between trains and buses.

This section outlines accessibility requirements on transit centres and LRT stations that must be used alongside the following City of Edmonton documents:

- [High Floor LRT Design Guidelines](#)
- [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards](#)
- [Transit Centre Design Guide](#)

### B.5.1 Signage and Wayfinding

The requirements in this subsection are in addition to the requirements in section B.3 Signage and Wayfinding.

1. Directional signs must be provided at transit facility entrances, concourse and platform levels of an LRT station to provide information on the locations of:
  - a. platform access
  - b. elevator
  - c. exits
  - d. connections to adjacent buildings
  - e. street level access points
  - f. emergency and information help phones
2. When an escalator is present, provide a directional sign showing location of the closest elevator.
3. Public information display systems requiring direct user access must be located:
  - a. along an accessible path of travel
  - b. with operating controls between 400 mm to 1,200 mm from the finished floor

**Note:** Public information includes transit schedules and route maps, transit centre maps, system maps, etc.

4. Key information such as bus route number must be provided in tactile format such as raised letters and braille.
5. Signs and electronic information display monitors within the transit facility must have luminance contrast against its background.

**Best practice:** Use yellow text on black background for electronic signage.

6. Ensure that when electronic messages are scrolling, they are moving slowly enough to be read comfortably.
7. Key information such as schedules, delays or service changes must be provided in both audio and visual announcements in LRT facilities.

**Note:** Audio announcements help riders with low vision, while visual announcements help riders who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

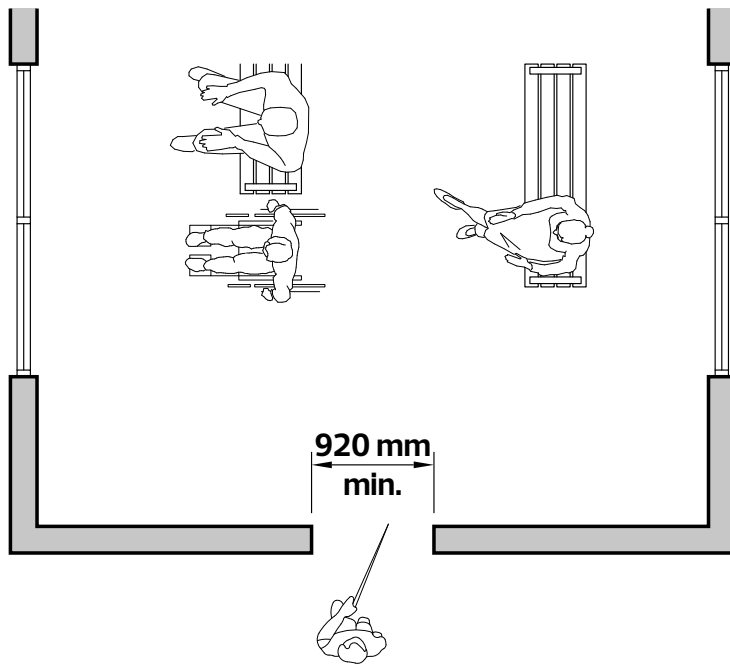
8. Information on delays or service changes must be provided in audio and visual announcements in transit stations.

**Note:** This supplements the bus route number announcements made inside the bus as the vehicle pulls up at a stop.

## B.5.2 Transit Facility Entrances

The requirements in this subsection are in addition to the requirements in subsection B.1.1 Building Entrances.

1. An accessible path of travel must be provided to transit facility entrances from accessible parking areas and passenger drop-off zones.
2. Doors or clear openings to enter a transit facility must be at least 920 mm wide. Refer to figure B.5.2(a).



**Figure B.5.2(a)**  
Transit facility clear opening width

3. If certain entrances to a transit facility are not accessible, provide directional signs at these entrances guiding users to the accessible entrance.

### B.5.3 Transit Facility Interior Circulation

The requirements in this subsection are in addition to the requirements in subsection B.2.1 Circulation.

1. All levels in the transit facility intended for public use, for example the platform level, must be accessible by an elevator or ramp.

**Note:** Where escalators are present, elevators or ramps must be provided.

2. If elevators are not easily visible when entering the transit facility, directional signage showing location of the elevator must be provided.

**Note:** In certain buildings, stairs serve as the main route between floors and are prominently placed. Signage should be positioned to ensure users can easily find the elevator without having to backtrack.

3. Escalators must have:

- a. luminance contrast edging
- b. a warning buzzer when an emergency stop button has been accessed

## B.5.4 Transit Washrooms

The requirements in this subsection apply to public washrooms located within transit facilities. In addition to the following, requirements in subsection B.2.5 Washrooms are also applicable to transit washrooms.

1. The location of public washrooms across the transit network must consider the following criteria:
  - a. prioritize major transit centres and LRT stations, specifically those at the end of lines or at key transfer points where other transit routes connect
  - b. sites that link transit with other modes of transportation, such as Park and ride facilities and active transportation routes (i.e. bike lanes) or shared used paths
  - c. locations that connect to public facilities such as recreation centers, libraries, schools, community centers and parks
2. Safety must be a design consideration for location of the washrooms in transit facilities.
3. All public washrooms in transit facilities must be universal washrooms.
4. Access control must be located on the wall directly beside the washroom.



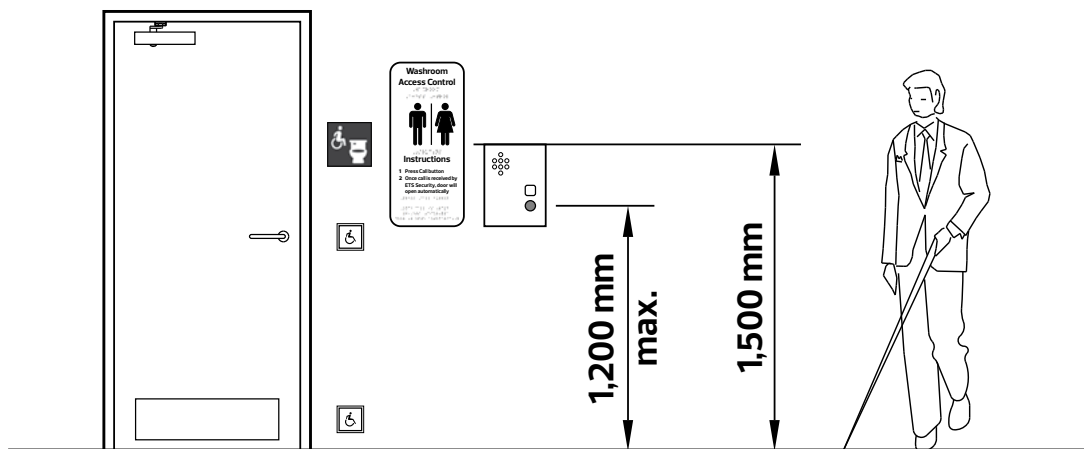
Image B.5.4(a)  
Washroom access control

5. The access control call button height must not exceed 1,200 mm from the finished floor to the centre line of the button.

Refer to figure B.5.4(a).

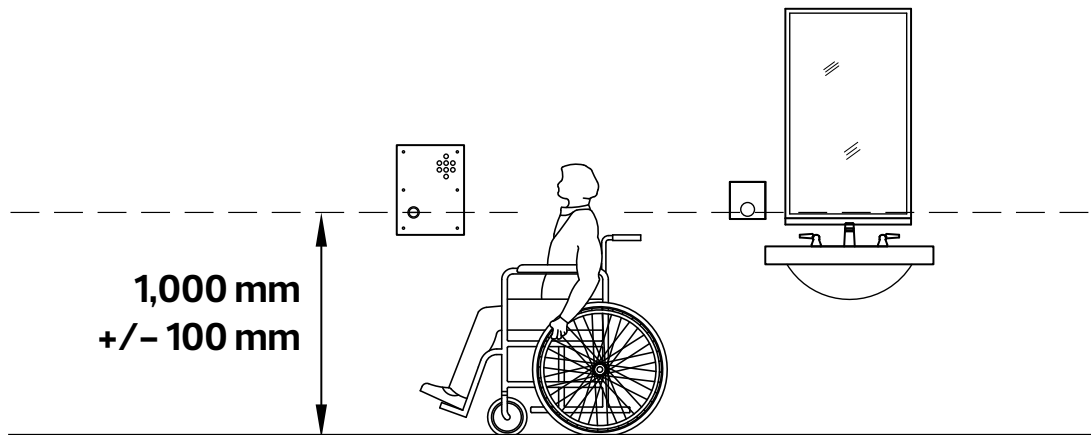
**Note:** Access control means the user needs to request access to get the washroom unlocked.

6. The washroom access control instructions sign must:
  - a. be mounted with the centreline at 1,500 mm above the finished floor
  - b. have luminance contrast with the surface it is installed on
  - c. have luminance contrast between the pictograms or text and the surface of the sign
  - d. have raised lettering and braille



**Figure B.5.4(a)**  
**Washroom access control instructions height**

7. The washroom must have an emergency push button and a power door operator control on the inside.
8. The centre line of controls such as the emergency push button inside the washroom must be located at  $1,000 \pm 100$  mm above the finished floor. Refer to figure B.5.4(b).



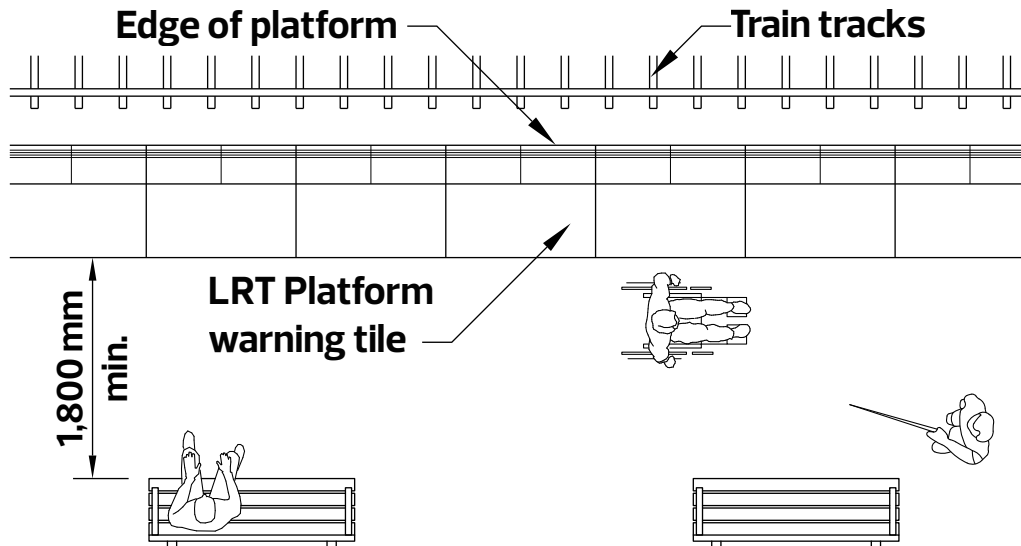
**Figure B.5.4(b)**  
**Transit washroom emergency push button height**

9. The door locking mechanism must be operable with one hand in a closed fist position, without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist.

## B.5.5 LRT Station Platforms

1. Provide a minimum clear width of 1,800 mm between the near edge of the tactile warning strip and any obstructions. The width of tactile warning tiles are not included in this clear width.

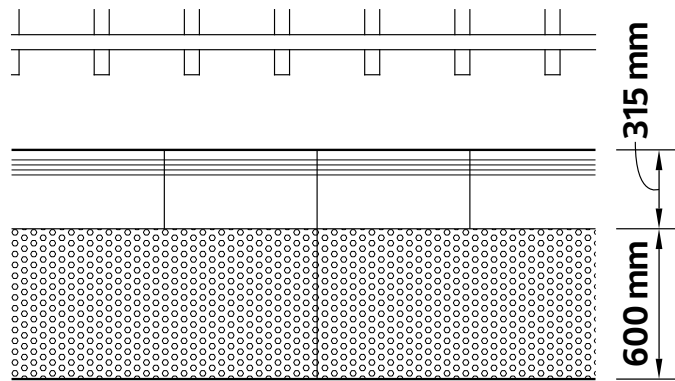
Refer to figure B.5.5(a).



**Figure B.5.5(a)**  
LRT station platform clear width

2. Furniture and any related protrusions (e.g. feet extending beyond a bench) must be located outside of the clear path of travel.
3. LRT platform edges must have a tactile warning tile or plate that runs the entire length of the passenger waiting area.
4. The tactile warning tile must have a total width of 915 mm consisting of:
  - a. an offset of 315 mm at the edge of the platform with continuous pre-cast cane-detectable grooves
  - b. 600 mm wide luminance contrasting cane-detectable tactile floor surface indicator (e.g. federal yellow colour)

Refer to figure B.5.5(b).



**Figure B.5.5(b)**  
**Platform tactile warning tile dimensions**

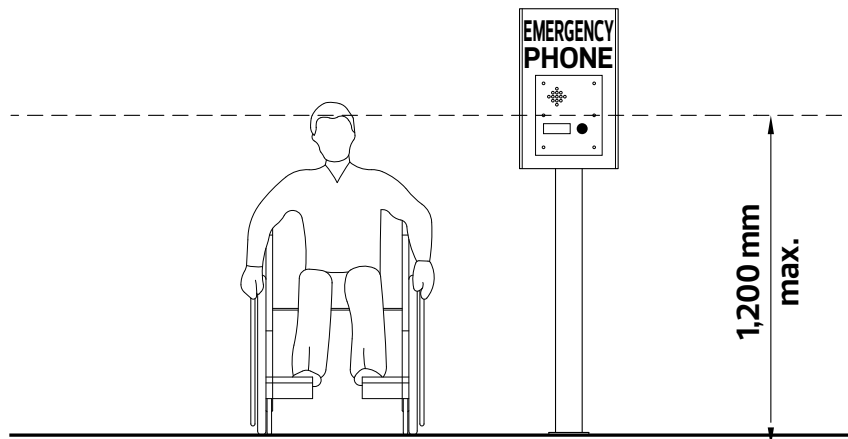
5. Provide designated priority waiting areas for people with disabilities that are marked with an International Symbol of Access.

## B.5.6 Self-Service Devices

Self-service devices in transit facilities include smart fare machines, interactive fare machines, emergency phones and vending machines. For additional requirements on self-service devices, refer to subsection B.2.8.3 Self-service devices.

1. Operable parts of smart fare machines must not be higher than 1,200 mm above the finished floor.
2. Interactive fare machines must have audible features in addition to text display.
3. Operable parts of emergency and information phones must be lower than 1,200 mm above the finished floor.

Refer to figure B.5.6(a).



**Figure B.5.6(a)**  
**Emergency phone mounting height**

4. If TTY (teletypewriter) phone access is available, it must be identified with an associated international symbol.

**ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN GUIDE**

# **HOUSING**



## C. Housing

Single and multi-unit houses must be accessible to everyone regardless of their mobility, allowing people to move around and live without any restrictions within their space. House design must consider providing future flexibility to accommodate varying abilities with minimal changes.

[Section 5.50 \(Inclusive Design\)](#) of Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw has minimum criteria for dwelling units, shared areas and sleeping units for those who apply for incentives to develop accessible units. This provides a framework for designing houses that remain functional and accessible through all stages and ages of residents' life.

A home must be flexible enough to accommodate people with varying abilities and provide a diverse comfort level for its occupants and visitors. Visitable, adaptable or accessible dwelling units are designed to accommodate people with varying abilities.

- **Visitable dwelling units** promote social inclusion by enabling visitors with disabilities (e.g. mobility device users) to enter and interact with the residents. Visitable units have zero-step entrance, wider doorways and at least one accessible washroom on the main level.
- **Adaptable dwelling units** are designed to allow residents to age in place or to accommodate a resident with a progressive disability. Adaptable units provide future flexibility and ease of modifications (e.g., structural support in washroom walls for installation of grab bars).
- **Accessible dwelling units** allow people to move around and live without any restrictions in their home ensuring independence and safety. Accessible units are designed to accommodate people of varying abilities and provide a diverse comfort level for its occupants and visitors.

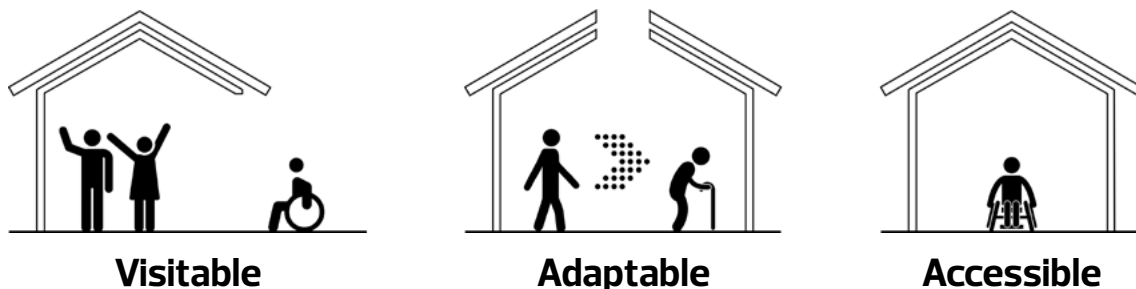


Figure C(a)  
Visitable, adaptable and accessible housing types

The requirements in this section draw upon best practices, recommendations and requirements from the various sources listed below. These diverse insights are consolidated to provide a framework for creating housing in Edmonton that is inclusive and accessible for individuals of different abilities and where residents can age in place independently.

- [Accessibility Design Guide 2024, Government of Alberta](#)
- [CAN-ASC-2.8:2025 Accessible-Ready Housing](#)
- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Universal Design Guide](#)
- [City of Edmonton Zoning Bylaw 20001](#)
- [Clearing Our Path Version 2.0](#)
- [National Building Code - 2023 Alberta Edition](#)

The City of Edmonton has published the [Affordable Housing Accessibility Guidebook](#) that provides guidance on when and how to embed accessible design, key architectural considerations, and how these decisions support long-term sustainability for both tenants and operators. This Guidebook supports the City of Edmonton's Affordable Housing Strategy to create diverse affordable housing options throughout Edmonton. With technical guidance from this Accessibility Design Guide, the combined goal is to encourage the use of best practice in accessible design for all residents.

For additional requirements and recommendations not covered in this section, refer to [CSA/ASC B652:23 Accessible Dwellings](#).

## C.1 Visitable Dwelling Units

Visitable dwelling units allow independence of visitors with low mobility by ensuring they are able to enter and move around with ease throughout essential spaces such as kitchen, living room, washroom and dining room. The majority of these requirements are applied to the entrance level of the visitable dwelling unit.

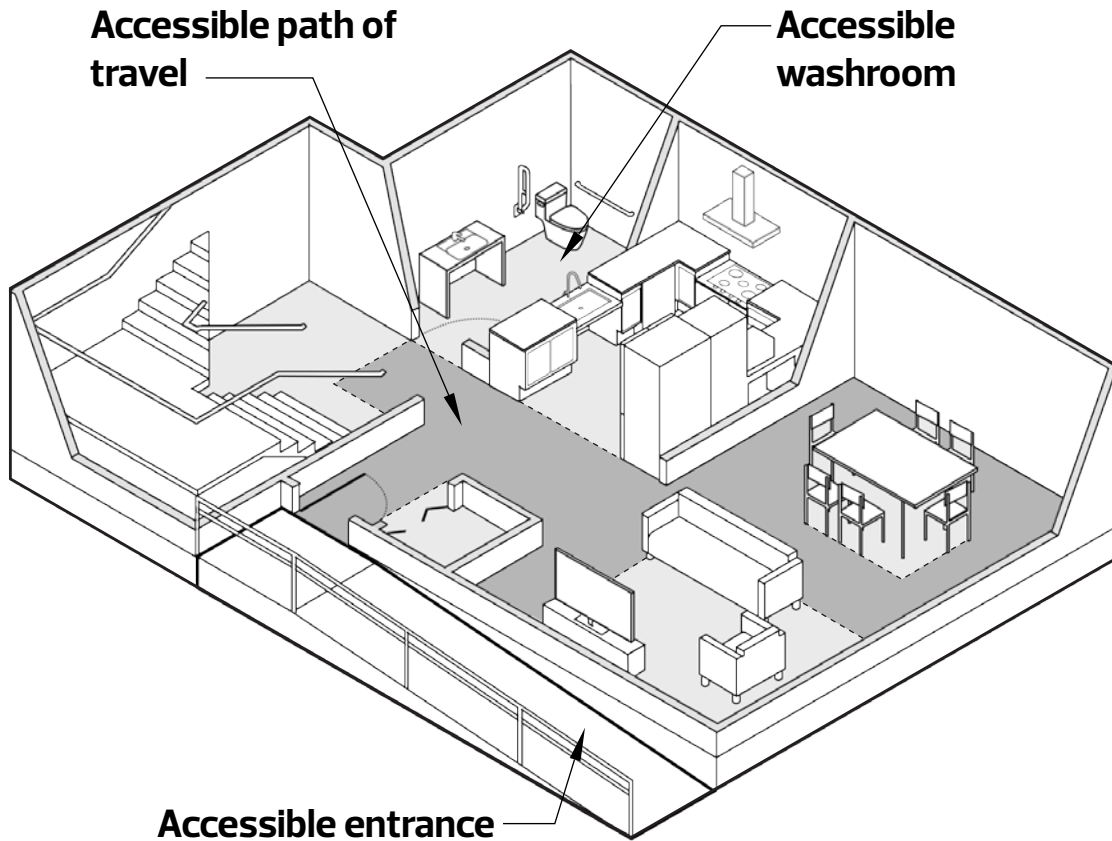


Figure C.1(a)  
Visitable dwelling unit features

## C.1.1 Entryways

1. The main entrance to the dwelling unit must be accessible.

**Note:** Accessible entrances include at-grade or no step access, ramps or elevating devices such as a stair or chair lift. At grade entrance means the main entrance to the house is at the same level as the ground outside. This eliminates the need for steps or a ramp to get into the home making it accessible for people using mobility devices.



Image C.1.1(a)  
Accessible front entrance

2. Provide a continuous accessible path of travel throughout the entrance level of the dwelling unit.

3. Exterior doorways must have a minimum clear opening width of 900 mm.  
Refer to figure C.1.1(a).

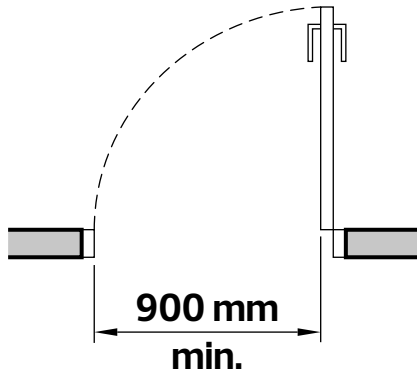


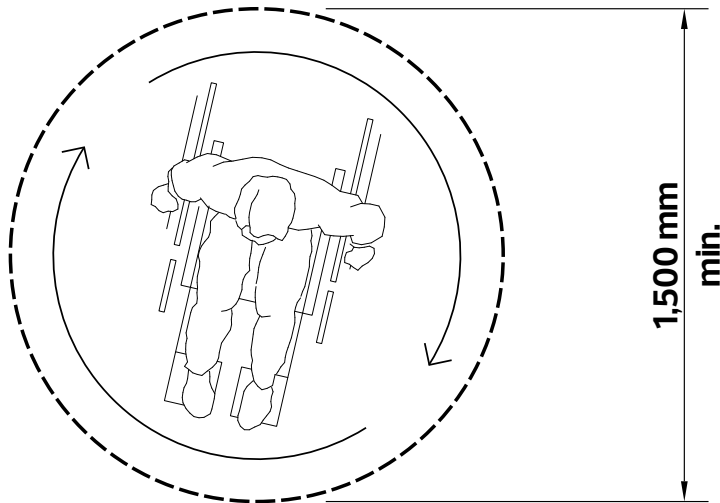
Figure C.1.1(a)  
Exterior doorway clear opening width

4. Provide an accessible closet space for outerwear and shoes.

## C.1.2 Circulation

1. Hallways in the entrance level must be a minimum of 1,200 mm clear width.
2. Provide 1,500 mm minimum clear turning diameter in the entrance level of the dwelling unit such as entry areas, living room, dining room and kitchen.

Refer to figure C.1.2(a).



**Figure C.1.2(a)**  
**Visitable dwelling unit turning space**

3. Provide a clear area 800 mm wide by 1,350 mm long in front of areas to be reached, such as kitchen sink and cooktop.
4. Patios or decks at the entrance level of the dwelling unit must be accessible. This could be achieved through the use of ramps or sloped level difference not higher than 13 mm.

Refer to figure C.1.2(b).

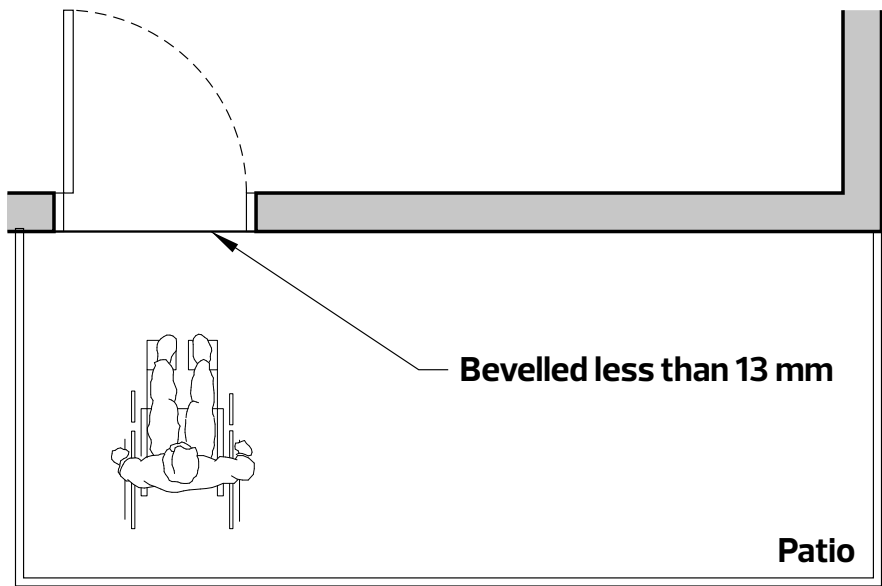
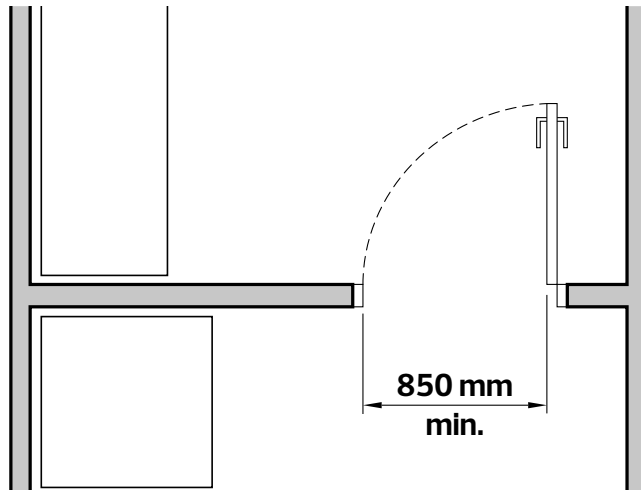


Figure C.1.2(b)  
Accessible patio

## C.1.3 Interior Doors

1. Interior doors at entrance level must:
  - a. be located in an accessible path of travel
  - b. have a minimum clear width of 850 mm

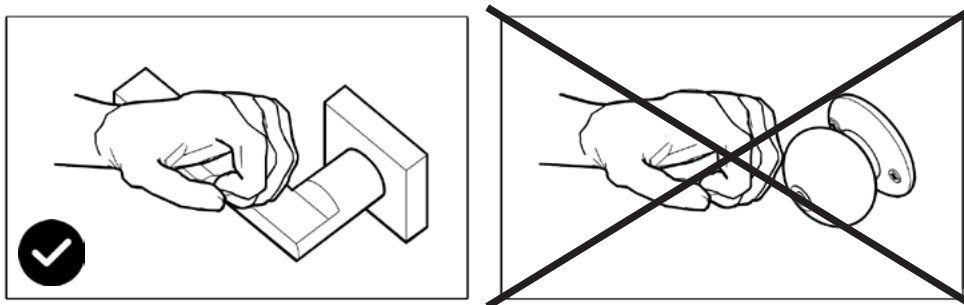
Refer to figure C.1.3(a).



**Figure C.1.3(a)**  
Interior doorway clear width

2. Interior doors at entrance level must be equipped with lever-type handles or hardware that allows a person to open the door with a closed fist or with one hand without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.

Refer to figure C.1.3(b).



**Figure C.1.3(b)**  
Accessible and non-accessible door hardware

## C.1.4 Finishes

1. Floor finishes between living areas must have different textures and colours to enhance wayfinding and safety.

**Note:** Using distinct colours to mark different zones such as living areas and the main path helps residents with cognitive or memory issues to build a mental map reducing confusion and anxiety. Using different colours break up large, monotonous spaces improving visual comfort.

2. Flooring must have a matte finish. Glossy floor finishes can produce glare or visual distractions and can be slippery.
3. Carpet on floor surfaces must be securely attached and have a tight weave, low pile and firm underlay.

Refer to figure C.1.4(a).

**Note:** This ensures that wheeled mobility device users can move without excessive physical exertion required by soft and plush surfaces. A tight weave and secure attachment prevents trip hazards and prevents mobility aids from getting caught in the fibres.

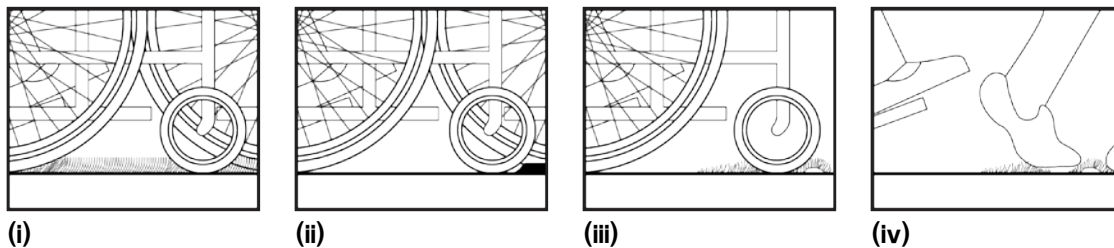


Figure C.1.4(a)  
Flooring surface mobility impacts

4. Floor finish transitions must have a bevelled (angled) trim that is not steeper than 1:2 (50%).

Refer to figure C.1.4(b).

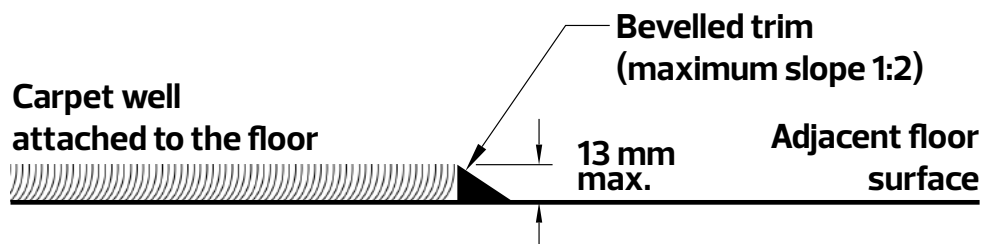
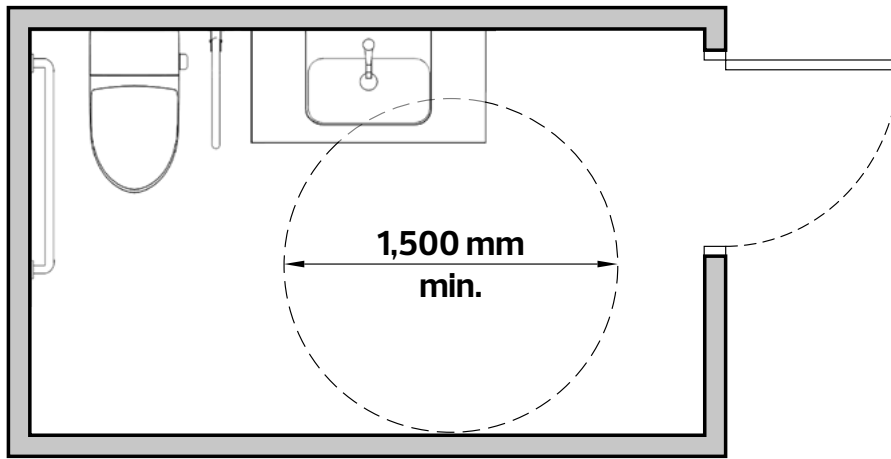


Figure C.1.4(b)  
Floor finish transition

## C.1.5 Washrooms

1. At least one washroom must be located on the entrance level that meets the requirements in this subsection.
2. The washroom must have a clear turning diameter of minimum 1,500 mm.

**Note:** This space can overlap with the knee clearance under the sink as shown in figure C.1.5(a).



**Figure C.1.5(a)**  
Visitable unit washroom turning space

3. Light switches and exhaust controls must be located no higher than 1,100 mm from the finished floor, when measured to the centreline of the control.
4. The sink must have:
  - a. a counter or rim height of less than 865 mm from the finished floor
  - b. a knee clearance underneath of minimum 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high
  - c. a lever handle
  - d. insulation on exposed pipes under the sink

**Note:** Insulation on exposed pipes prevents burns for mobility device users who wheel under the sink and protects against cuts or scrapes from rough or sharp edges during manoeuvring.

Refer to figures C.1.5(b) and C.1.5(c).

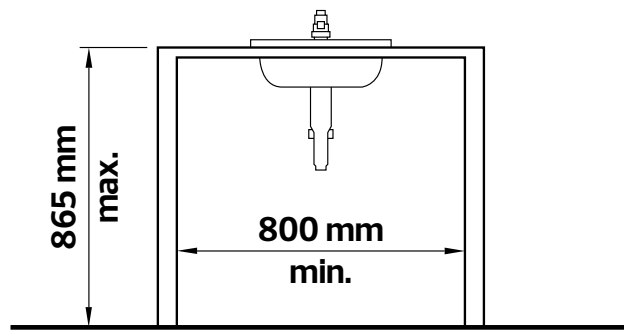


Figure C.1.5(b)  
Sink counter height and knee clearance

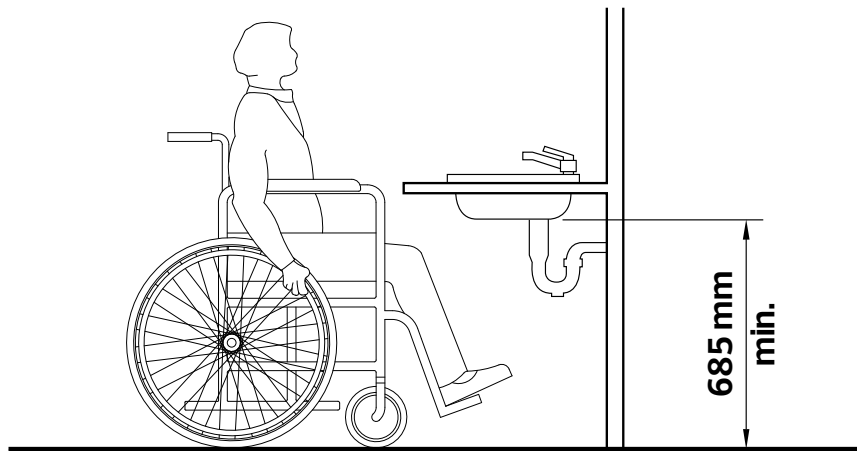


Figure C.1.5(c)  
Sink counter knee clearance

5. Drain and water supply pipes must be kept as close to the wall as possible to free up space under the sink.
6. The toilet must:
  - a. be located such that the centre of the toilet is between 430 – 460 mm from the side wall.
  - b. have a toilet seat height between 430 and 485 mm from the finished floor.
  - c. have a clear transfer space of at least 900 mm at the side or front of the toilet.
 

**Note:** This space can overlap with the clear turning diameter.
  - d. have a horizontal grab bar on the side of the toilet and a drop-down grab bar on the opposite side

Refer to figure C.1.5(d).

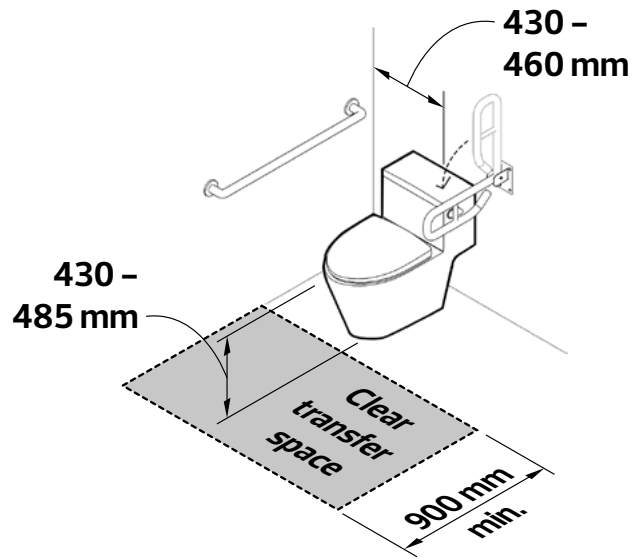


Figure C.1.5(d)  
Toilet dimensions and clearances

## C.2 Adaptable and Accessible-Ready Dwelling Units

This section outlines requirements for adaptable and accessible-ready dwelling units, designed to facilitate future modifications with minimal structural impact. This minimizes expensive renovations should an occupant's needs change over time. Given that adaptable dwelling unit designs inherently integrate fundamental accessible design principles, the requirements outlined here are also applicable to accessible dwelling units.

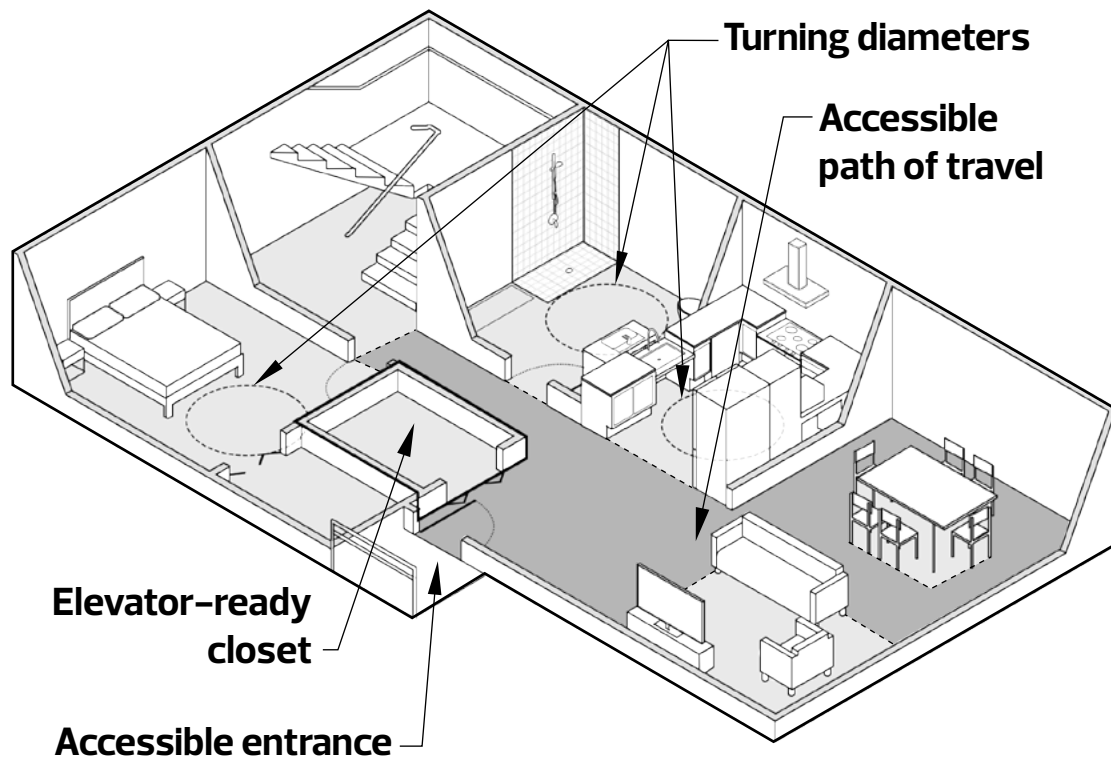


Figure C.2(a)  
Adaptable dwelling unit features

## C.2.1 Entryways

1. The main entrance to the dwelling unit must be accessible.

**Note:** Accessible entrances include at-grade or no-step access, ramps or elevating devices such as a chair or stair lift. At grade entrance means the main entrance to the house is at the same level as the ground outside. This eliminates the need for steps or a ramp to get into the home making it accessible for people using mobility devices.

2. Provide a continuous accessible path of travel throughout the dwelling unit.
3. Exterior doorways must have a clear opening width of minimum 900 mm.
4. Glass inserts and windows offering a view of the entryways must be installed at a height that allows a mobility device user to clearly see outside.

**Note:** Windows with lower sills allow a person using a wheelchair or a person of short stature to view the exterior before opening the door.

5. When a door viewer is installed on a door, an additional viewer must be installed at a height of 1,150 mm from the finished floor.

Refer to figure C.2.1(a).

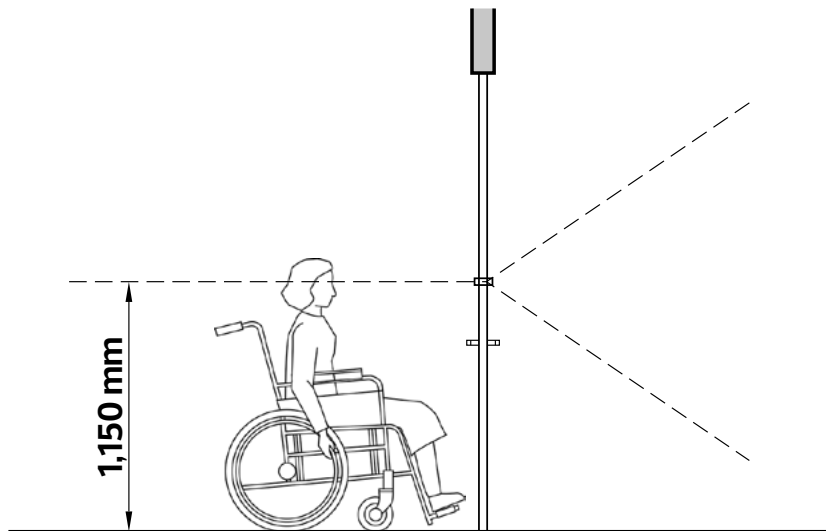


Figure C.2.1(a)  
Additional door viewer mounting height

6. There must be an accessible path of travel between the garage and an entrance of the dwelling unit.

## C.2.2 Circulation

1. Hallways must have a minimum clear width of 1,200 mm.
2. Provide 1,800 mm clear turning diameter in all areas of the dwelling unit, including entry area, bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen and laundry areas.

Refer to figure C.2.2(a).

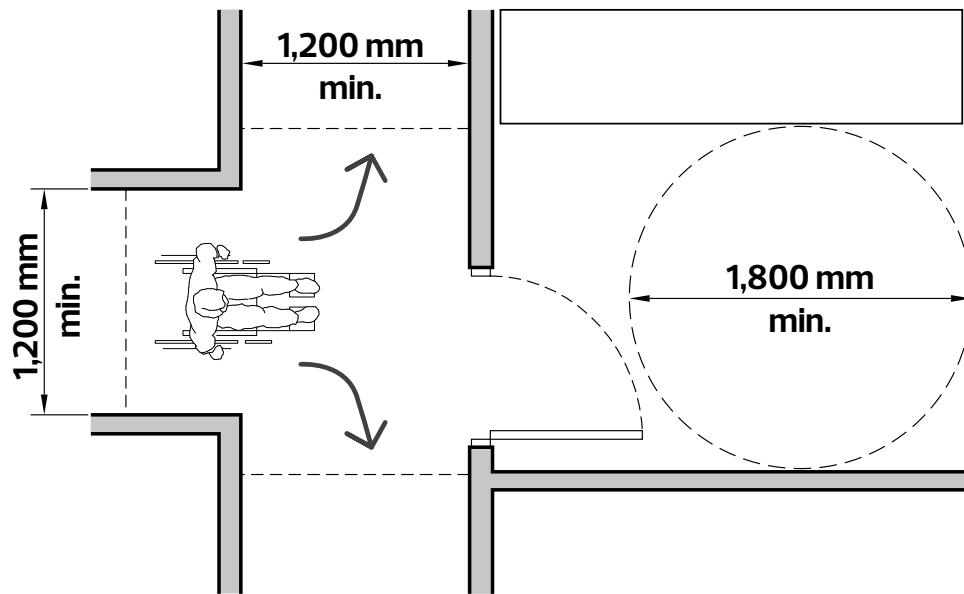
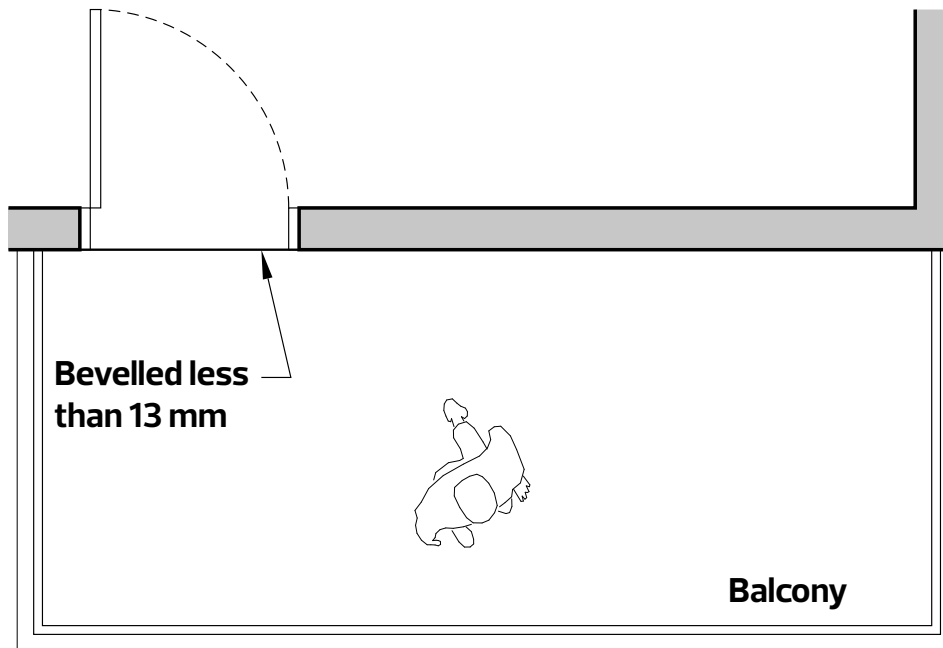


Figure C.2.2(a)  
Hallway width and turning space

3. Patios and balconies must be accessible. This could be achieved through the use of ramps or beveled (angled) level difference not higher than 13 mm.

Refer to figure C.2.2(b).



**Figure C.2.2(b)**  
**Balcony threshold transition**

4. Provision for future installation of elevator or stair lift must be provided for multi-level dwelling units.

(Source: [Edmonton Zoning Bylaw](#))

**Note:** City of Edmonton Zoning Bylaw 5.50.4 states that if the entrance to a dwelling or sleeping unit is not on the ground floor, they must be accessible by an elevator. Compliance with this minimum criteria is required for approval of zone incentives.

5. To accommodate a stair lift, stairways must:
  - a. provide access between all floors
  - b. have a minimum width of 1,000 mm
  - c. have a minimum clearance depth of 3,000 mm at all landings

Refer to figure C.2.2(c).

**Note:** Stair lift is a motorized chair that travels along a rail system mounted to a staircase to transport a person between different floor levels in a seated position.

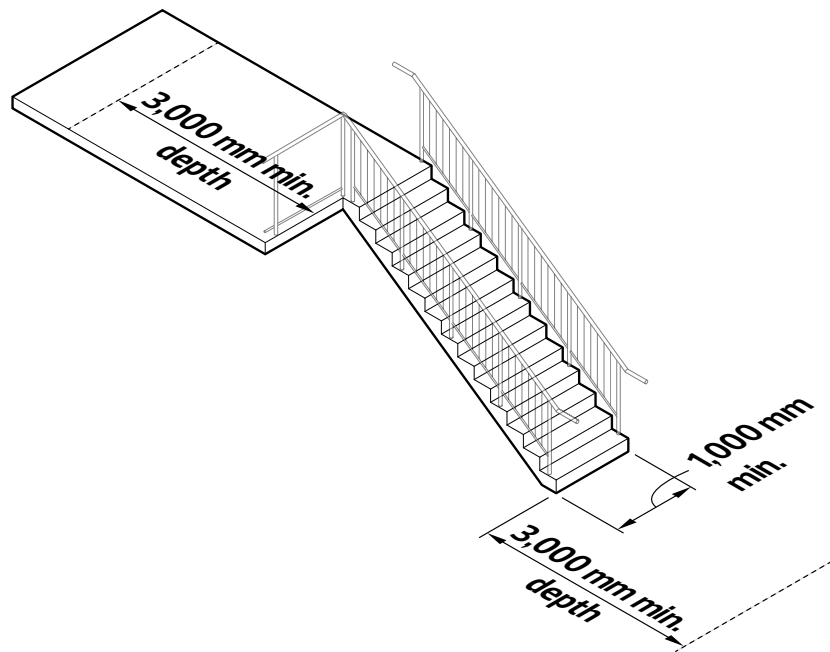


Figure C.2.2(c)  
Future stair lift provision

6. To accommodate an elevator, at least one closet on each floor must:
  - a. be a minimum of 2,000 mm wide by 2,000 mm long
  - b. be vertically aligned with all closets of the same size on each floor
  - c. be constructed to be able to function as a residential elevator shaft, with floors that can be easily removed, excluding the lowest floor

Refer to figure C.2.2(d).

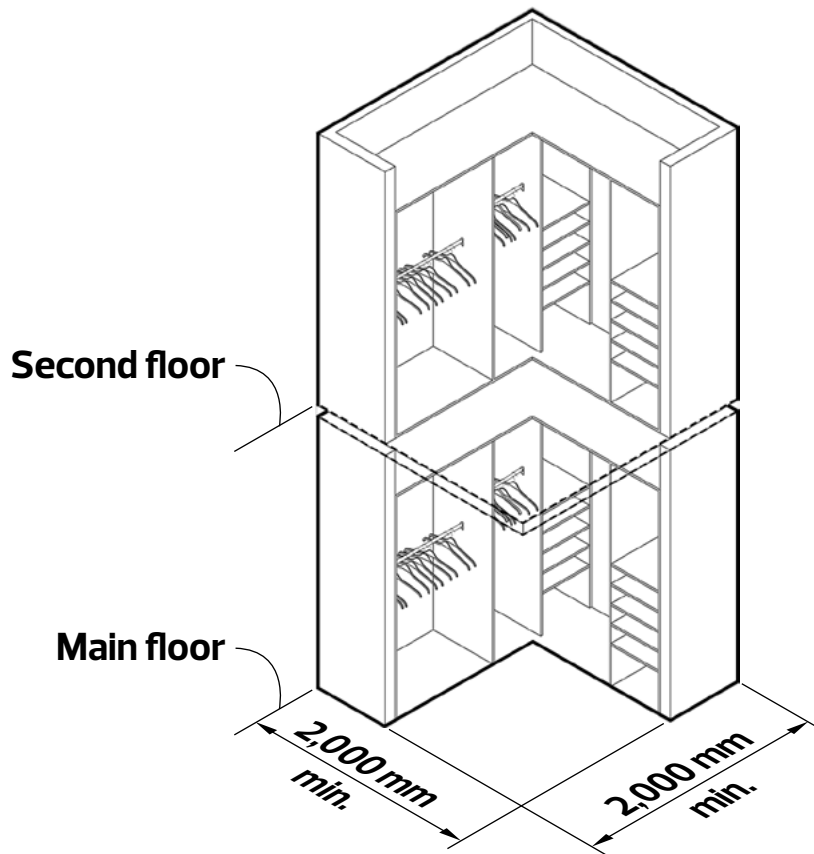


Figure C.2.2(d)  
Stacked closets for future elevator

## C.2.3 Interior Doors

1. All interior doors must have a minimum clear width of 850 mm and be located in an accessible path of travel.
2. All doors must be equipped with lever-type handles or hardware that allows a person to open the door with a closed fist or with one hand without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.

Refer to figure C.2.3(a).

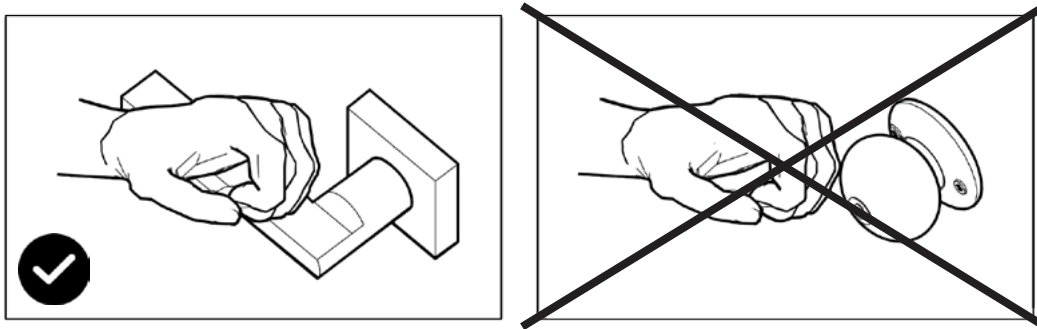


Figure C.2.3(a)

### Accessible and non-accessible door hardware

3. Swing doors are preferred over sliding or pocket doors. If provided, sliding and pocket doors must have D-shaped handles

**Note:** Sliding and pocket doors are difficult to use for people with limited strength, mobility and or/ dexterity.

4. For outward swinging doors, maintain a clear and unobstructed path for the full swing of the door to allow full opening and safe passage.

**Note:** Outward-swinging doors provide more space and ease of navigation for mobility device users inside the room.

## C.2.4 Finishes

1. Provide luminance contrast between:
  - a. doors and wall surfaces
  - b. doors and floor finishes
  - c. floor finishes and wall surfaces
  - d. controls and wall surfaces
2. Flooring must have a matte finish as glossy floor finishes can produce glare, or visual distractions and be slippery.
3. Carpet on floor surfaces must be securely attached and have a tight weave, low pile and firm underlay.

Refer to figure C.2.4(a).

**Note:** This ensures that wheeled mobility device users can move without excessive physical exertion required by soft and plush surfaces. A tight weave and secure attachment prevents trip hazards and prevents mobility aids from getting caught in the fibres.

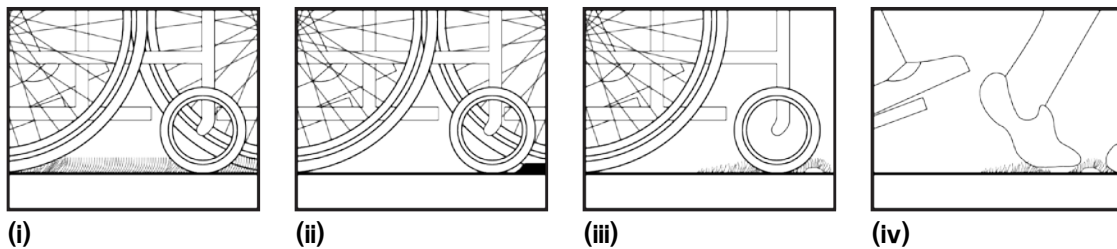


Figure C.2.4(a)  
Flooring surface mobility impacts

4. Floor finish transitions must have a bevelled (angled) trim that is not steeper than 1:2 (50%).

Refer to figure C.2.4(b).

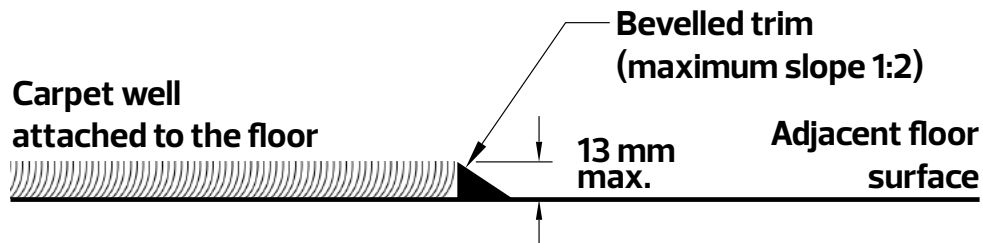


Figure C.2.4(b)  
Floor finish transition

5. Floor pattern design must be kept to a minimum. Avoid the use of busy or dark floor finishes.

**Note:** Busy patterns cause confusion for people with low vision, dementia and some sensory processing issues. Dark flooring can be perceived as a hole or change in level by people with certain disabilities.

## C.2.5 Windows

1. Windows must be easy to open and close and must not require tight grasping, pinching with fingers, or twisting of the wrist.
2. Window operator hardware must be located no higher than 60 mm above the window sill and installed within 450 mm forward reach of a person using a wheelchair.

Refer to figure C.2.5(a).

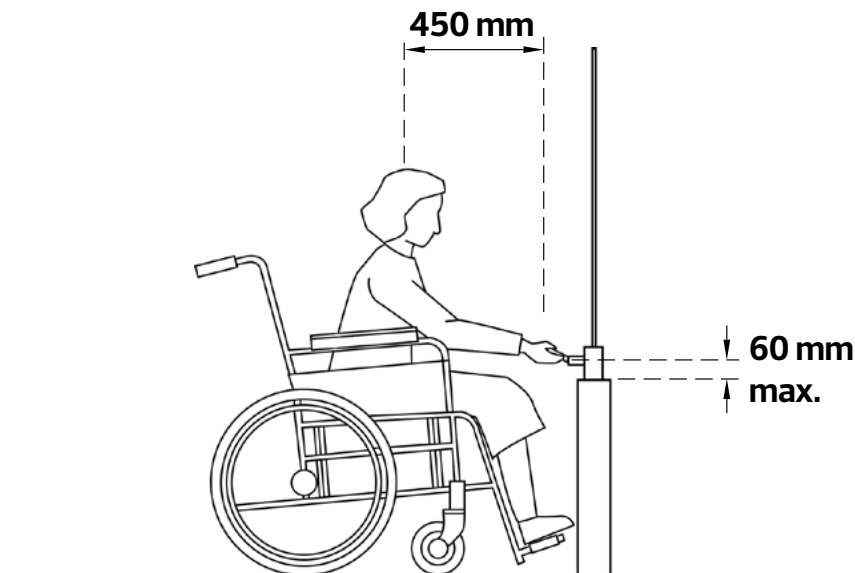


Figure C.2.5(a)  
Window hardware location

## C.2.6 Closets

1. Provide a turning diameter of at least 1,800 mm in front of closets.  
Refer to figure C.2.6(a).
2. Closet doors must have D-shaped handles.
3. Closet doors must have a minimum clear opening width of 850 mm.
4. Provide at least one clothing rod installed 1,000 mm ± 50 mm above the finished floor.  
Refer to figure C.2.6(a).
5. Provide closet shelves between 400 mm and 1,200 mm above the finished floor.

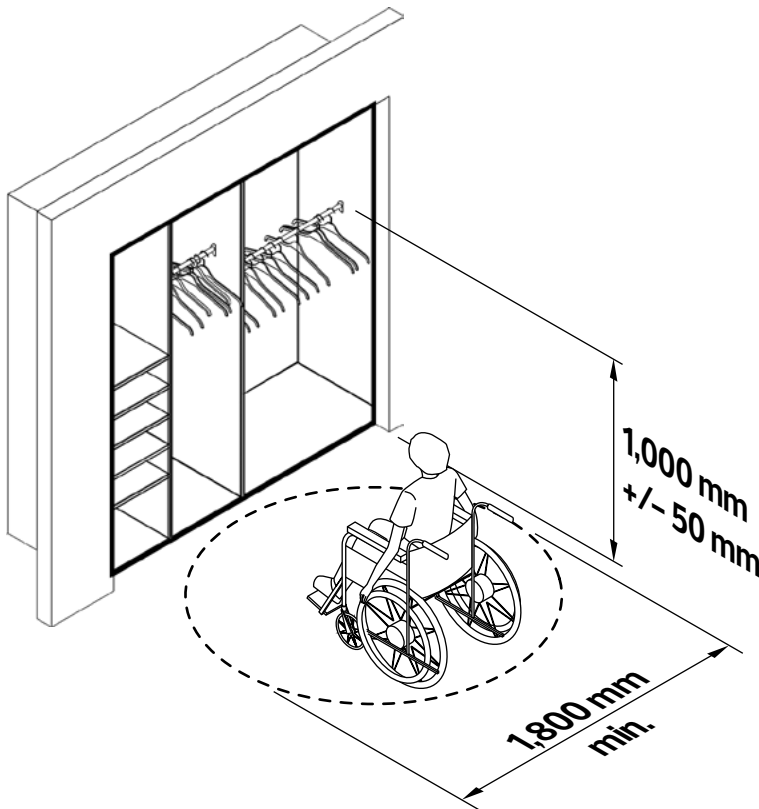


Figure C.2.6(a)  
Closet reach and turning space requirements

## C.2.7 Bedrooms

1. At a minimum, one designated accessible bedroom should be adjacent to the bathroom, or there should be provisions for adaptability features to be installed in the future. For instance, ensuring a wall or section of a wall can be removed, allows for the installation of an accessible ensuite bathroom in the future.

(Source: [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))

2. Provide continuous structural reinforcement within ceiling joists and appropriate electrical rough-ins to support the future installation of a ceiling track lift system. This must extend from at least one bedroom to the adjacent bathroom to ensure unobstructed access between the two rooms.

**Note:** Ceiling lifts aid with transferring someone from a bed to a wheelchair.

(Adapted from [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))

3. Provide a minimum clear turning diameter of 1,800 mm inside the bedroom.  
Refer to figure C.2.7(a).
4. Provide a minimum of 920 mm accessible path of travel on at least three sides of the bed.

Refer to figure C.2.7(a).

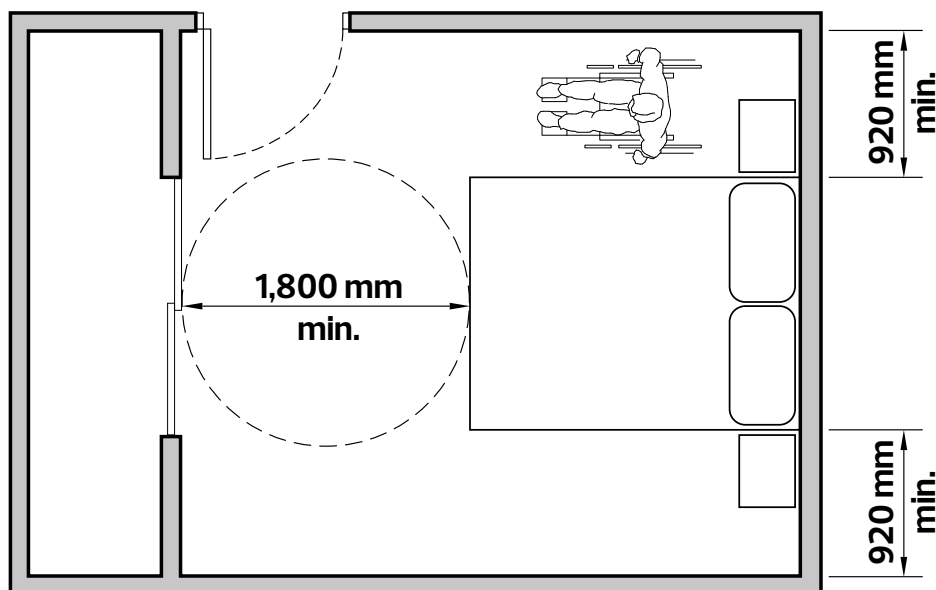


Figure C.2.7(a)  
Bedroom clearance and turning space

5. Ensure sound proofing in at least one room in the dwelling unit to provide a quiet space, especially for people with autism, neurodivergence and sensory sensitivities.
6. In multi-level dwelling units with an elevating device such as elevator, chair or stair lift, locating an accessible bedroom on the main floor will ensure access to the room in the event of a power outage.

**Note:** A chair lift is a motorized platform designed to transport an individual in their wheelchair between different floor levels along a staircase.

A stair lift is a motorized chair that travels along a rail system mounted to a staircase to transport a person between different floor levels in a seated position.

## C.2.8 Bathrooms

Bathrooms should be designed with enough manoeuvring space for mobility devices and clear floor space for a caregiver. Walls in adaptable bathrooms are built with structural support and finishes to enable future installation of grab bars, shower seats and ceiling lifts ensuring they can withstand required weight and force.

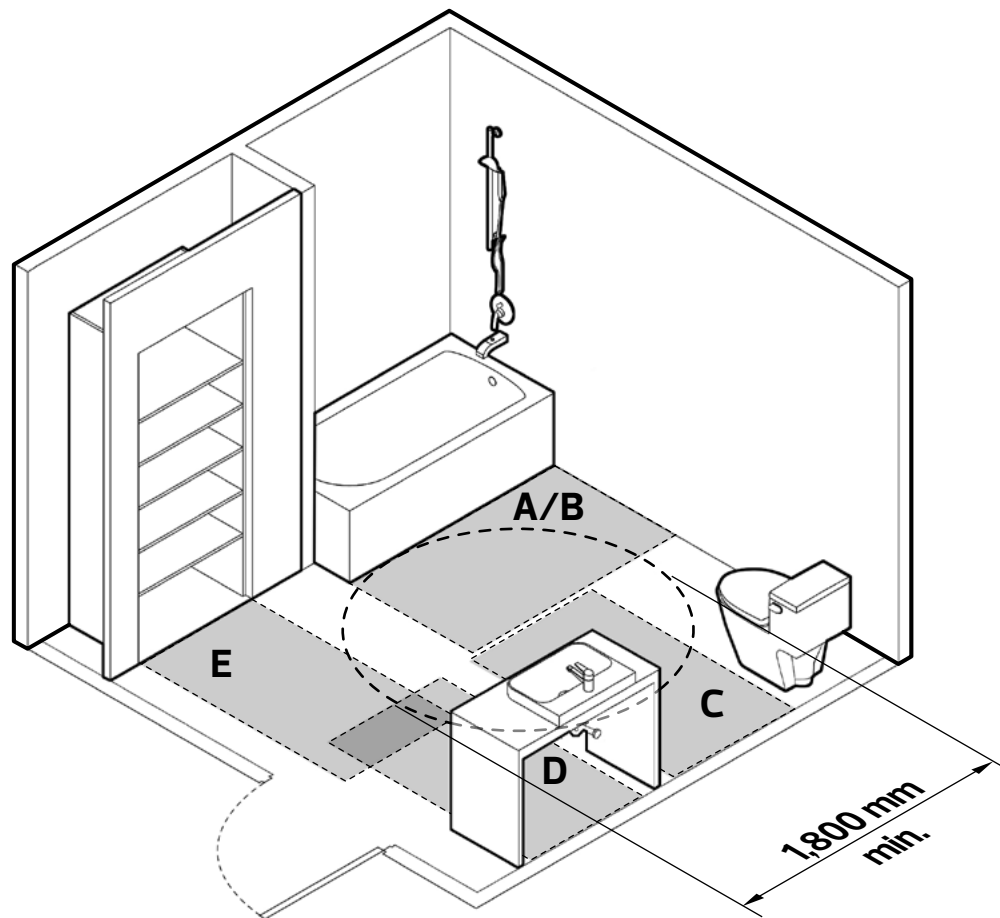
At least one bathroom in the dwelling unit must meet the requirements in this subsection. This accessible bathroom must be adjacent to an accessible bedroom that meets the requirements of subsection C.2.7 Bedrooms.

1. Provide a clear turning diameter of at least 1,800 mm inside the accessible bathroom.
2. Bathrooms must have minimum clear floor areas adjacent to each fixture as noted in table C.2.8(a).

**Note:** These clear floor spaces can overlap to allow for an efficient layout that still provides enough room for a person using a mobility device to move between the sink, toilet and shower.

**Table C.2.8(a)**  
**Minimum clearance for bathroom fixtures**

<b>Fixture</b>	<b>Minimum clear floor space to access</b>	
A. Shower	900 mm	1,500 mm
B. Bathtub	900 mm	Length of bathtub
C. Toilet	900 mm	1,500 mm
D. Sink	800 mm	1,350 mm
E. Closet / medicine cabinet / shelves (if provided)	800 mm	1,350 mm



**Figure C.2.8(a)**  
**Bathroom clear floor areas. Refer to table C.2.8(a) for A, B, C, D and E**

3. Provide luminance contrast between:
  - a. countertops and wall finish
  - b. toilet paper dispenser, towel bar and wall finish
  - c. light switches and wall finish
4. Towel bars must be installed at  $1,000 \pm 50$  mm above the finished floor and must be within a clear reach of 450 mm from where a wheelchair can be positioned.
5. Provide sensor-operated or single lever faucet control for the sink, shower and/or bathtub.
6. A mirror must be installed and have a minimum width of 610 mm. The bottom edge of the mirror must be no more than 1,000 mm above the finished floor.

**Best practice:** Install an adjustable tilt mirror.

### C.2.8.1 Showers

1. To ensure access, provide a clear floor space of 1,500 mm by 900 mm in front of showers.

Refer to figure C.2.8.1(a).

2. Showers must have:
  - a. a minimum dimension of 1,500 mm by 900 mm
  - b. no lip or threshold (i.e. curbless)
  - c. a slip resistant surface

Refer to figure C.2.8.1(a).

**Note:** Showers must allow sufficient space for a commode or chair to be rolled into the shower and/or space for a caregiver.

(Source: [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))

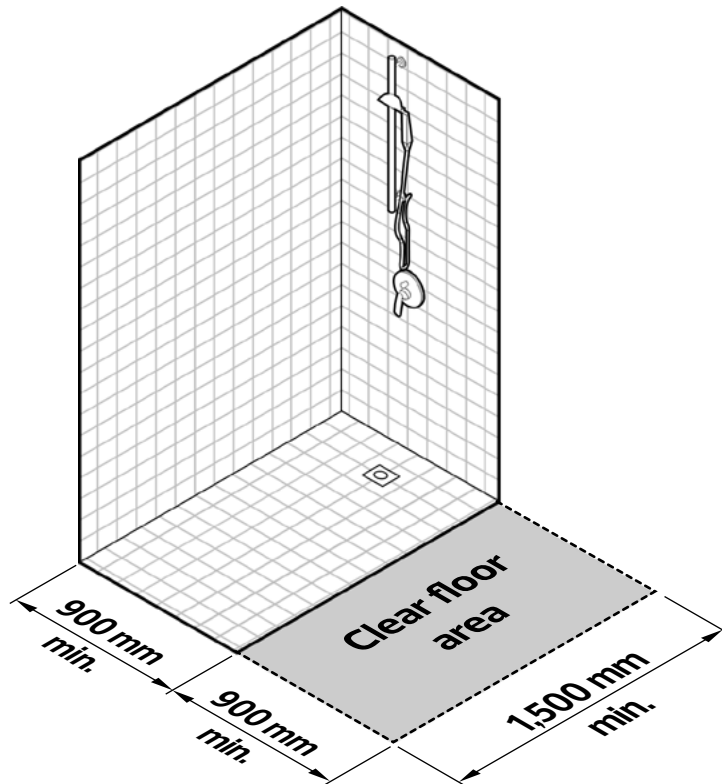


Figure C.2.8.1(a)  
Shower clear floor area

3. Provide appropriate structural support in shower stall walls for future installation of grab bars.

### C.2.8.2 Bathtubs

Bathtubs must have enough room for a safe approach and transfer into the bath and room for caregivers. Consider the ease of replacement of the bathtub with a curbless shower in the future.

1. Bathtubs must have a slip-resistant surface and minimum size of 1,500 mm long and 900 mm wide.

Refer to figure C.2.8.2(a).

2. Provide lever type faucet for bathtubs.
3. Provide a hand-held shower head that is mounted on a vertical slide bar not less than 760 mm long with the bottom end of the bar no higher than 1,200 mm above the finished floor. The shower head must have easy to use controls and a flexible hose.

Refer to figure C.2.8.2(a).

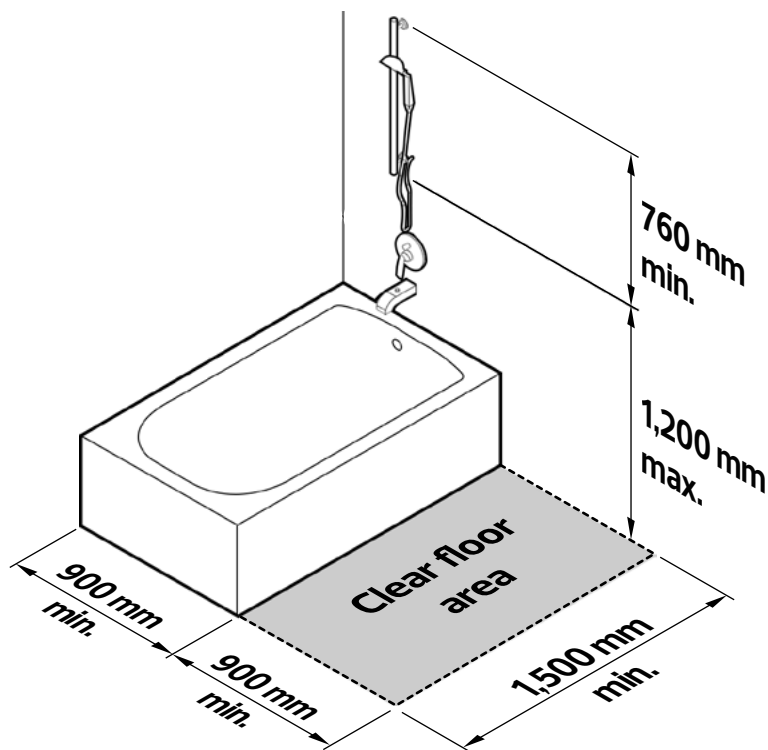


Figure C.2.8.2(a)  
Bathtub dimensions and clear floor space

**Best practice:** Add a non-slip waterproof seating area of minimum 400 mm deep and located at the end of the bathtub.

**Note:** The seating area is generally placed at the far end, opposite the drain and faucet controls. This helps to provide easier and safer transfers in and out of the tub.

4. Storage for soap and shampoo must be recessed into the wall to maintain clear space.
5. Provide appropriate structural support in walls around the bathtub for future installation of grab bars.

### C.2.8.3 Sinks

1. The top surface of a sink or the counter in which it is mounted must not be higher than 865 mm above the finished floor.

Refer to figure C.2.8.3(a).

2. Sinks must have a minimum knee clearance of 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high.

Refer to figures C.2.8.3(a) and C.2.8.3(b).

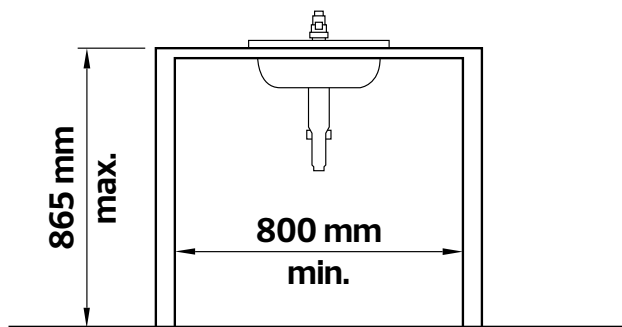
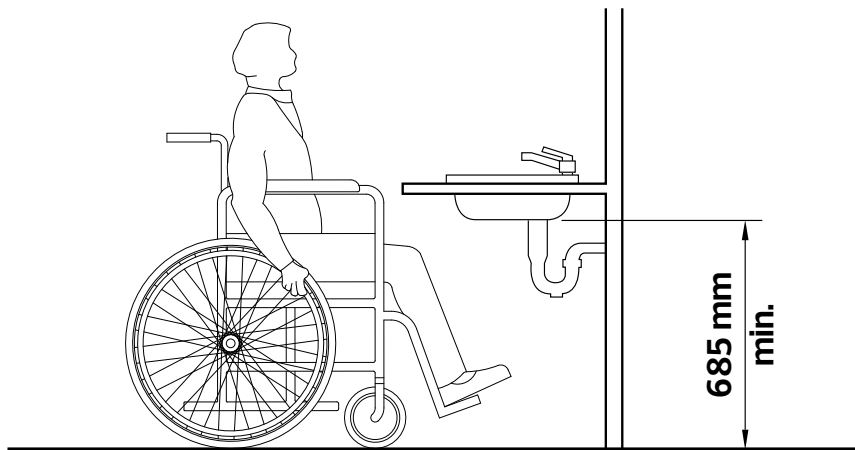
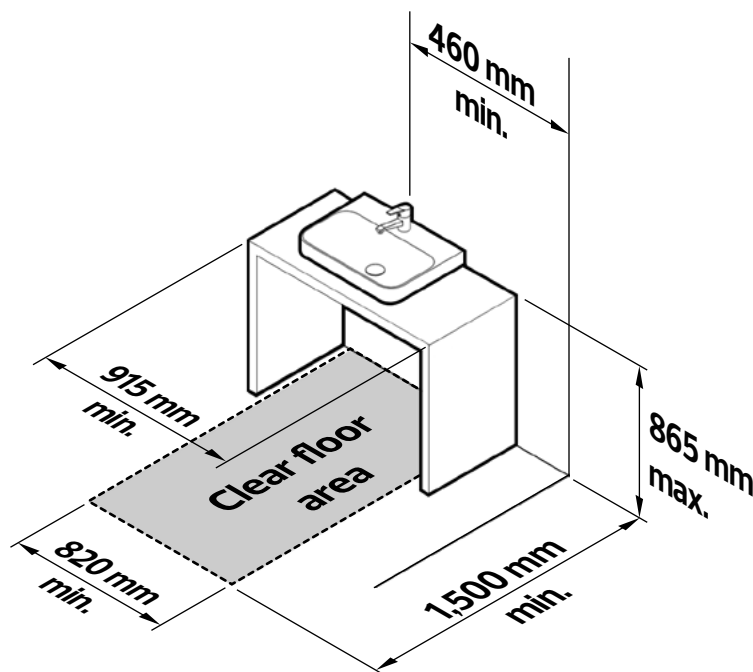


Figure C.2.8.3(a)  
Sink counter height and knee clearance width



**Figure C.2.8.3(b)**  
Sink counter knee clearance height

3. The sink counter must be a minimum of 915 mm wide and a maximum of 610 mm deep and have luminance contrast with the wall.
4. Locate the sink at least 460 mm away from the adjacent side wall.  
Refer to figure C.2.8.3(c).



**Figure C.2.8.3(c)**  
Sink counter dimensions and clearances

- Faucets must be sensor-operated or single-lever type. Consider gooseneck spouts that make it easier for a person to wash their hands without having to reach over the sink.

**Best practice:** Provide sensor operated or touchless faucets.

- Exposed pipes under the sink must have insulation to prevent burns.
- Drain and water supply pipes must be kept as close to the wall as possible to free up space under the sink.

### C.2.8.4 Toilets

- Toilets must be installed with a clearance of 460 mm to 480 mm measured from its centreline to the adjacent side wall.  
Refer to figure C.2.8.4(a).
- Toilet seat height must be between 430 mm and 460 mm above the finished floor.  
Refer to figure C.2.8.4(a).

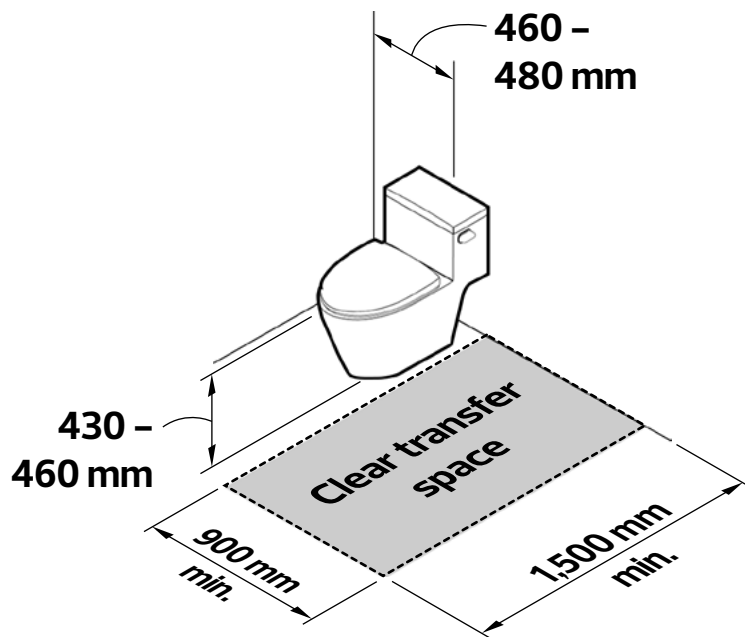


Figure C.2.8.4(a)  
Toilet dimensions and transfer space

- Toilets must have a seat lid or water tank for back support.
- Toilets must be easy to operate with a closed fist or have automatic flush.
- Provide appropriate structural support in the walls behind and beside the toilet for future installation of grab bars.

## C.2.9 Kitchens

1. Provide a minimum of 1,800 mm clear floor space between opposing counters, cabinets and appliances.

Refer to figure C.2.9(a).

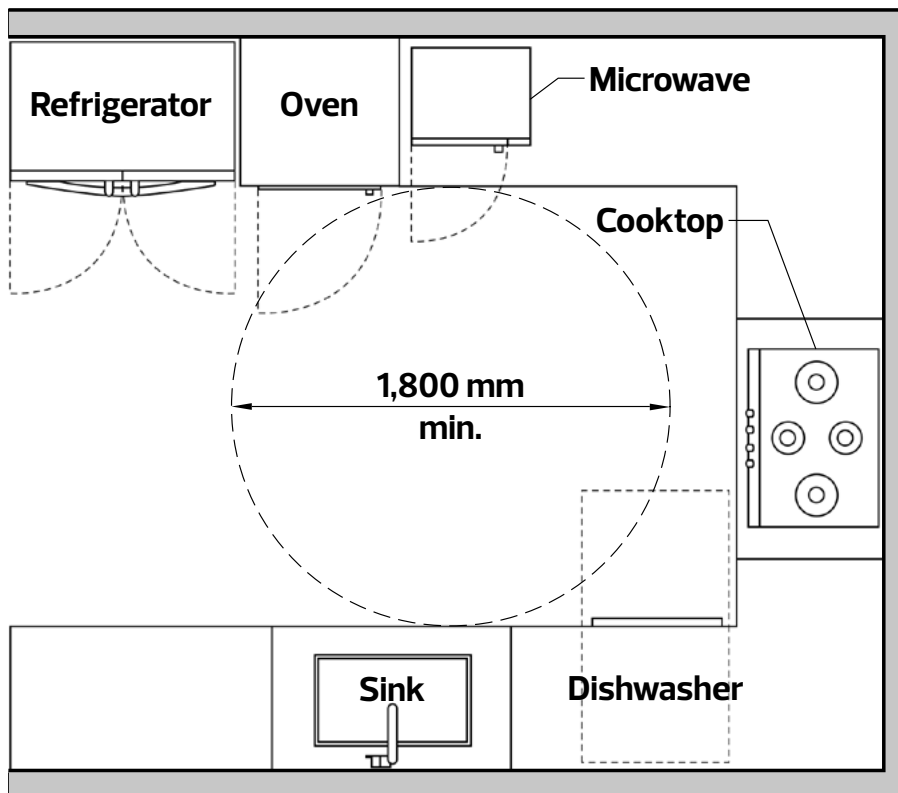
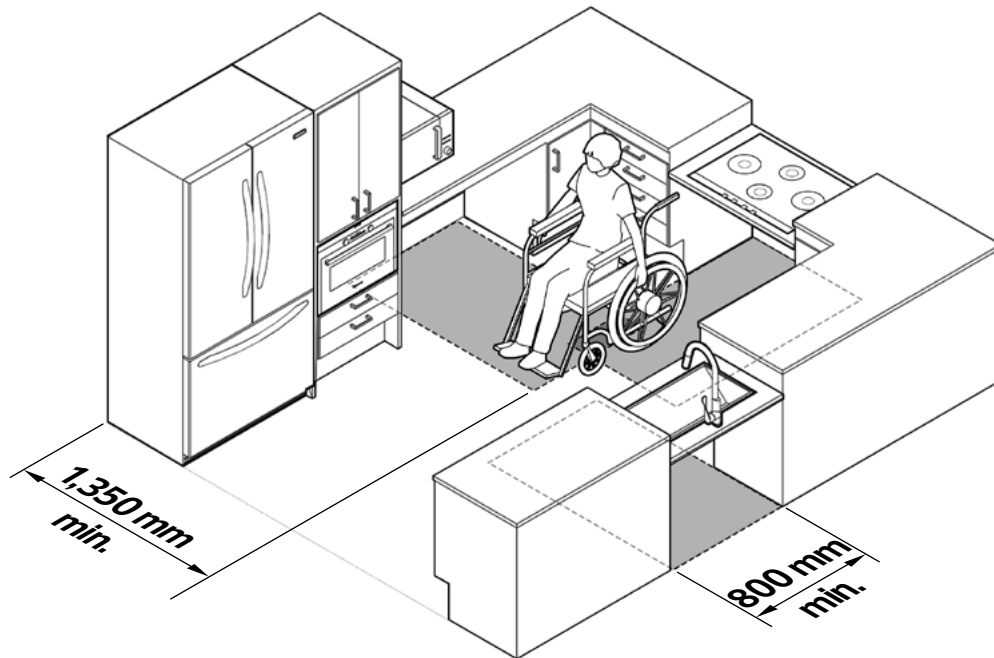


Figure C.2.9(a)  
Kitchen turning space and clearances

2. Ensure a clear floor area of at least 800 mm by 1,350 mm is allocated in front of kitchen fixtures and appliances.

Refer to figure C.2.9(b).



**Figure C.2.9(b)**  
**Kitchen fixtures and appliances approach areas**

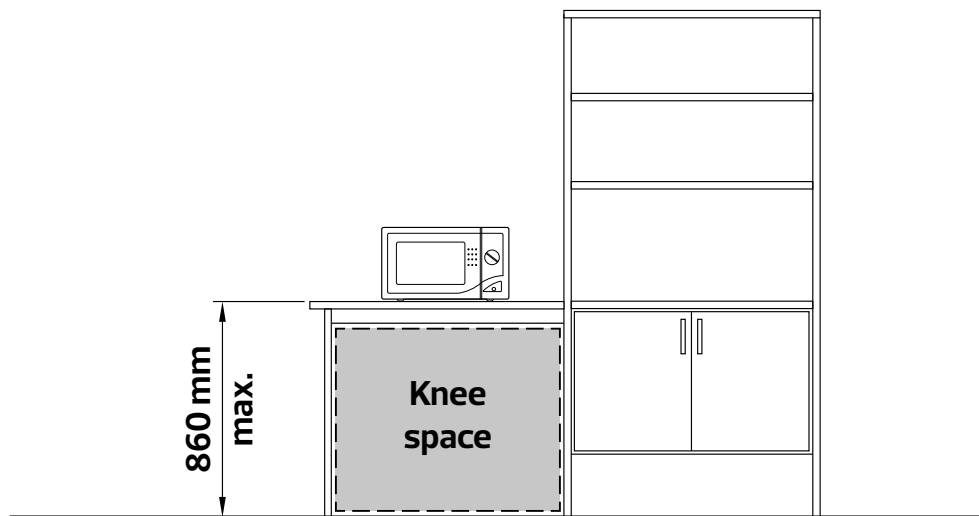
3. To allow for future installation of a height-adjustable or lowered kitchen sink and cooktop:
  - a. Provide structural backing within the adjacent wall between current countertop height and 710 mm from the finished floor.
  - b. Configure cabinets so that they can be removed to provide a minimum knee clearance of 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high.
4. A work surface must be provided on at least one side of the cooktop and oven.
 

**Note:** Work surfaces provide space for placing hot pans and other items from the cooktop and oven.
5. Provide workspaces of at least 610 mm on one side of the sink and 450 mm on the other side.

(Source: [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))

6. Space for a microwave must be provided either:
  - a. at counter height with knee clearance underneath, or
  - b. in a shelf where the bottom of the microwave is no higher than 860 mm above the finished floor

Refer to figure C.2.9(c).



**Figure C.2.9(c)**  
**Accessible microwave height**

7. Design considerations must include:
  - a. providing continuous counter tops to allow heavy objects such as pots and dishes to slide along, minimizing the need for upper body strength
  - b. glass doors or open shelves to help with visibility of what is inside the shelves
  - c. separate stove cook top and oven allowing for legroom under cooktop and access to the oven from a seated position
  - d. installing a sloped panel beneath the sink to hide plumbing and prevent injury or burns
8. The kitchen must have low glare surfaces and no sharp edges.
9. Provide D-type handle for cabinet doors.
10. To improve the ease of locating surfaces and appliances for individuals with low vision, it is recommended to use luminance contrast between:
  - a. countertops and backsplashes
  - b. cupboards and drawer hardware
  - c. switches and wall outlets and the surface they are mounted on
  - d. counters and walls
  - e. cabinet door handles and cabinet surface

(Adapted from [Clearing our Path 2.0](#))

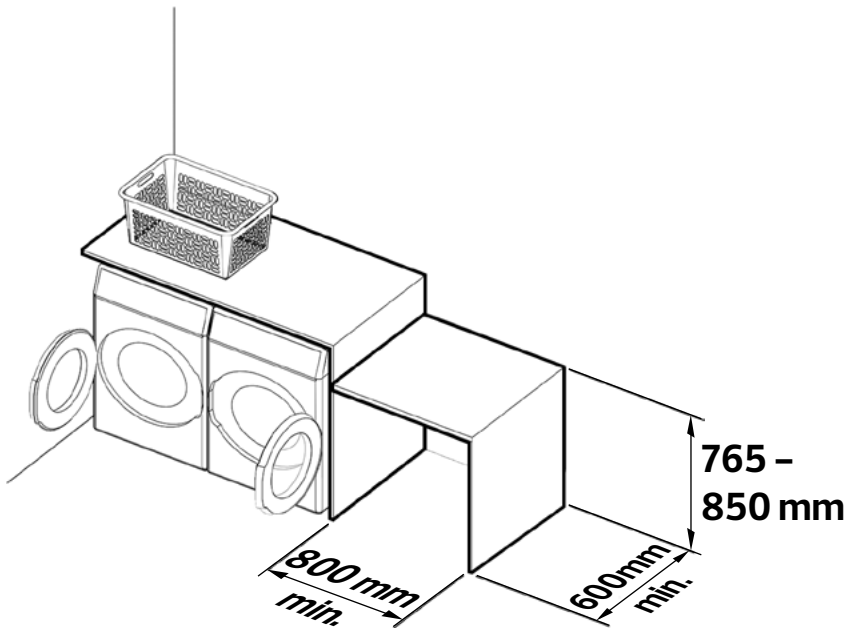
11. Locate electrical outlets and light switches at the front of counters.
12. Locate at least two electrical outlets on the lower cabinetry.
13. Install lighting under upper cabinets to reduce shadows and glare.  
**Note:** This lighting must be on a separate switch from the general lighting in the kitchen.
14. Rough-in the electrical wiring and install the necessary junction boxes behind the wall to allow for the future installation of electrically adjustable counters.

## C.2.10 Laundry Areas

1. Provide a workspace in laundry rooms to fold clothes. This space must:
  - a. have a surface that is 600 mm deep
  - b. have a surface that is between 765 mm and 850 mm above the finished floor
  - c. have a minimum knee clearance of 800 mm wide by 485 mm deep by 685 mm high

Refer to figure C.2.10(a).

**Note:** This provides a person who uses a wheelchair with the ability to conveniently fold laundry.



**Figure C.2.10(a)**  
Laundry room work space dimensions

2. The laundry floor must be luminance contrasting from the walls, working surfaces and appliances.
3. Space to store laundry supplies must not be higher than 1,200 mm above the finished floor.
4. The laundry area must have front-loading appliances.
5. The washer and dryer must have front-mounted controls and side-hinged doors that swing 180 degrees away from each other.

## C.2.11 Controls

1. Electrical outlets must be no lower than 600 mm when measured from the centre line of the electrical outlet to the finished floor.

**Note:** Consistency across all outlets allows a person to easily find the outlet, especially someone with low or no vision.

2. Low voltage outlets like telephone jacks and LAN ports should be at a minimum height of 600 mm to 1,100 mm above the finished floor.
3. Building controls such as light switches, thermostats and intercoms must be installed at 1,000 ± 50 mm from the centre line of the plate to the finished floor. Controls should be within 450 mm forward reach of a person using a wheelchair.
4. All light switches should be operable with one hand in a closed fist position without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.
5. Provide three-way light switches in rooms or spaces with two doors or access points or where an occupant may need to operate a switch from two locations. For example, provide a three-way switch beside the bed and one at the bedroom door.

**Note:** A three-way light switch allows an occupant to control a light fixture from two different locations. This eliminates the need to go across a room to turn off the light or navigate in a dark room minimizing falls and injuries.

(Source: [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))

6. Install dimmer controls so that level of illumination can be controlled to meet user needs, particularly in bedrooms and living rooms.

**Note:** Some people may have a preference for dimmer controls throughout the space as it allows them to have more control and options for people.

## C.3 Criteria Specific to Accessible Dwelling Units

This section details the specific requirements for transitioning a dwelling unit from adaptable to fully accessible. These requirements are in addition to those outlined in section C.2 Adaptable and Accessible Dwelling Units.

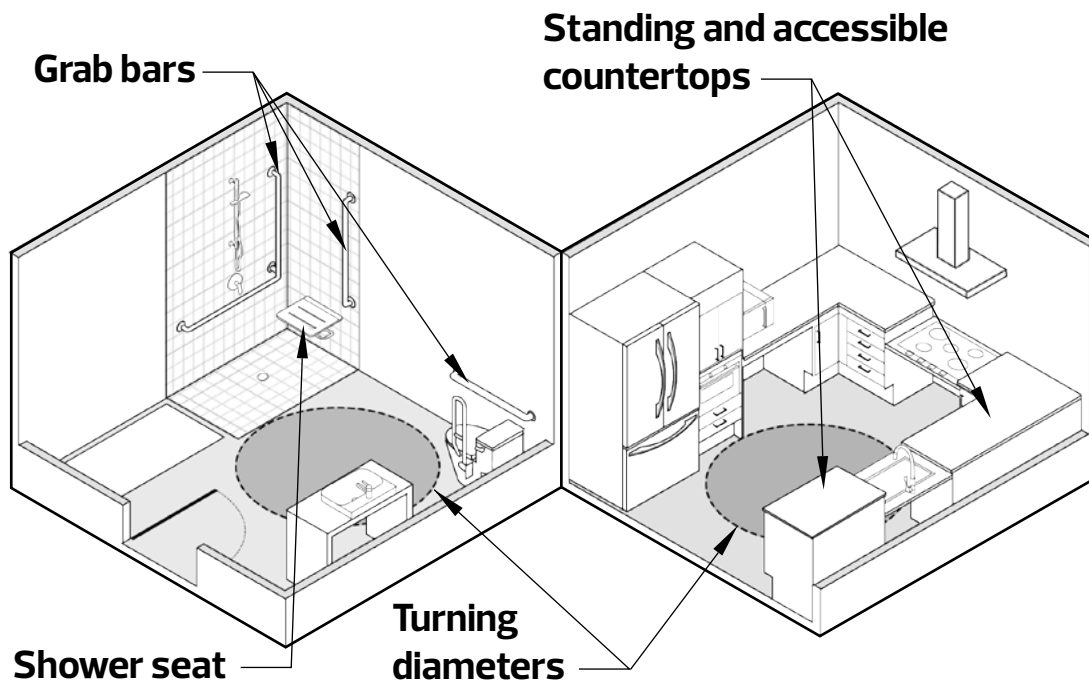


Figure C.3(a)  
Accessible dwelling unit features

### C.3.1 Kitchen Counters and Appliances

1. Provide a kitchen counter of at least one of each type:
  - a. a standing countertop with a height of 915 mm from the surface to the finished floor
  - b. an accessible countertop:
  - c. at a height between 760 mm and 860 mm above the finished floor
  - d. with a minimum knee clearance of 800 mm wide by 485 deep by 685 mm high

Refer to figure C.3.1(a).

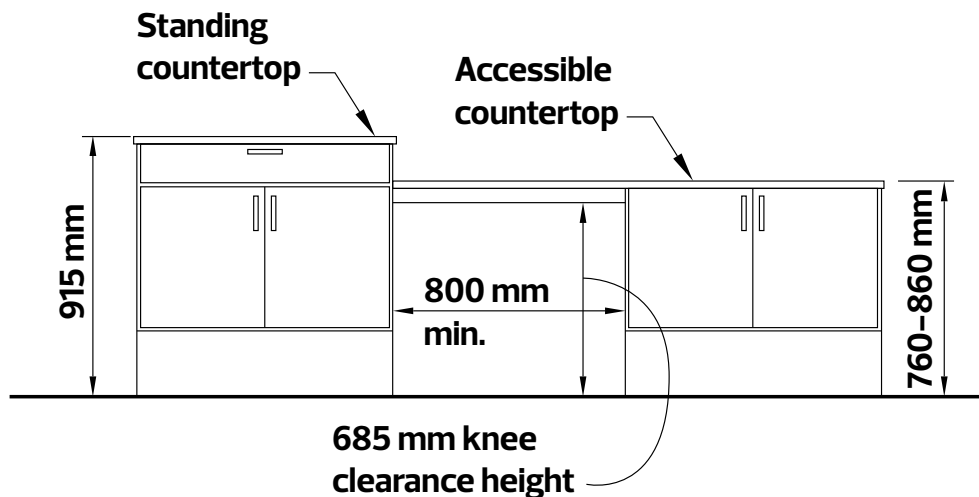


Figure C.3.1(a)  
Standing and accessible kitchen countertop dimensions

2. Mount upper cabinets on a track system that will allow for adjustability by not less than 50 mm.
3. Install lower cabinets with drawers on full-extension glides.
4. Install D-shaped handles for all cabinets.

**Note:** D-shaped handles do not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist to open the cabinets.

5. An accessible oven must have:
  - a. a door that opens toward the side
  - b. the bottom of the door mounted between 400 mm and 860 mm above the finished floor

6. Install a heat-resistant pull-out shelf below the oven that is of the same width as the oven. The shelf must be installed on full-extension glides with ability to pull out to at least 250 mm.
7. Refrigerators must have a door that opens fully (swings 180 degrees) and with a bottom or side freezer.
8. Controls for cooktops and stoves must be mounted at the front of the cooktop.

**Note:** A person seated in a mobility device should not have to reach across burners to adjust controls.

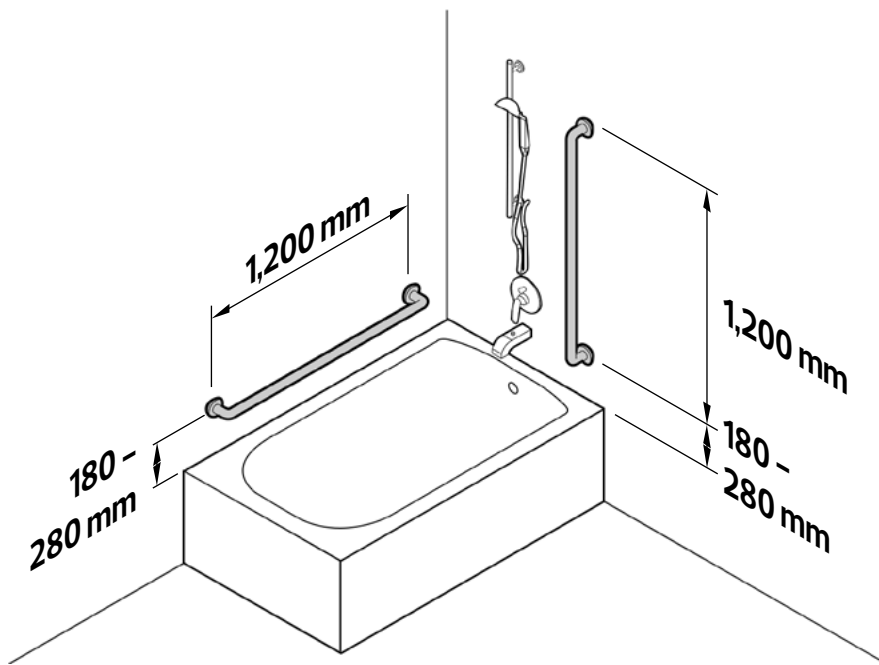
(Source: [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))

### C.3.2 Grab Bars

Provide grab bars for the toilet, shower and/or bathtub that meets the needs of the user. This subsection provides typical grab bar locations and requirements. Disabilities are diverse and user needs may vary based on their disability. Some people may have a dominant side which influences their preference for grab bars to be installed on either the left or right side of the toilet.

1. Grab bars must be slip-resistant and free of any sharp or abrasive elements.
2. Grab bars must be able to resist a load of not less than 1.3 kN applied vertically or horizontally.
3. Grab bars must have a diameter of between 30 mm and 40 mm.
4. Provide a clearance of 35 mm to 45 mm between the grab bar and the wall on which it is installed.
5. Grab bars for a bath tub
  - a. Provide one grab bar:
    - i. which is 1,200 mm long
    - ii. placed vertically at the end of the tub where the controls are located
    - i. between 180 mm and 280 mm above the top edge of the bathtub measured to the bottom of the grab bar
  - b. Provide a second grab bar:
    - i. which is 1,200 mm long
    - ii. placed horizontally along the length of the bathtub
    - iii. between 180 mm and 280 mm above the bathtub rim

Refer to figure C.3.2(a).



**Figure C.3.2(a)**  
**Bathtub grab bar dimensions**

**6. Grab bars for a shower:**

- a.** Provide a vertical grab bar on the wall adjacent to the shower entrance opening that is:
  - i.** located on the side of the shower controls
  - ii.** at least 450 mm long
  - iii.** mounted at a height of 900 mm from the finished floor to the bottom end of the bar
- b.** Provide an L-shaped or separate vertical and horizontal grab bars mounted adjacent (not behind) the shower seat that meets one of the following.
  - i.** If L-shaped:
    1. has a horizontal segment of at least 600 mm long
    2. has a vertical segment of at least 600 mm long
    3. Mounted with the horizontal segment between 840 and 920 mm from the finished floor

- ii. If separate vertical and horizontal grab bars:
  1. has a horizontal bar of at least 600 mm long mounted between 840 mm and 920 mm above finished floor
  2. has a vertical grab bar of at least 450 mm length with the bottom end of the bar mounted at the same height as the horizontal grab bar at the shower entrance

Refer to figure C.3.2(b).

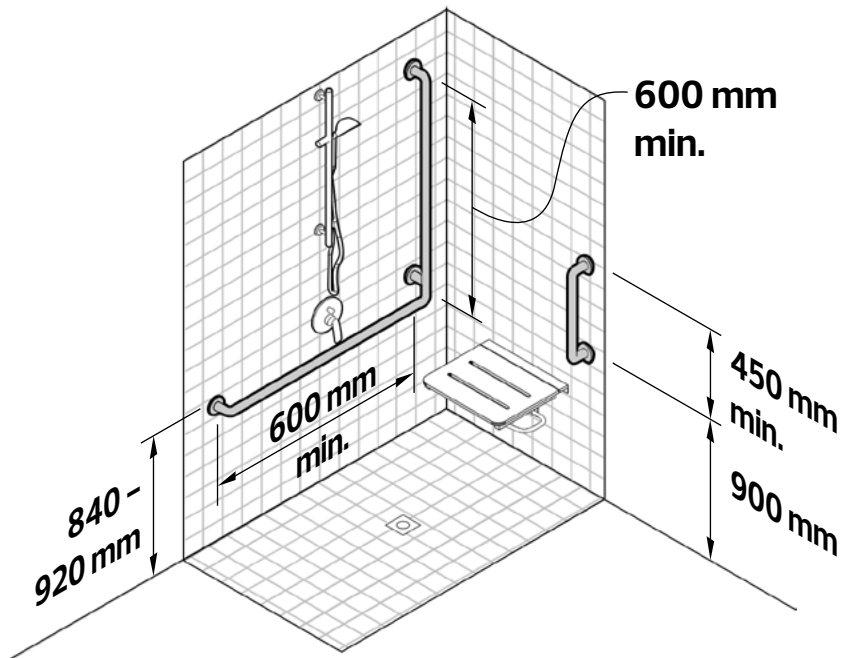


Figure C.3.2(b)  
Shower grab bar dimensions

### C.3.3 Shower Seat

1. Provide a fixed seat in the shower or a hinged seat that is not spring loaded.
2. The shower seat must have a smooth, slip-resistant surface with no rough edges.
3. Locate the shower seat on the same wall as the vertical grab bar.
4. The shower seat must be a minimum of 450 mm wide and 400 mm deep.

Refer to figure C.3.3(a).

5. The top of the seat must be between 460 mm and 480 mm above the finished floor.

Refer to figure C.3.3(a).

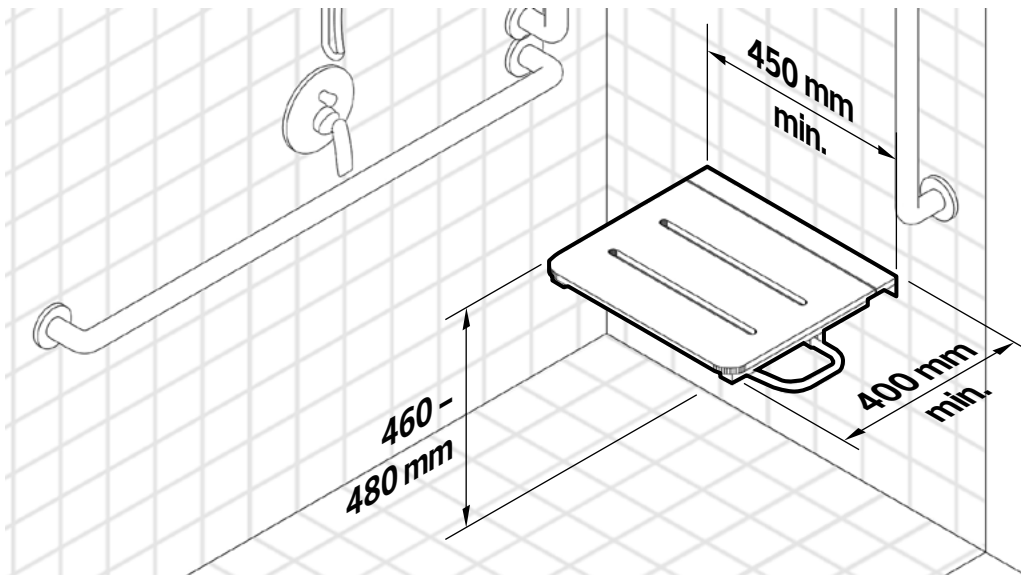


Figure C.3.3(a)  
Shower seat height and dimensions

### C.3.4 Alarms

Examples of emergency alert and signal devices used within dwellings include smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, heat detectors, emergency lighting and flood detection systems.

1. If a unit has a fire alarm system, or a doorbell, it must have both visual and audible signal devices.

**Note:** For individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing, additional devices are recommended throughout. For visual and/or vibrating alerts these could include strobe lights and/or bed shakers which offer visual/tactile alerts.

(Adapted from [Clearing our Path 2.0](#))

## C.4 Multi-Unit Residential Buildings

### C.4.1 Unit Distribution

1. Distribute accessible units across all unit types and locations to ensure residents have a diverse range of housing choices.

**Note:** When distributing adaptable and accessible dwellings, prioritize proximity to elevators, accessible parking, and site amenities to ensure ease of access.

2. Distribution of visitable and adaptable dwelling units within a multi-storey or multi-family development must comply with the requirements in the following table:

<b>Means of access to upper storey(s)</b>	<b>Minimum % of visitable units *</b>	<b>Minimum % of adaptable units *</b>
Stairs only	80% of ground floor units	20% of ground floor units
Single elevator	30% of total units	20% of total units
2 or more elevators	70% of total units	30% of total units

\* The percentages in the table are cumulative rather than independent. For instance, because adaptable units meet all visitability standards, they are included in the total count for visitable units.

## C.4.2 Parking

[Edmonton Zoning Bylaw section 5.8](#) includes general parking regulations, parking quantities and requirements for accessible parking spaces. For details on designated accessible parking spaces and limited mobility parking spaces, refer to section A.5.2 Designated Accessible Parking Stalls.

1. One accessible parking stall must be required for each adaptable and accessible dwelling unit.
2. Determine the required number of accessible visitor parking stalls based on the table below:

<b>Number of visitor parking spaces</b>	<b>Number of designated accessible visitor parking spaces</b>	<b>Number of designated limited mobility visitor parking spaces</b>
2 – 50	1 – 3	2 – 6
51 – 100	2 – 4	4 – 8
101 – 200	4 – 8	8 – 16
201 – 300	5 – 10	10 – 20
301 – 500	6 – 12	12 – 24
Over 500	6 – 12, additional 1 – 3 for every 100	12 – 24, additional 2 – 6 for every 100

3. Accessible parking stalls must provide an accessible path of travel to the main entrance.

### C.4.3 Exterior Spaces

The requirements in this subsection are adapted from the [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Universal Design Guide](#).

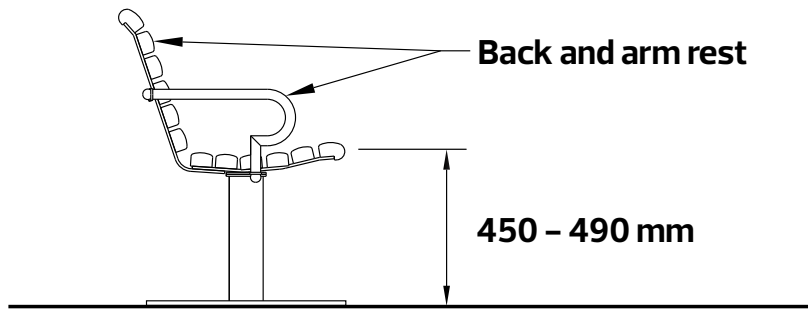
1. Exterior greenspaces, recreational areas, seating and patios must be located along an accessible path of travel.

**Best practice:** Provide accessible greenspace adjacent to the building.



**Image C.4.3(a)**  
Exterior accessible path and bench

2. Exterior seating must:
  - a. have a seat height between 450 mm and 490 mm.  
Refer to figure C.4.3(a).
  - b. have back and arm rests
  - c. have view towards activities or vistas
  - d. be laid out to encourage and support conversation
  - e. have space for wheelchairs next to seating

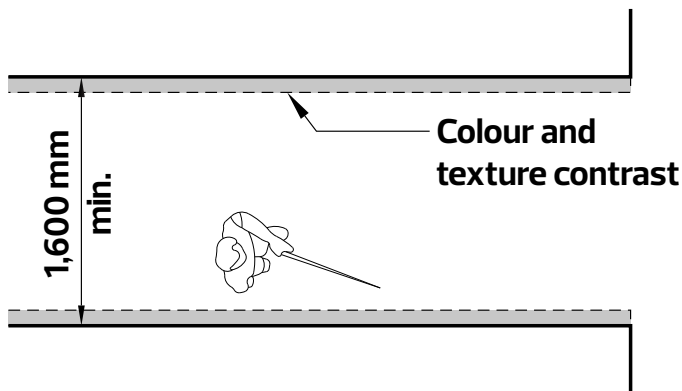


**Figure C.4.3(a)**  
Exterior seating height and features

**3.** Exterior pathways must:

- a.** be a minimum 1,600 mm wide
- b.** have luminance and texture contrast along the edges to support wayfinding
- c.** have edge-protection for areas with drop-off immediately adjacent to the walkway

Refer to figure C.4.3(b).



**Figure C.4.3(b)**  
Exterior pathway width and edges

## C.4.4 Building Access

1. All primary entrances to the building must be accessible.

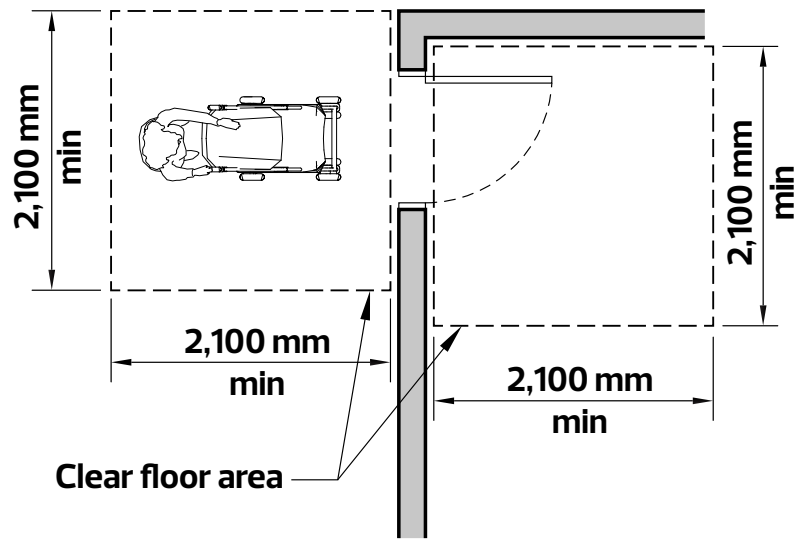


**Image C.4.4(a)**  
**Residential building accessible entrance**

2. A minimum clear floor area of 2,100 mm x 2,100 mm must be provided on either side of an accessible entrance doorway.

**Note:** This allows for U-turns in mobility devices without interrupting other pedestrian traffic.

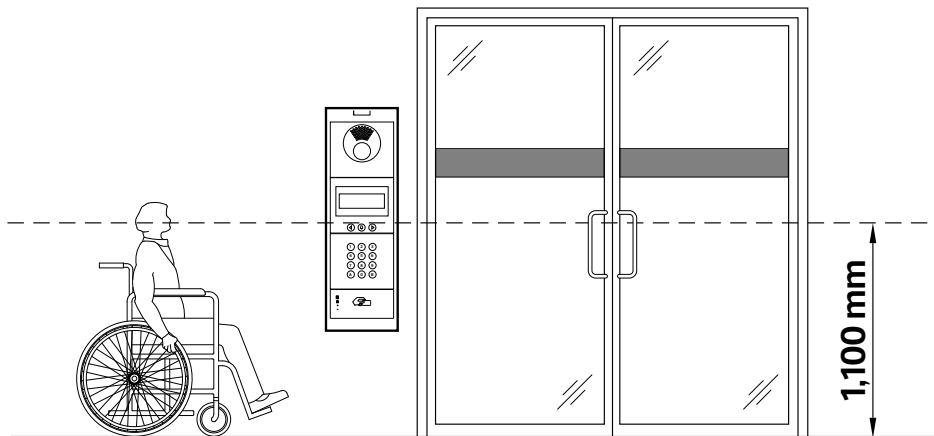
(Source: [CMHC Universal Design Guide](#))



**Figure C.4.4(a)**  
Accessible entrance clear floor areas

3. Floor mats must be securely attached to the floor to prevent tripping.
4. Provide seating inside and outside the entry door with back and arm rests.
5. Intercoms must be installed such that operable controls are no higher than 1,100 mm from the finished floor.

Refer to figure C.4.4(b).



**Figure C.4.4(b)**  
Intercom controls height

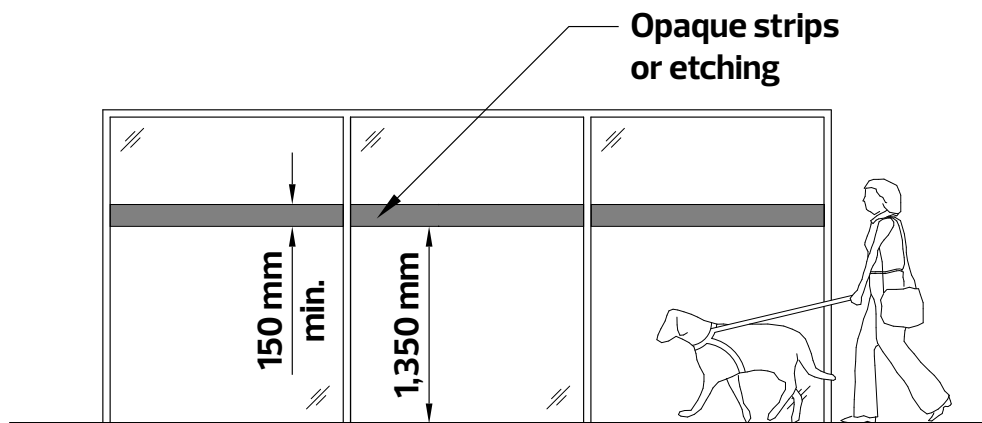
6. Where amenities are provided in shared spaces, a 1,800 mm turning diameter must be ensured at each amenity.

## C.4.5 Lobbies and Corridors

1. An accessible path of travel of minimum 1,800 mm must be provided from the main entrance of the building to visitable and adaptable dwelling units.
 

**Note:** Elevators are part of an accessible path of travel.
2. Windows in lobbies must be designed to minimize glare.
3. Any glazing in lobbies or corridors must have opaque strips or etching of minimum 150 mm width, along the entire width of glazing starting from a height of 1,350 mm from finished floor.

Refer to figure C.4.5(a).



**Figure C.4.5(a)**  
Glazing visual indicator dimensions

4. Ensure mats are flush with the surrounding floor or have edge protection to minimize tripping hazard.
5. Avoid installing doors along corridors unless required.
 

**Note:** They can impede free movement of residents and visitors, especially those using mobility devices.
6. Avoid unnecessary turns or corners that limit line of sight down the corridor.
 

**Note:** This will facilitate wayfinding and increase safety.
7. Wayfinding features such as signs, finishes and auditory signals must be consistent throughout.
8. Floor finish must allow mobility devices to roll easily.

9. Consider using distinct colour transitions using contrasting colours for floor finishes to define:
- a. entrance to major common areas such as lobby to mail room or elevators
  - b. changes in corridor direction where a main corridor branches off
  - c. entrances to amenity spaces such as gym or lounge

**Note:** This enhances wayfinding, orientation and guidance especially for individuals with cognitive disabilities and with low or no vision.

10. Corridors must be:

- a. a minimum of 1,800 mm wide.  
Refer to figure C.4.5(b).
- b. well lit, with no dark shadows or areas
- c. free of obstacles such as radiators, fire extinguishers and other wall mounted items

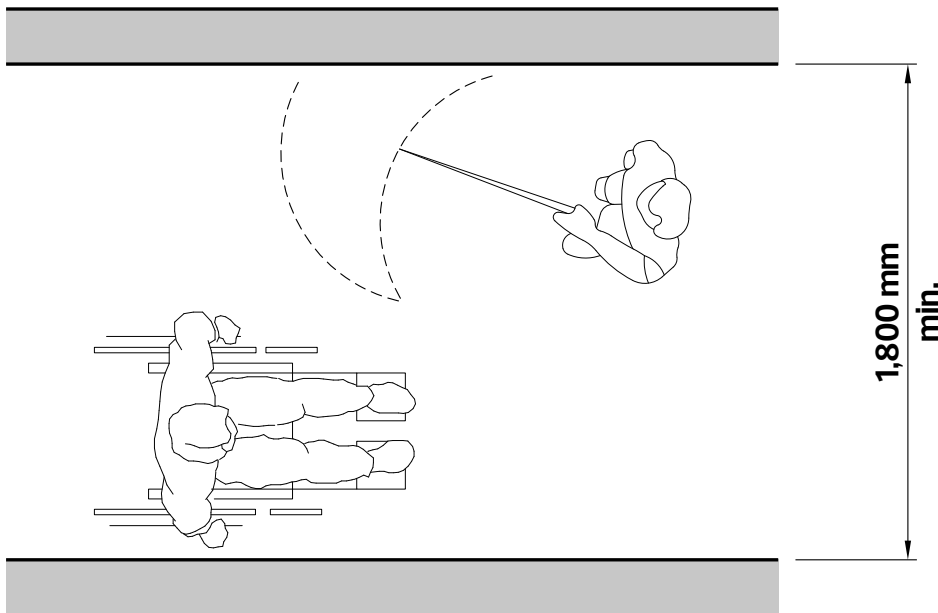


Figure C.4.5(b)  
Corridor clear width

11. Consider adding handrails on one side of the corridor.
12. Provide acoustic insulation for sound proofing for all walls and floor/ceiling assemblies separating dwelling units from each other and between dwelling units and common spaces such as corridors, lobbies and amenity areas.

**Note:** This is critical to reduce sensory overload and anxiety for individuals with cognitive disabilities or sensory sensitivities by minimizing disruptive noise transfer, enhance auditory clarity for individuals who are hard of hearing by creating a quieter environment and promote overall comfort and mental well-being.

## C.4.6 Common Areas

### C.4.6.1 Multi-Purpose Rooms

1. Furniture layout must ensure enough circulation space for wheelchair users.
2. Counters must have at least one accessible section with knee clearance.
3. Controls such as light switches must be located at a height of 1,100 mm from the finished floor, measured to the centreline of the control.

Refer to figure C.4.6.1(a).

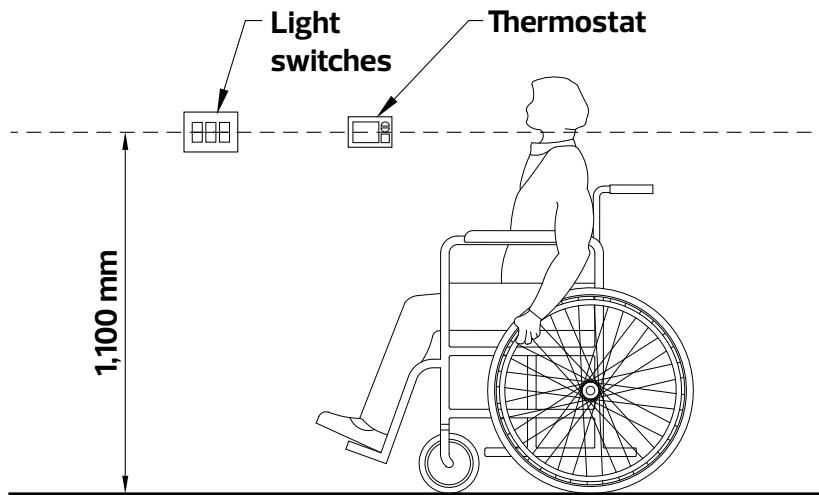


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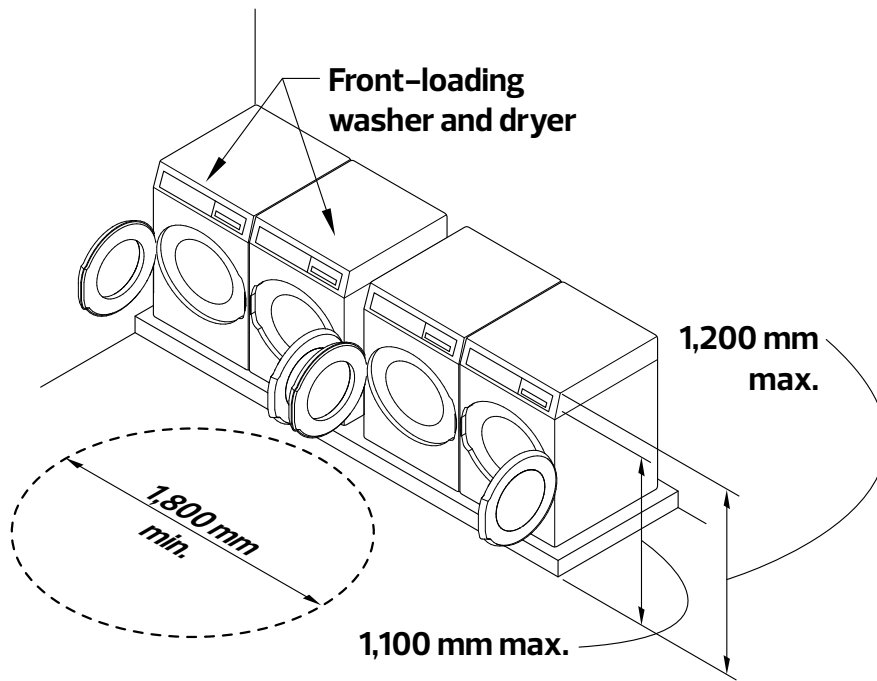
4. A universal washroom must be provided adjacent to multi-purpose areas.

### C.4.6.2 Mailboxes and Garbage Disposal Areas

1. Mailboxes and garbage disposal areas must be connected to an accessible path of travel.
2. Mailboxes must be cane-detectable and have luminance contrast with the surroundings or the wall on which it is installed.  
**Note:** The requirement to be cane-detectable only applies if mailboxes overhang into a path of travel by more than 100 mm.
3. Provide a minimum clear floor space of 800 mm by 1,350 mm at mailboxes and garbage disposal units to ensure access for people using mobility devices.
4. Operable parts of mailboxes and garbage disposal units, including locks, handles, lids and openings, must not be higher than 1,100 mm above the finished floor or ground.

### C.4.6.3 Laundry Rooms

1. If there is no laundry area inside each dwelling unit, provide a common laundry room.
2. Provide power operators for laundry room doors.
3. In common laundry rooms, at least one set of a washer and dryer must be installed side-by-side at finished floor level.  
**Note:** Stacked washers and dryer units are not accessible.
4. Provide front-loading appliances that can be operated within a height of 1,200 mm from the finished floor.
5. Laundry rooms must have a minimum clear turning diameter of 1,800 mm.  
Refer to figure C.4.6.3(a).
6. Operable parts of all payment interfaces must not be higher than 1,100 mm from the finished floor.  
Refer to figure C.4.6.3(a).



**Figure C.4.6.3(a)**  
**Laundry room appliances and turning space**

7. Sinks in laundry rooms must be operable with a closed fist without requiring tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.
8. Where counters or working spaces are provided, at least one must be 600 mm deep with its top surface between 765 and 850 mm above the finished floor. Provide a knee clearance of 800 mm wide, 485 mm deep and 685 mm high under the counter or working space.
9. Provide D-pull handles for storage shelving.

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# Reference Documents and Links

This section provides a comprehensive list of the external documents referenced in the Accessibility Design Guide. These links are provided to assist users in easily locating the supplementary resources necessary to successfully apply the requirements and best practices detailed throughout. The list is categorized based on the governing body or publisher.

## City of Edmonton

- [Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy C602A](#)
- [Accessible Parking Stalls Requests](#)
- [Active Transportation Network Wayfinding Design Guide](#)
- [Affordable Housing Accessibility Guidebook](#)
- [Breathe: Green Network Strategy](#)
- [Civic Events and Festivals Guide](#)
- [Community Garden Guidelines](#)
- [Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards Version 6](#)
- [Designing New Neighbourhoods – Guidelines for Edmonton's Future Residential Communities](#)
- [Downtown and Quarters Streetscape Manual](#)
- [Transit Centre Design Guide](#)
- [Edmonton Zoning Bylaw](#)
- [Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings and Events](#)  
(published with the Accessibility Advisory Committee)
- [Guidelines for Developer Establishment of Off-Leash Areas](#)
- [High Floor LRT Design Guidelines](#)
- [Landscape Design & Construction Standards](#)
- [Open Space Consultant Manual – Volume 1 – Design Process and Guidelines](#)
- [Parks & Open Spaces Signage Guidelines](#)

- [Playspaces and Wheeled Sport Facility Design and Construction Standards](#)
- [Public Washroom Strategy](#)
- [The Bike Plan](#)

## Government of Alberta Safety Codes Council

- [Accessibility Design Guide 2024, Government of Alberta](#)
- [National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition](#)

## Accessibility Standards Canada (ASC) & CSA Group

- [Accessibility Standards Canada – Draft Outdoor Spaces](#)
- [Accessibility Standards Canada office: a model of accessibility](#)
- [CAN-ASC-2.8:2025 Accessible-Ready Housing](#)
- [CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible Design for the Built Environment](#)
- [CSA/ASC B651.2:22 “Accessible design for self-service interactive devices including automated banking machines”](#)
- [CSA/ASC B652:23 Accessible Dwellings](#)

## City of Toronto

- [Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)
- [Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities](#)
- [Waterfront Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)

## Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

- [Clear Print Accessibility Guidelines](#)
- [Clearing our Path Version 2.0: Creating accessible environments for people impacted by blindness](#)

## Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

- [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Universal Design Guide](#)

## Other Organizations

- **Atkins Realis:** [Neuroinclusive Office Design](#)
- **Braille Literacy Canada:** [Accessible Wayfinding Signage Guidelines](#)
- **Canadian Recreation Facilities Council:** [Sledge Hockey Accessibility: Design Guidelines For Arenas](#)
- **Transportation Association of Canada:** [Emerging practice briefing](#)



## City of Edmonton Accessibility Design Guide 2026

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