



# Accessible Restrooms Planning Guide

Based on:  
2010 ADA Standards  
2017 ICC A117.1 Standards  
2019 CBC Title 24 Standards

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## INTRODUCTION

Creating accessible restrooms requires careful consideration of both regulatory compliance and human dignity. It is important to give attention to both, and this guide is intended to help designers navigate the requirements of the 2010 ADA Standards and the 2017 ICC Standards while creating spaces that effectively serve all users, regardless of ability. The goal extends beyond mere compliance and aims to create restrooms that are genuinely welcoming and functional for people with diverse abilities and needs.

Modern accessibility standards recognize that restrooms must accommodate wheelchair users, people with mobility devices, individuals with visual or hearing impairments, and those who may need assistance from caregivers. The design process should consider not just the minimum requirements but also the practical realities of how people move through and use these essential spaces.

## KNOW THE STANDARDS

This guide addresses three accessibility standards that may apply to your project. The first is the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The baseline requirement nationwide, ADA is federal civil rights law that applies to commercial facilities and places of public accommodation and commercial facilities.

There are updates to ADA taking place in 2026, but do not specifically impact public restrooms, though changes to other standards over the past several years may impact design requirement on your project.

One of these, ICC A117.1-2017 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, is a technical standard referenced by the International Building Code (IBC). It is increasingly being adopted by states and municipalities as part of their building codes. And 2019 California Building Code (CBC) Title 24 are California-specific requirements. These are noted where they differ from ADA/ICC standards.

Always verify which codes have been adopted in your project jurisdiction before beginning design. Contact your local building official or Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to confirm applicable standards.

## UNDERSTANDING THE 2017 ICC STANDARDS UPDATES

The 2017 ICC Standards introduce a significant philosophical shift by distinguishing between requirements for new construction and existing buildings. This change acknowledges the practical challenges of retrofitting older structures while establishing higher expectations for new facilities. For new buildings, the standards require larger clear floor spaces, expanding from the traditional 30 inches by 48 inches to 30 inches by 52 inches minimum. This additional four inches of length may seem modest, but it makes a meaningful difference in maneuverability for wheelchair users.

Similarly, wheelchair turning spaces have grown from a 60-inch diameter minimum to 67 inches for new construction, while existing buildings may retain the smaller dimension. The T-shaped turning space options have also expanded, offering designers more flexibility with configurations ranging from the standard 60-inch by 60-inch square to larger rectangles measuring 68 inches by 60 inches with various arm configurations. These changes reflect a deeper understanding of how people actually navigate spaces and the reality that modern mobility equipment may be larger than earlier standards anticipated.

These dimensional increases affect numerous aspects of restroom design, from clear floor space at lavatories to clearances around doors and in hallways. However, the size of standard accessible toilet compartments and shower dimensions remain unchanged, creating an interesting balance between innovation and proven functionality.

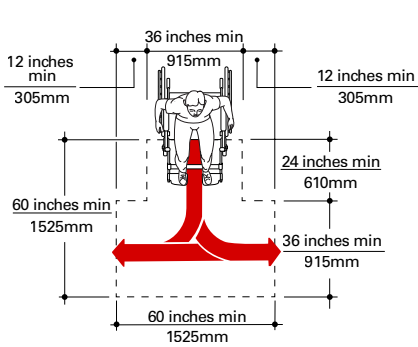
## UNDERSTANDING CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODES (CBC)

This document includes the 2019 California Building Code (CBC) Title 24 information in addition to ADA and ICC codes as indicated where necessary.

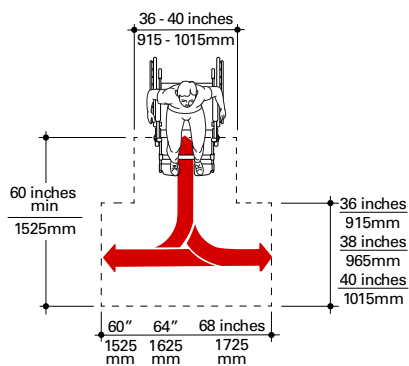
Below are several of the most important and notable updates and changes to pay attention to:

- **Wheelchair Clear Floor Space** in new buildings is 30 inches by 52 inches (760 by 1320mm) minimum; in existing buildings, no change, 30 inches by 48 inches (760 by 1220mm) minimum.
- **Circular Wheelchair Turning Space** in new buildings is 67 inches (1700mm) minimum diameter; in existing buildings, no change 60 inches (1525mm) minimum diameter.
- **T-Shaped Wheelchair Turning Space** in new buildings is 68 inches minimum by 60 inches minimum (1725 by 1525mm) rectangle with arms and base minimum 36 inches (915mm) wide. Also, two 64 inches minimum by 60 inches minimum (1625 by 1525mm) options each with different side arm dimensions, 38 inches minimum and 40 inches (965 by 1015mm) minimum; existing buildings, no change 60 inches by 60 inches (1525 by 1525mm) minimum square space with arms and base minimum 36 inches (915mm) wide.

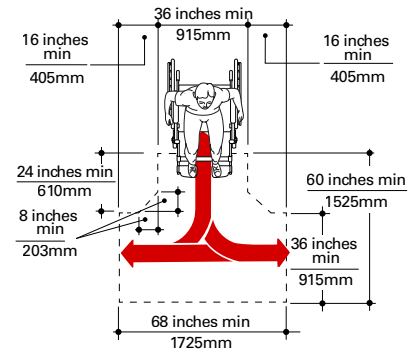
**Fig. 1 T-Shaped Turning Spaces**



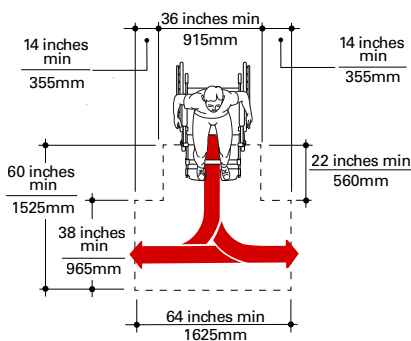
**Fig. 1a T-Shaped Turning Space.**  
2010 ADA, 2017 ICC Existing Building



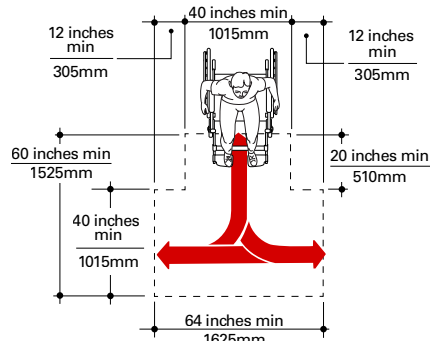
**Fig. 1b T-Shaped Turning Space.**  
2017 ICC Standards



**Fig. 1c T-Shaped Turning Space.**  
2017 ICC New Buildings



**Fig. 1d T-Shaped Turning Space.**  
2017 ICC New Buildings



**Fig. 1e T-Shaped Turning Space.**  
2017 ICC New Building

- **Alternate Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Compartment:** 60 inches minimum width by 84 inches minimum (1525 by 2135mm) depth.
- **Ambulatory Accessible Toilet Compartment:** width range 35 inches (890mm) minimum to 37 inches (940mm) maximum; (was 36 inches (915mm) absolute width).
- **Toe Clearance** remains at 12 inches (305mm) high but now must extend 8 inches (205mm) (was 6 inches (150mm) beyond compartment front and one side, exclusive of partition stiles. Toe clearance at front and side is not required on compartment greater than 67 inches (1700mm) in depth and 68 inches (1725mm) in width (was 65 inches (1650mm) in depth and 66 inches (1675mm) in

Fig. 2

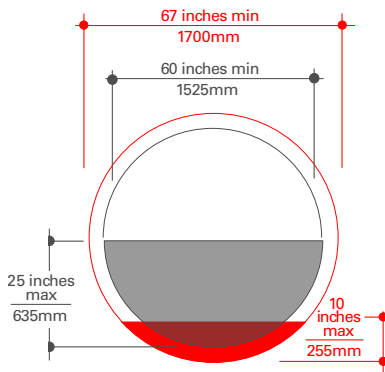


Fig. 2a 67 inch (1700mm)  
Overlap Knee and Toe Clearance  
(2017 ICC New Buildings)

Fig. 2b 60 inch (1525mm)  
Overlap Knee and Toe Clearance  
(2010 ADA, 2017 ICC Existing Buildings)



Ambulatory Stall



ADA Accessible Stall

## **ADOPTION TRENDS AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Since its publication in 2017, ICC A117.1-2017 has been increasingly adopted by states and municipalities as part of their building codes. As of 2026, jurisdictions adopting IBC 2018 or IBC 2021 typically reference ICC A117.1-2017 for technical accessibility requirements.

The practical effect of this adoption pattern is that designers must often meet both the currently applicable 2010 ADA Standards (federal requirement) and ICC A117.1-2017 (local building code requirement). Since ICC A117.1-2017 is generally more stringent for new construction, compliance with ICC A117.1-2017 will typically satisfy ADA requirements.

Following are instances where ICC A117.1-2017 exceeds 2010 ADA requirements in new buildings:

- **Clear Floor Space:** ICC requires 30" x 52" vs. ADA's 30" x 48"
- **Wheelchair Turning Space:** ICC requires 67" diameter vs. ADA's 60"
- **T-Shaped Turning Space:** ICC offers additional configurations up to 68" x 60" vs. ADA's single 60" x 60" option
- **Toe Clearance:** ICC requires 12" height and 8" depth vs. ADA's 9" height and 6" depth (with exceptions for larger compartments)
- **Ambulatory Accessible Compartments:** ICC allows range of 35"-37" vs. ADA's absolute 36" width
- **Vertical Grab Bars:** ICC requires 18" vertical grab bars in wheelchair accessible compartment, while ADA does not

For alterations to existing buildings, ICC A117.1-2017 maintains the same dimensions as 2010 ADA Standards, recognizing the practical challenges of retrofitting older structures.

**Recommendation:** For new construction, design to ICC A117.1-2017 standards even if your jurisdiction has not yet adopted them.

- Future-proofs the design against code updates
- Provides better accessibility for users with modern mobility equipment
- Avoids potential compliance issues if codes are updated during construction
- Creates minimal additional cost when incorporated from project start

## **EMBRACING UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

While compliance with accessibility codes forms the foundation of good restroom design, universal design principles elevate spaces to serve building occupants more effectively. Universal Design recognizes that features intended for people with disabilities often benefit all users, creating a more inclusive and pleasant environment for everyone.

Clear pathways between fixtures and accessories serve wheelchair users but also benefit parents with strollers, travelers with luggage, and anyone carrying packages. Touchless controls, initially developed for accessibility, have become standard features appreciated by all users for their convenience and hygiene benefits. Door-free entrances in larger restrooms eliminate barriers for people with mobility limitations while making the space more welcoming and easier to navigate for everyone.

The concept extends to grab bars at urinals, which provide stability for people with balance issues while remaining unobtrusive for other users. Full-height mirrors accommodate people of varying heights and those using wheelchairs while offering a complete view for all users. When designing shower compartments, specifying depths of 48 or 60 inches rather than the 30-inch minimum creates spaces that better contain water, accommodate shower chairs, and allow caregivers to assist users when necessary.

Accessibility standards, like 2010 ADA and 2017 ICC, have many prescriptive design and construction specifications that are required by law, and it's good practice to design beyond the minimums to avoid the risk of non-compliance. A review of the 2017 ADA Standards: 104.1.1 Construction and Manufacturing Tolerances is recommended.

Following are some examples of clear floor space dimension spelled out in standards:

- **Clear Floor Space at Lavatory and Accessories** 2017 ICC New Buildings: 30 x 52 Inches, (760 x 1320mm)  
2010 ADA, 2017 ICC Existing Buildings, 30 x 48 inches, (760 x 1220mm)
- **Clear Floor Space at Toilet in Accessible Compartment:** 56 x 60 inches (1420 x 1525mm)
- **Clear Floor Space at Adult Changing Station:** across the length of changing station and on at least one end. 36 inches (915mm) deep – proposed
- **Clear Floor Space at Bathtub (with permanent seat):** 30 inches (760mm) wide by length of tub, plus seat (15 inches (380mm)), plus 12 inches (305mm). For example, with a 60 inch (1525mm) long tub, 30 x 87 inches (760 x 2210mm).
- **Clear Floor Space at Bathtub (without permanent seat):** 30 inches (760mm) wide by length of tub. For example, with a 60 inch (1525mm) long tub, 30 x 60 inches (760 x 1525mm).

- **Clear Floor Space Next to Shower Room Bench:** 2017 ICC New Buildings, 30 x 52 Inches, (760 x 1320mm), 2010 ADA, 2017 ICC Existing Buildings, 30 x 48 inches, (760 x 1220mm)
- **Clear Floor Space at Bathtub (without permanent seat):** 30 inches (760mm) wide by length of tub. For example, with a 60-inch (1525 mm) long tub, 30 x 60 inches, (760 x 1525mm)
- **Clear Floor Space Next to Shower Room Bench:** 2017 ICC New Buildings, 30 x 52 inches (760 x 1320mm), 2010 ADA, 2017 ICC Existing Buildings, 30 x 48 inches (760 x 1220 mm)
- **Clear Floor Space at Standard Roll-In Shower Compartment:** 30 x 60 inches (760 x 1525mm)
- **Clear Floor Space at Transfer Shower Compartment:** 2017 ICC New Buildings, 36 x 52 inches (915 x 1320mm), 2010 ADA, 2017 ICC Existing Buildings, 36 x 48 inches (915 x 1220mm)

**Comparison: Clear Floor Space at Lavatory**

2010 ADA

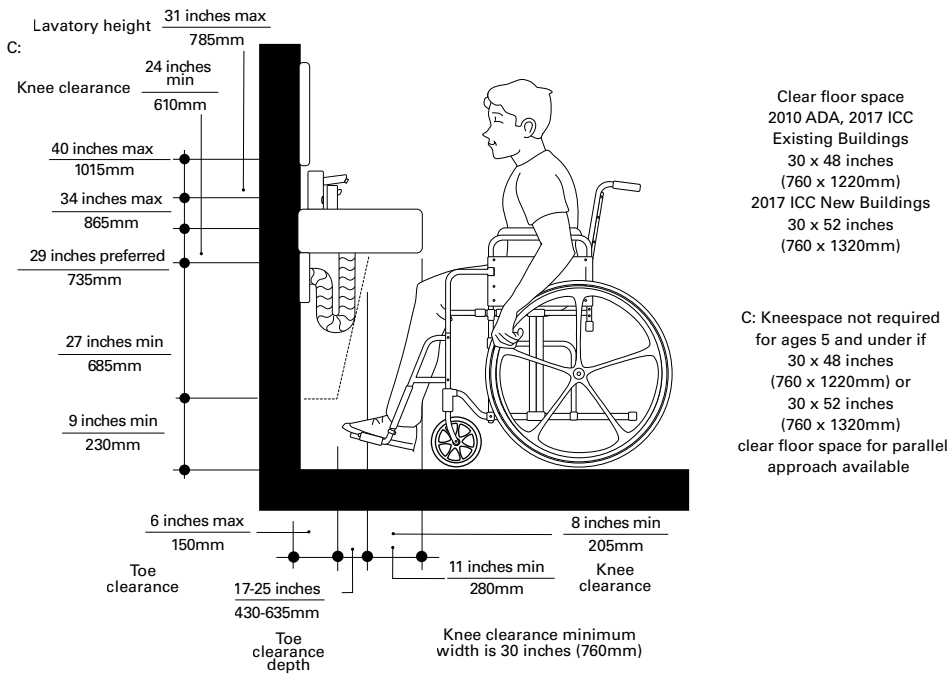
- New or Existing: 30" x 48" (760 x 1220mm) minimum

ICC A117.1-2017

- New Construction: 30" x 52" (760 x 1320mm) minimum
- Existing Buildings: 30" x 48" (760 x 1220mm) minimum

*Use whichever is more restrictive for your project type.*

**Fig. 3 Lavatory Clearances**



*Note: C: For Children*

## NAVIGATING REACH RANGES AND MOUNTING HEIGHTS

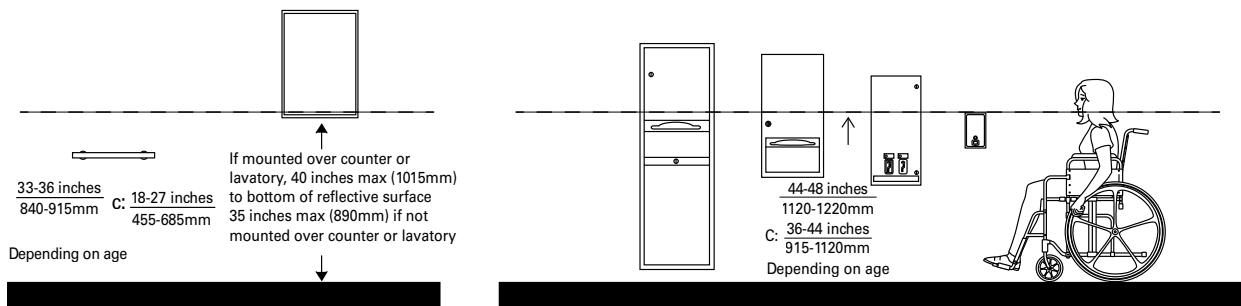
Understanding reach ranges determines where every element in the restroom can be placed. The basic principle requires that operable parts of accessories be positioned no lower than 15 inches (380mm) and no higher than 48 inches (1220mm) above the finished floor. This range becomes more restrictive when accessories are mounted above obstructions, shifting the requirement to between 44 inches and 48 inches (1120 and 1220mm) above the finished floor.

The 2017 ICC Standards require specific mounting heights for paper towel dispensers and hand dryers positioned near accessible lavatories where reaching is obstructed. When mounted on perpendicular walls or behind obstructions, their heights must be reduced based on reach depth:

- At 2 inches (51mm) depth: maximum 46 inches (1170mm) height
- At 6 inches (150mm) depth: maximum 40 inches (1015mm) height
- At 11 inches (280mm) depth: maximum 34 inches (865mm) height

This scaled approach ensures accessibility even in challenging locations and requires careful design coordination. The 2017 ICC Standards require designated accessible lavatories in larger restrooms to have soap dispensers and faucets positioned no more than 11 inches (280mm) deep from the front edge. This requirement applies to only one lavatory per restroom but represents an important advancement in practical accessibility.

**Fig. 4 Mounting Heights for Restroom Accessories**



*Note: C: For Children*

## NAVIGATING REACH RANGES AND MOUNTING HEIGHTS (continued)

Children's reach ranges vary substantially by age and require different dimensional standards:

- Ages 3-4: 20 to 36 inches (510 to 915mm)
- Ages 5-8: 18 to 40 inches (455 to 1015mm)
- Ages 9-12: 16 to 44 inches (405 to 1120mm)

These ranges affect toilet design comprehensively. Water closet centerlines range from 12 inches (305mm) for youngest children to 15-18 inches (380-455mm) for older children. Toilet seat heights progress from 11-12 inches (280-305mm) for ages 3-4 up to 15-17 inches (380-430mm) for ages 9-12.

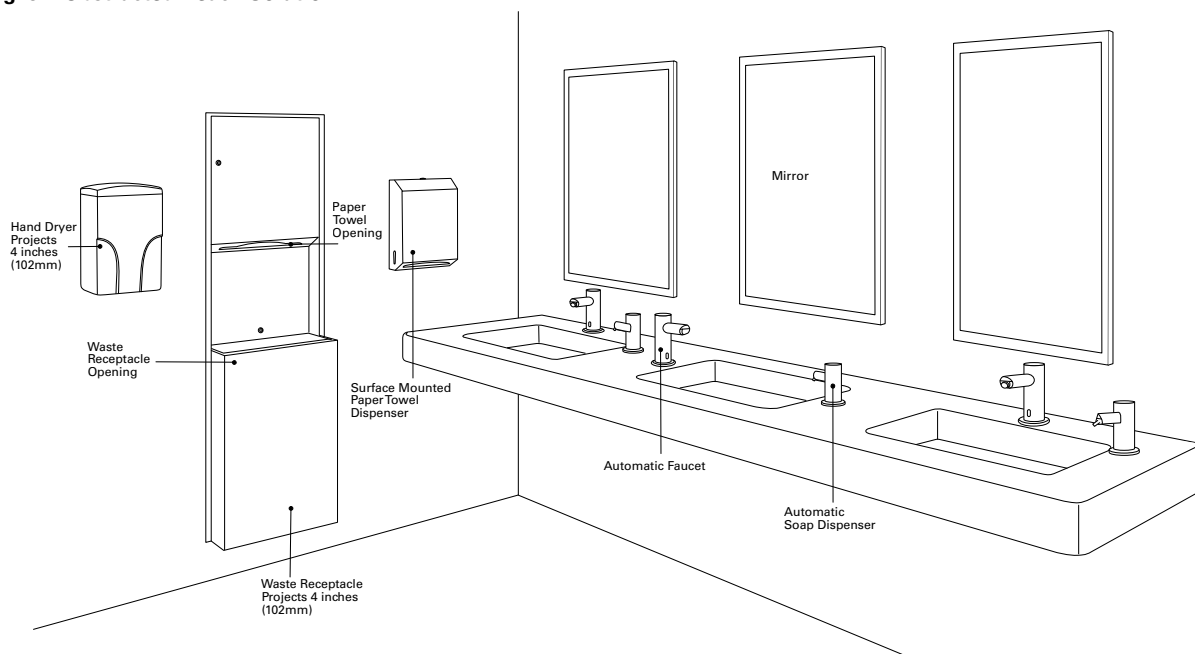
Horizontal grab bars are mounted at 18-20 inches (455-510mm) for youngest users, progressing to 25-27 inches (635-685mm) for older children. Toilet tissue dispensers range from 14 inches (355mm) height for ages 3-4 to 17-19 inches (430-485mm) for ages 9-12.

The complexity of reach range requirements emphasizes the importance of early design coordination. Rather than designing to minimum dimensions, adding modest increases to critical measurements provides insurance against construction variations that could result in non-compliance. When multiple user groups will use the same facility, designers must carefully balance competing dimensional requirements through duplicate accessories at different heights or adjustable mounting systems.

### CBC:

Forward or Side Reach for ages 9-12, High (Max) 44", Low (Min) 16", Mounting Locations 15-18 inches. Water Closet Centerline 15-17 inches, Toilet Seat Height 25-27 inches, Grab Bar Height 17-19 inches.

Fig. 5 Obstructed Reach Solution



## **DESIGN FOR FUNCTION AND SAFETY**

The entrance to any restroom sets the tone for accessibility throughout the space. Doors must operate with no more than 5 pounds of force, and hardware should be operable with one hand without requiring tight grasping or twisting motions. Lever handles, push bars, and U-shaped pulls all meet this requirement effectively. Raised thresholds should be avoided entirely, but when necessary for waterproofing or other technical reasons, they must be beveled and limited to one-half inch in height.

Toilet compartments are among the most complex aspect of accessible restroom design, requiring precise coordination of dimensions, door swings, grab bar placement, and accessory mounting. Standard accessible compartments must measure at least 60 inches wide by 59 inches deep (1524 x 1499mm), with the door positioned to allow proper maneuvering clearance. The ambulatory accessible compartment, required in restrooms with six or more fixtures, serves people who can walk but may need support, featuring a narrower width of 35 to 37 inches (889 to 940mm) and vertical grab bars for additional stability.

Grab bars throughout the restroom must support a minimum of 250 pounds of force and be positioned according to specific dimensional requirements that vary by fixture type. These elements are not merely compliance items but genuine safety features that can prevent falls and provide essential support. Their placement requires careful coordination with other accessories and consideration of both left- and right-handed users.

Lavatories in accessible restrooms should be wall-hung with insulated or enclosed piping below to provide knee clearance while protecting users from hot surfaces. The clear floor space requirements vary between existing and new buildings, but in all cases must allow for forward approach and proper positioning for use. In larger restrooms, at least one lavatory must meet the enhanced reach requirements with soap dispensers and faucets positioned for easy access.

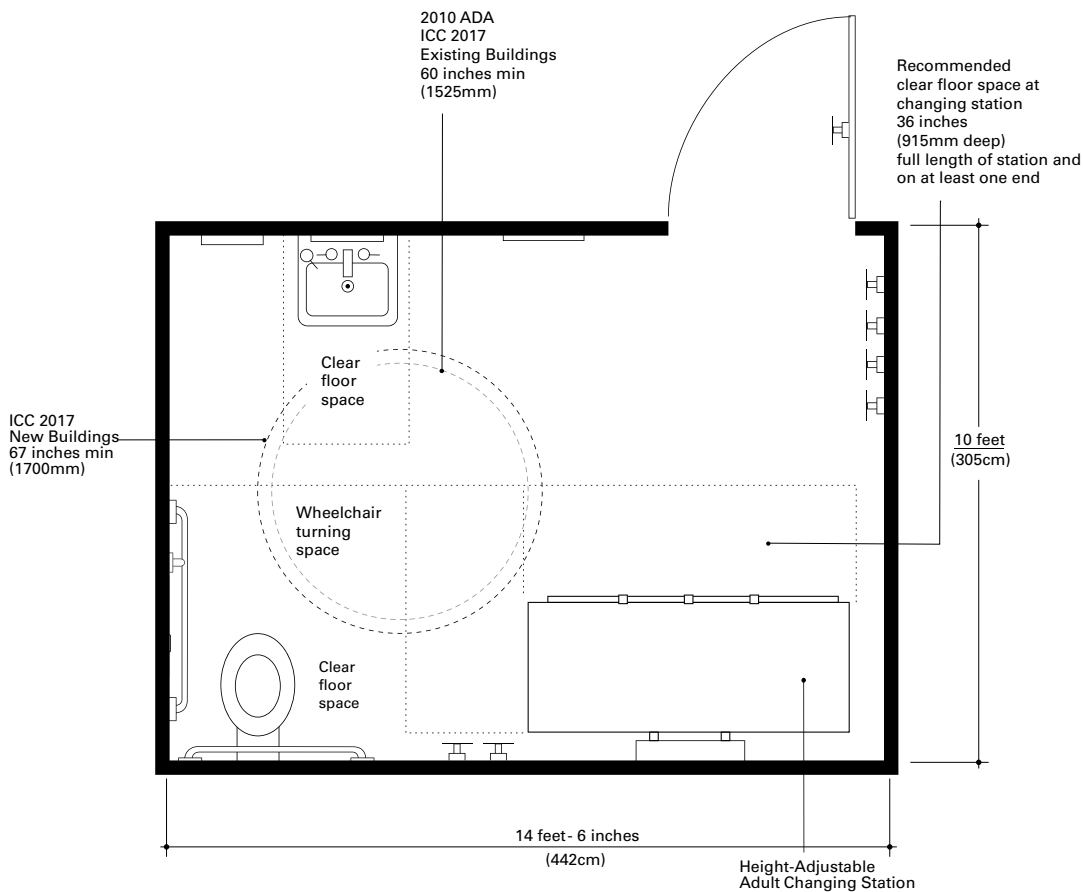
## SHOWER AND BATHING FACILITY DESIGN

Shower design represents one of the most technically challenging aspects of accessible restroom planning, requiring careful attention to threshold details, grab bar placement, and clear floor space. Transfer showers, measuring 36 inches by 36 inches (914 x 914mm) minimum, include a folding seat and require clear floor space that varies between 48 inches by 36 inches (1219 x 914mm) for existing buildings and 52 inches by 36 inches (1320 x 914mm) for new construction. The grab bar configuration follows specific patterns designed to provide maximum support during transfers.

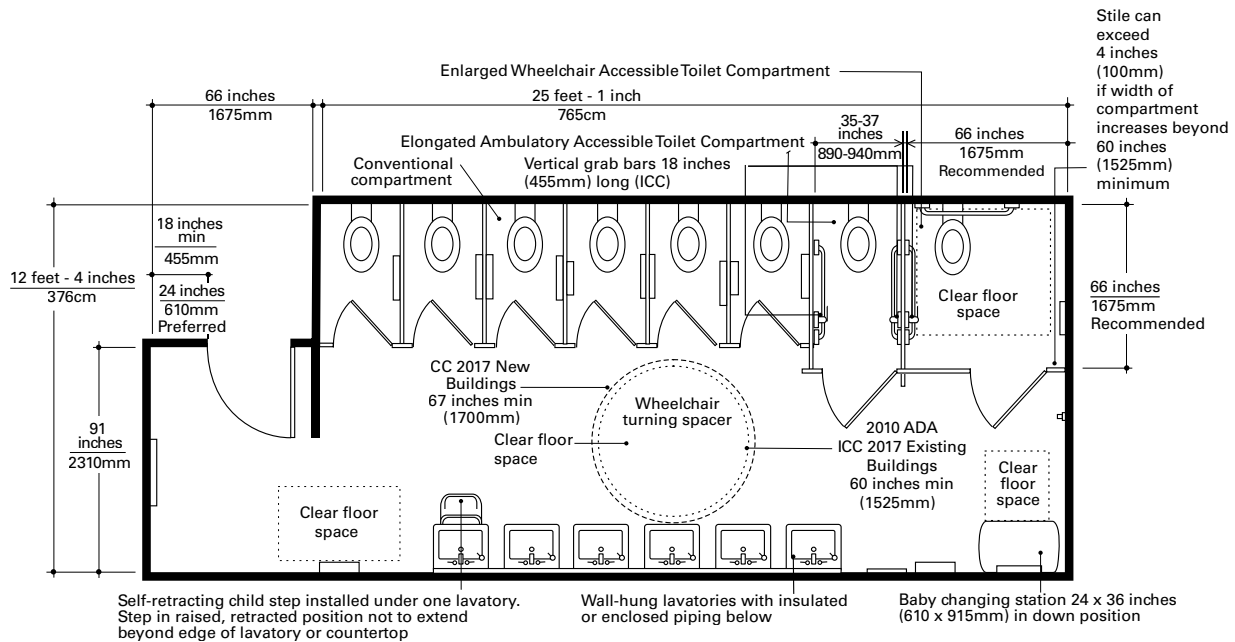
Roll-in showers eliminate the transfer requirement entirely by providing a flush threshold or maximum one-half inch beveled threshold. These compartments measure 30 x 60 inches (762 x 1524mm) minimum and may include an optional fold-down seat. The larger clear floor space requirements for new buildings also apply here, affecting the overall restroom layout significantly.

Bathtub installations require clear floor space along the length of the tub plus additional space for a seat, whether portable or permanent. The total clear floor space typically measures 30 inches (762mm) deep by the tub length plus 15 inches (381mm) for the seat and 12 inches (305mm) for maneuvering space. This can result in substantial space requirements, particularly for standard 60-inch (1219mm) tubs requiring 30 inches by 87 inches (762 x 2210mm) of clear floor space.

Fig. 6 Individual Toilet Room with Adult Changing Station



**Fig. 7 Women's Large Restroom with Single Door Entry**



**CBC:**

Toilet Compartments: Wheelchair Accessible Front or Side Entrance  
60" min. width. Min. 60" wide: x 36" min. deep maneuvering space in front of toilet in compartment with side-opening door; x 48" min. deep maneuvering space in front of toilet in compartment with end-opening door.

Toilet centerline, 17"-18" side wall/panel. Toilet diagonally across from door.  
Requires 92"-95" long compartments, with inswinging doors.

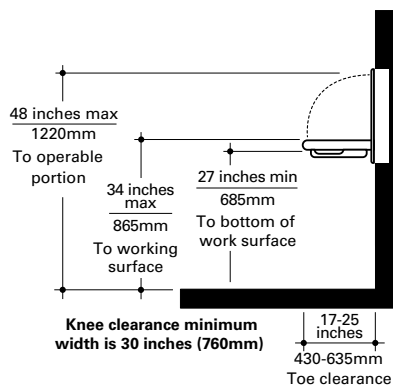
## ACCESSORIES AND AMENITIES

Restroom accessories extend far beyond basic functionality to include elements that make the space more convenient and dignified for all users. Toilet tissue dispensers must feature theft-resistant mechanisms while remaining easy to operate, positioned between 7 and 9 inches (178 and 229mm) from the front of the toilet when serving accessible compartments. Paper towel dispensers and hand dryers must be positioned within reach ranges and may require lower mounting heights when positioned perpendicular to accessible lavatories.

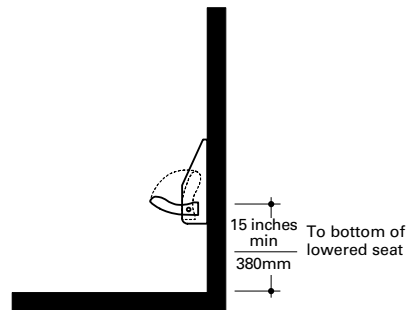
Baby changing stations have become standard amenities. They measure 18 by 36 inches in the down position and require their own 30- by 48-inch (762 by 1219mm) clear floor space. Adult changing stations, essential in care facilities and increasingly common in public spaces, require larger clear floor spaces and careful positioning to accommodate both the user and caregiver safely.

Mobile device holders, while not required by accessibility codes, are the kind of practical amenity that enhances the user experience for everyone. These elements acknowledge that people carry phones and other devices that need temporary storage during restroom use. Similarly, clothing hooks positioned at various heights serve users of different statures and abilities.

**Fig. 8 Accessories for Infants and Small Children**

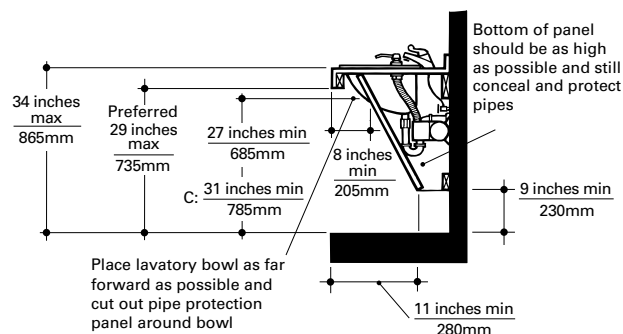


**Fig. 8a Baby Changing Station.**



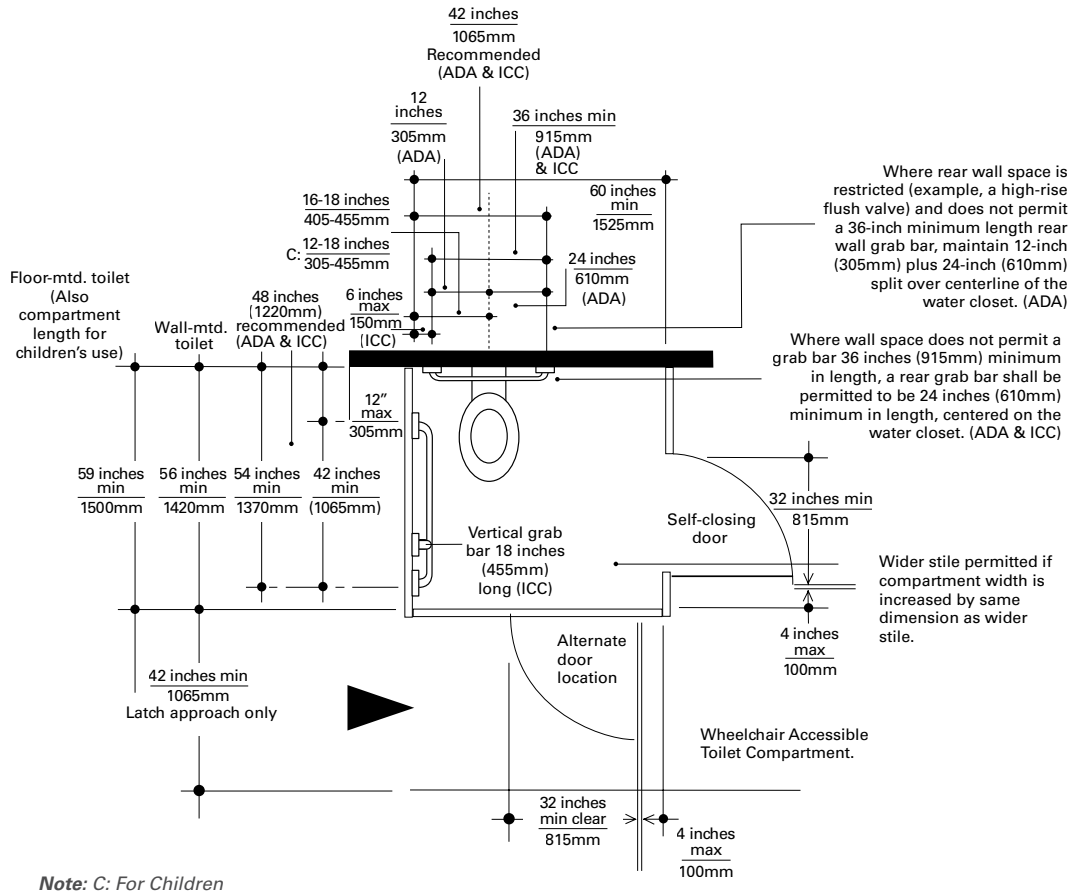
**Fig. 8b Child Protection Seat.**

**Fig. 9 Protective Panel Under Lavatory**

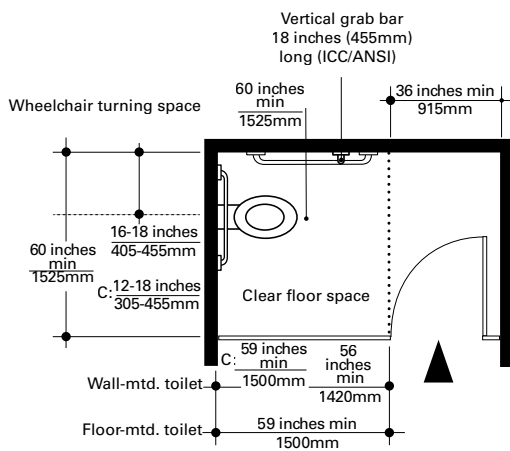


*Note: C: For Children*

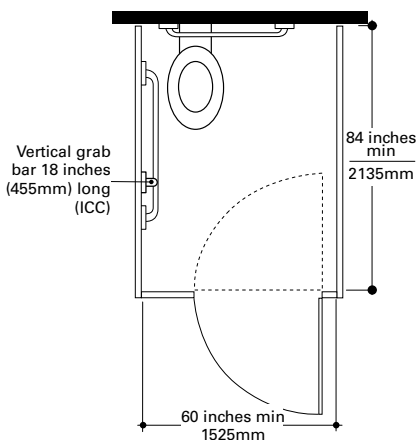
**Fig. 10 Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Compartment**



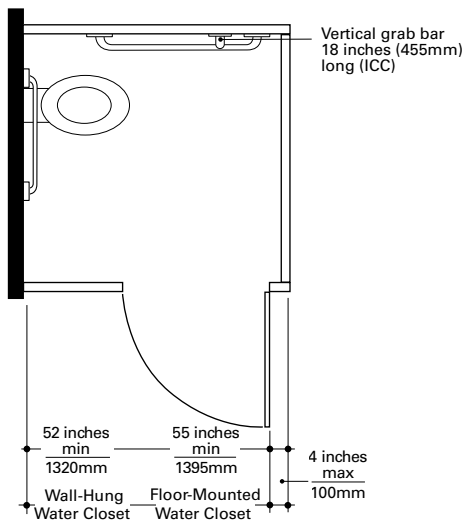
**Fig. 11 Large Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Compartment**



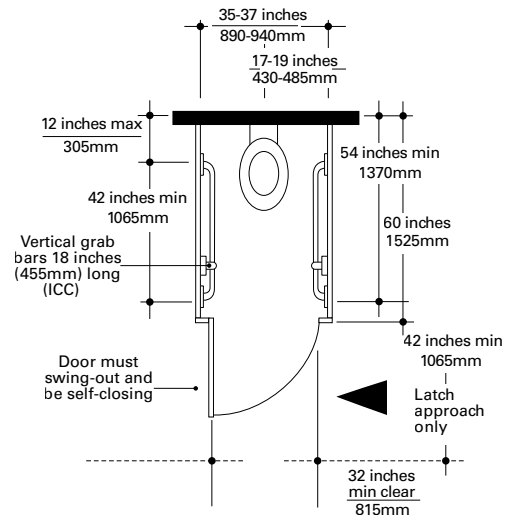
**Fig. 12 Alternate Wheelchair Toilet Compartment**



**Fig. 13 Wheelchair Toilet Compartment Side Door**



**Fig. 14 Ambulatory Accessible Toilet Compartment**



## SCALING FOR DIFFERENT RESTROOM TYPES

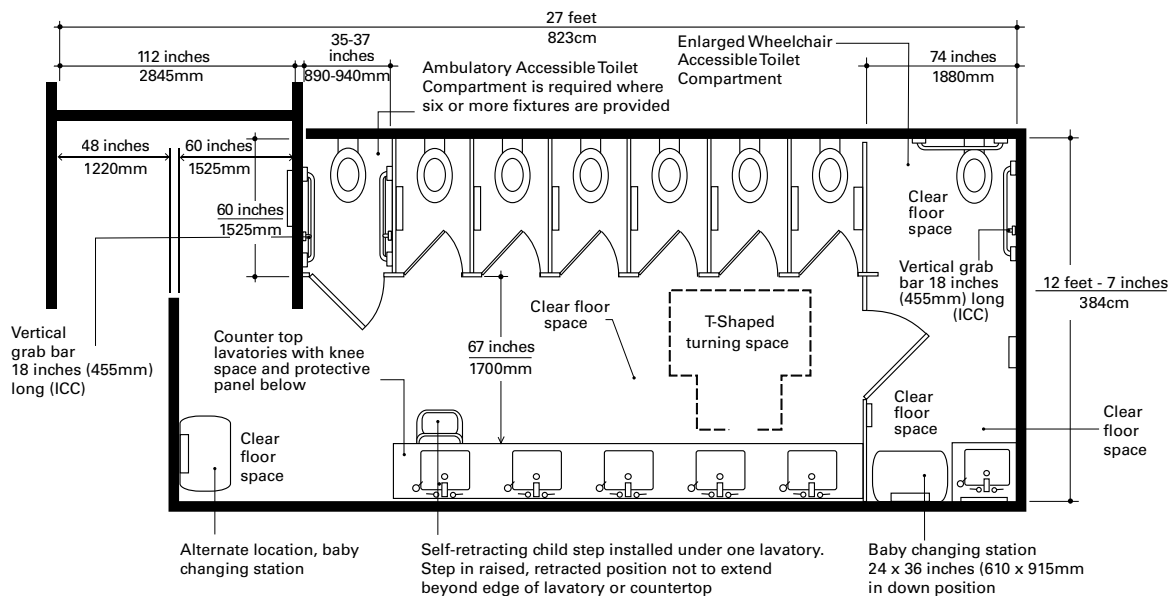
Large public restrooms allow for comprehensive accessibility features including multiple accessible compartments, ambulatory accessible compartments, and generous circulation space. The wheelchair turning space requirements of 60 or 67 inches (1524 or 1702mm) diameter can often be accommodated without compromising other functions, and door-free entrances become practical solutions that benefit all users.

These larger spaces also accommodate the enhanced lavatory requirements more easily, allowing designers to provide the required accessible features without compromising the overall layout. Multiple shower compartments in athletic or recreational facilities can include various accessibility options, from transfer showers to roll-in compartments with adjacent dressing areas.

Small public restrooms present greater design challenges, requiring creative solutions to accommodate accessibility requirements within limited square footage. Every dimension becomes critical, and designers must carefully balance the wheelchair turning space requirements with the need for adequate clear floor space at each fixture. Strategic positioning of the accessible toilet compartment can help achieve the required circulation space while maintaining efficient layouts.

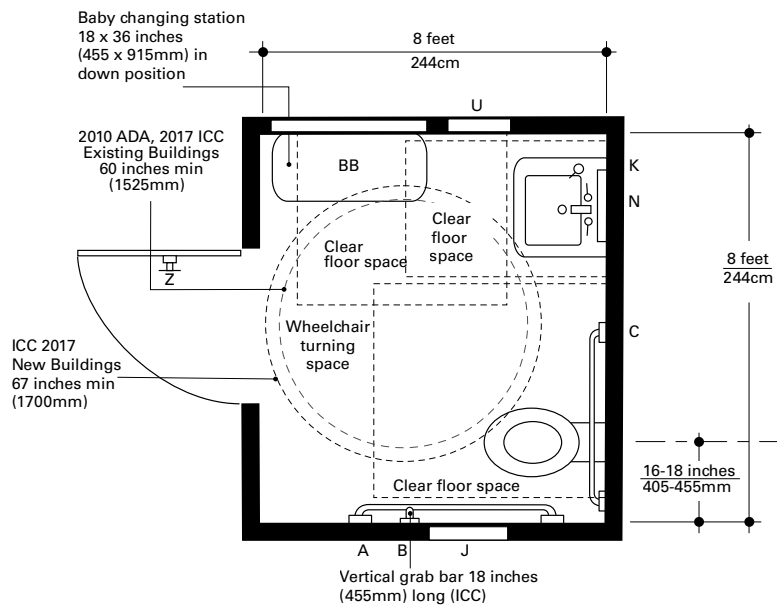
Individual toilet rooms represent the most constrained design challenge, requiring all accessible features within the smallest possible footprint. The wheelchair turning space often determines the minimum room size, with careful accessory placement essential to maintaining clear floor spaces at all fixtures.

Fig. 15 Women's Large Restroom with Open Vestibule





**Fig. 18 Individual Toilet Room with Baby Changing Station**



**LEGEND**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A-C 7801 Omara Grab Bar</p> <p>J: 0487-L Traditional™ ADA-Compliant Toilet Tissue &amp; Seat Cover Dispenser W/Waste Disposal – Recessed</p> <p>K: 0332 Lavatory Basin Liquid Soap Dispenser 4" Spout, 4" Shank – 34 oz.</p> <p>N: 0600 Stainless Steel Inter-Lok Angle Frame Mirror – Variable Reflective Surfaces and Sizes</p> | <p>U: 0469 Traditional™ Paper Towel Dispenser &amp; Waste Receptacle – Recessed</p> <p>Z: 7312 Double Robe Hook</p> <p>BB: 9018 Baby Changing Station, Horizontal – Stainless Steel, Recessed</p> |
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## **PLANNING FOR SUCCESS AND LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE**

Successful accessible restroom design requires attention to details that extend beyond the basic dimensional requirements. Construction tolerances for accessibility features are often much tighter than standard building practices, requiring careful specification and quality control during installation. Rather than designing to minimum dimensions, adding modest increases to critical measurements provides insurance against construction variations that could result in non-compliance.

Coordination with local building codes remains essential, as many jurisdictions have requirements that exceed federal accessibility standards. Some states and municipalities require additional features, different dimensional standards, or specific equipment types that affect the overall design approach.

The design process should also consider maintenance access for all installed elements. Accessories mounted at accessible heights must remain serviceable, and installation methods should anticipate the eventual need for replacement or repair. This long-term thinking ensures that accessible features continue to function properly throughout the building's lifespan.

Planning for diverse users means considering not just the primary disability-related requirements but also the needs of families, caregivers, and people with temporary limitations. A parent assisting a child, a person recovering from surgery, or someone carrying heavy packages all benefit from thoughtfully designed accessible features.

Modern accessible restroom design represents a significant evolution from the basic compliance approach of earlier eras. By understanding both the technical requirements and the human needs they address, designers can create spaces that truly serve everyone with dignity and functionality. The goal is restrooms that work well for people with disabilities not as an afterthought or special accommodation, but as an integral part of good design that benefits all users.

Accessible toilet compartments serve users with diverse mobility needs and transfer methods. They are required in all public restrooms and are one of the foundations of inclusive restroom design. These compartments must accommodate people who use wheelchairs, mobility devices, or who require additional support for stability and balance. Understanding the various compartment types and their specific requirements enables designers to create truly functional spaces that serve all users with dignity.

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TOILET COMPARTMENTS

The basic wheelchair accessible toilet compartment remains the most common configuration in public restrooms. These compartments must measure at least 60 inches wide by 59 inches deep (1525 x 1500mm) for floor-mounted toilets, or 60 inches wide by 56 inches deep (1525 x 1420mm) for wall-hung toilets. The minimum width, measured perpendicular from the side wall, is 60 inches (1525mm) in all cases.

The compartment provides sufficient space for wheelchair users to maneuver into position at the toilet. It should be noted that full circular wheelchair turning space is not required inside the compartment unless a lavatory is included. This is an important distinction from general room requirements and acknowledges that the primary focus in compartment design is transfer access rather than general circulation.

Toilet positioning within the compartment calls for a level of precision and coordination. The toilet centerline must be at least 16 inches (405mm) to a maximum of 18 inches (455mm) from the side wall or partition. The offset position provides proper approach angles for wheelchair users while maintaining adequate space for grab bars to be installed and used.

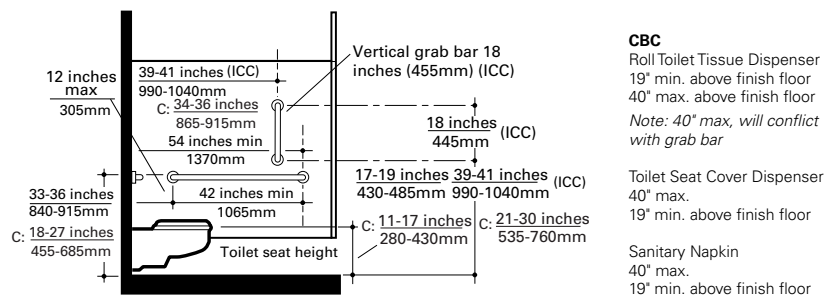
### Toilet Tissue Dispenser Placement:

- ADA 2010: Measures from toilet centerline (7"-9" from front edge)
- ICC A117.1-2017: Measures from rear wall (24"-42" from rear wall to outlet)
- ICC also allows lower mounting (15" min) for dual-roll dispensers ≤5" diameter

*Note: Different measurement references can lead to different dispenser locations*

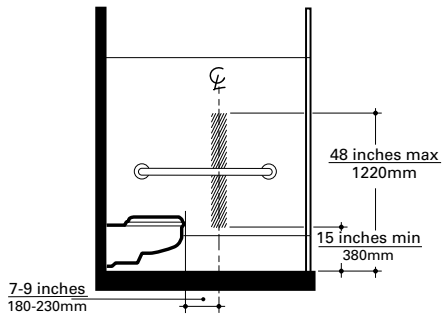
Note that while the 2017 ICC Standards have increased clear floor space and turning requirements in many areas, the required sizes of accessible toilet compartments remain unchanged for both new construction and existing buildings. This consistency reflects the proven functionality of these dimensions over decades of use.

**Fig. 19 Toilets, Grab Bars and Accessory Locations**

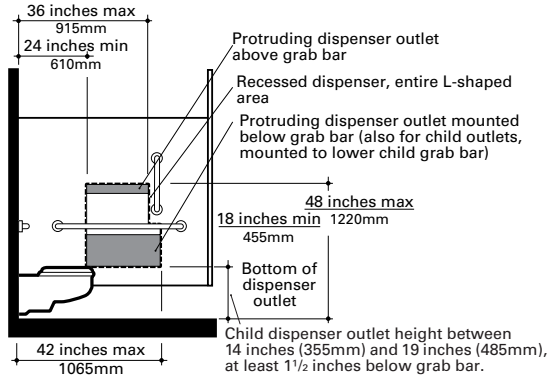


**Fig. 19a Seat Height and Grab Bar Locations (2010 ADA, 2017 ICC)**

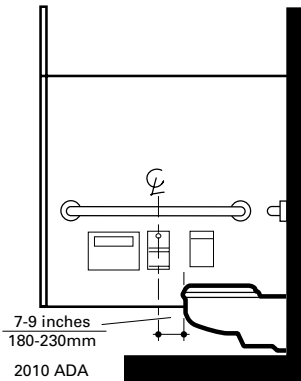
*Note: C: For Children*



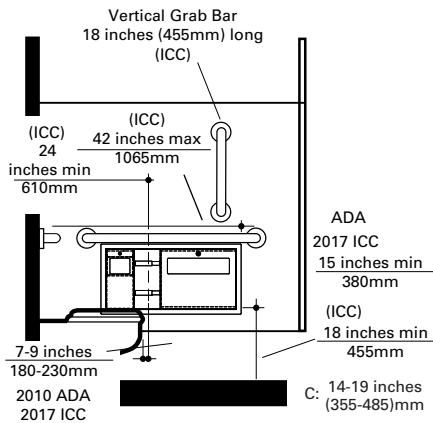
**Fig. 19b** Outlet Location for Toilet Paper Dispenser (2010 ADA). (2017 ICC Dispenser Two Rolls not more than 5 inches (125mm) in diameter)



**Fig. 19c** Outlet Location for Toilet Paper Dispenser (2017 ICC)



**Fig. 19d** Individual Accessories (2010 ADA).

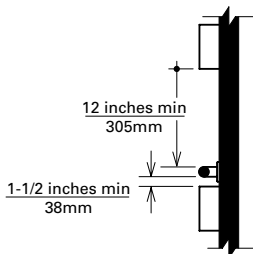


**Fig. 19e** Combination Accessories (2010 ADA, 2017 ICC).

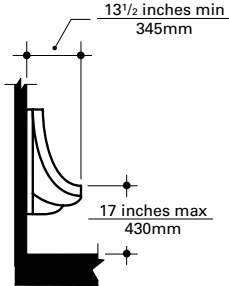
Note: C: For Children

**CBC**  
Toilet Tissue Dispensers  
19" min/40"  
Mounting Height Over  
Counters 40" max  
  
Minimum mounting  
height 19" (482mm) above  
finished floor (AFF)

**Fig. 20** Protruding Objects Mounted Near Grab Bars



**Fig. 21** Wall Hung Urinal Location



## LARGE AND ALTERNATE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TOILET COMPARTMENTS

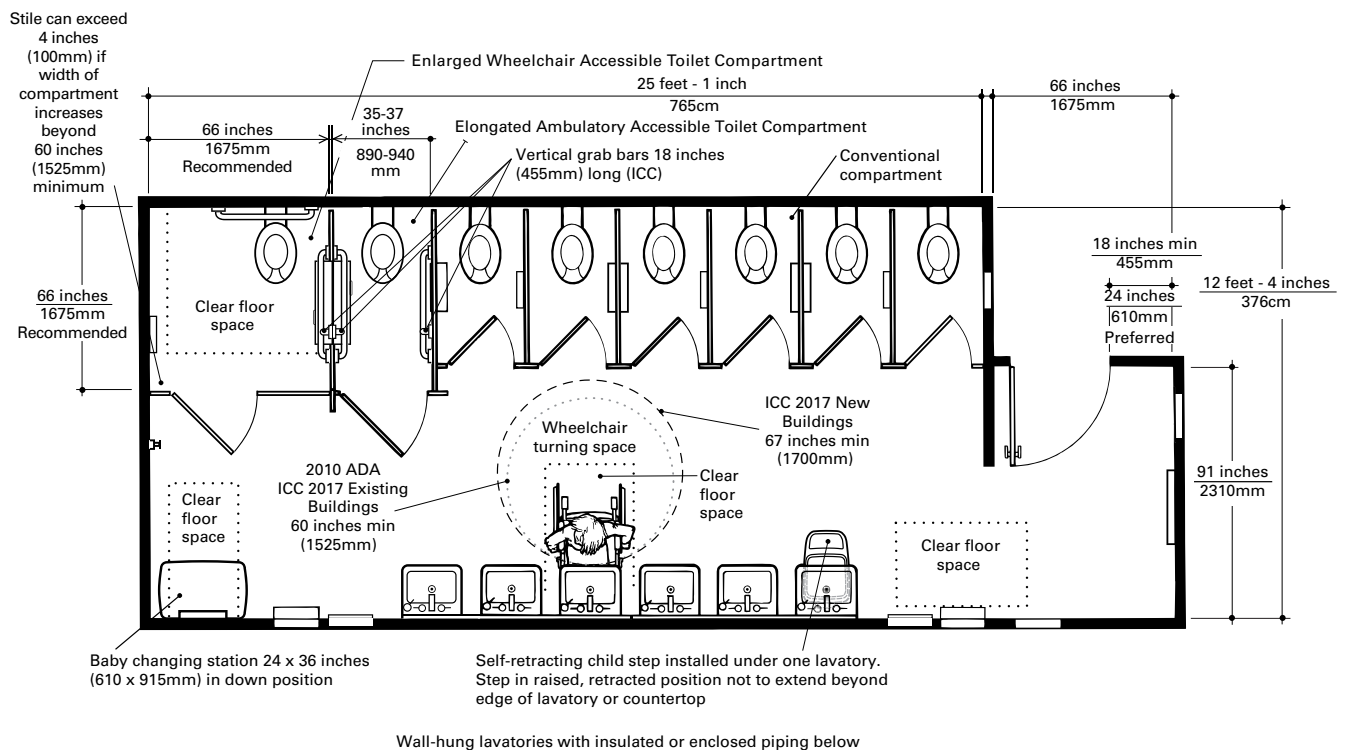
The 2017 ICC Standards do introduce additional wheelchair accessible compartment options that provide enhanced accessibility for users with larger mobility devices or different transfer preferences. The Large Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Compartment exceeds minimum requirements and can accommodate various door locations and internal arrangements, though specific dimensions vary based on design needs.

The Alternate Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Compartment offers a significantly different configuration. The stated dimensions are 60 inches minimum width by 84 inches minimum depth (1525 by 2135mm). The extended length is specifically designed to provide easier access for forward approach to the toilet, accommodating users who may have difficulty with side transfers or those who use larger-than-standard wheelchairs or scooters.

Both larger compartment types allow for in-swinging doors when the extended dimensions provide adequate maneuvering space. That flexibility can be very valuable to users in tight layouts where out-swinging doors may interfere with circulation paths in the restroom. When exploring this in a design, careful analysis is needed to make sure there is compliance with all clearance requirements.

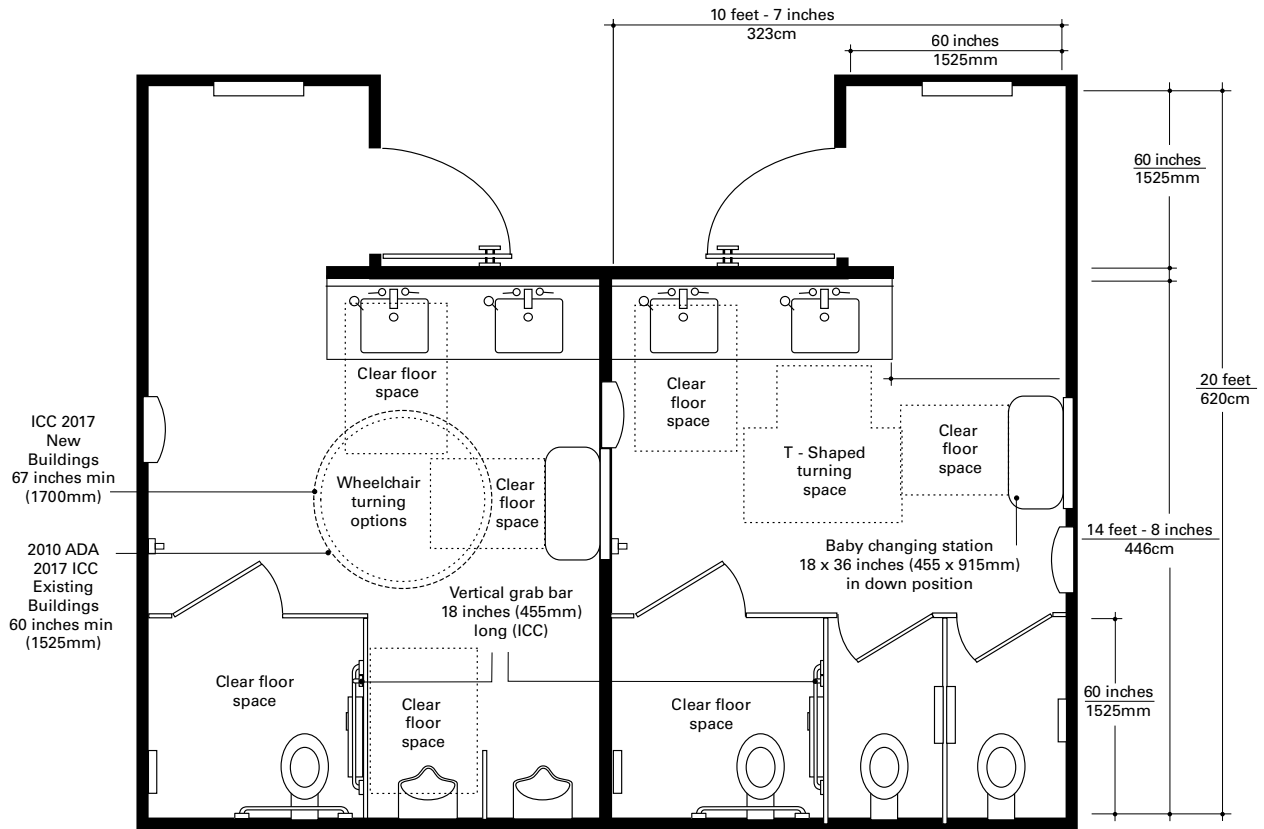
The 2017 ICC Standards also show a side opening wheelchair accessible toilet compartment with shorter length dimensions. While this configuration allows adequate maneuvering space, it would require documentation as equivalent facilitation since it is not specifically outlined in the 2010 ADA Standards.

Fig. 22 Women's Large Restroom with Single Door Entry





**Fig. 25 Small Accessible Public Restroom**



## **AMBULATORY ACCESSIBLE TOILET COMPARTMENTS**

Ambulatory accessible toilet compartments address the needs of people who have the ability to walk but may require support for balance, stability, or rising from seated positions. These compartments are required in restrooms with six or more toilet fixtures or urinals, recognizing that mobility limitations extend beyond wheelchair use to include people with arthritis, joint problems, muscle weakness, or temporary injuries of many different kinds.

### **Comparison: Ambulatory Accessible Compartment Width**

2010 ADA:

- Absolute width: 36" (915mm)

ICC A117.1-2017:

- Width range: 35"-37" (890-940mm)

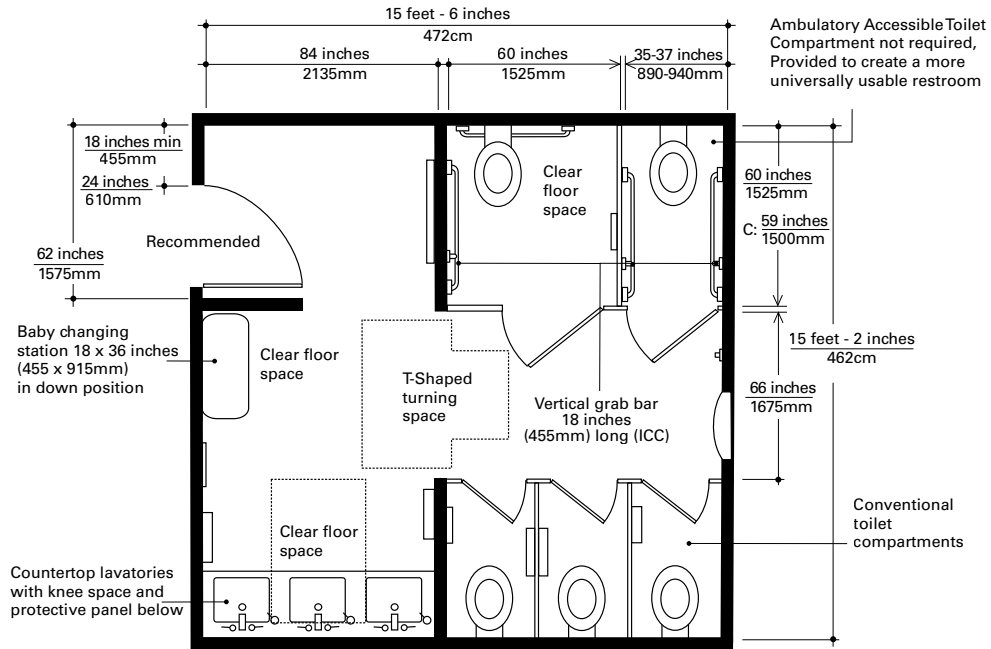
*ICC provides slightly more design flexibility while maintaining accessibility for users who need bilateral grab bar support.*

The compartment features a narrower width ranging from a maximum of 35 to 37 inches (890 to 940mm), updated from the previous absolute requirement of 36 inches (915mm). This range provides flexibility in design while still maintaining a configuration narrow enough to allow users to reach grab bars on both sides of the stall more easily. As with other types of wheelchair accessible compartments, the depth requirements remain at a minimum of 60 inches (1525mm).

Special attention needs to be given to the configuration of doors in ambulatory accessible compartments. Doors must not swing into the minimum required compartment area, and door pull hardware needs to be installed on both sides of the door near the latch. This dual hardware requirement acknowledges that users may need support when entering and exiting.

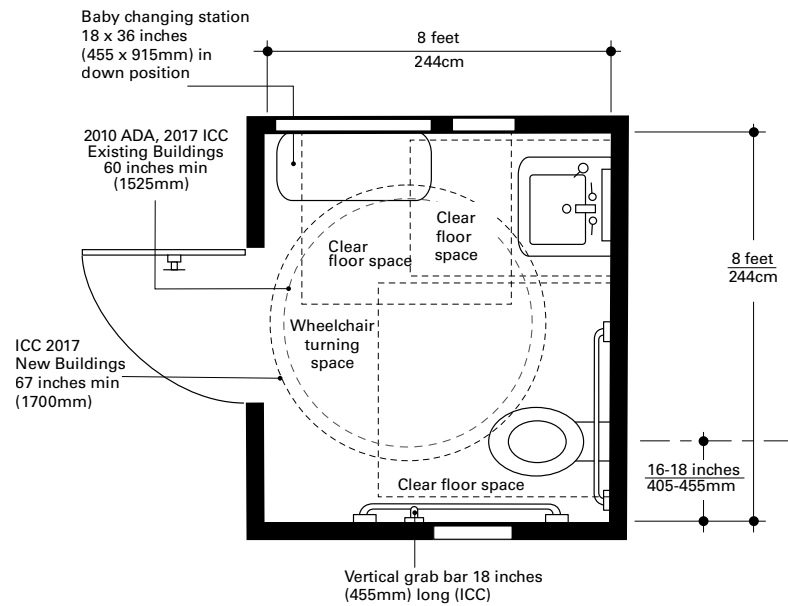
The way the toilet is positioned does differ from wheelchair accessible compartments in order to serve ambulatory users more effectively. The centerline of the toilet should be a minimum of 17 inches (430mm) to a maximum of 19 inches (485mm) from the side wall or partition. This is to provide closer proximity to grab bars. Grab bars that follow specific dimensional requirements must be provided on both side walls, and vertical grab bars on both sides are there to offer additional support for users who may need assistance with balance or rising.

**Fig. 26 Small Public Restroom Provides Accessible Toilet Compartment and Ambulatory Accessible Compartment**



Note: C: For Children

**Fig. 27 Individual Toilet Room with Baby Changing Station**



## TOE CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-HEIGHT PARTITIONS

Toe clearance requirements have evolved in the 2017 ICC Standards. They provide better accessibility while acknowledging and accommodating practical installation constraints. The updated standards increased the vertical clearance requirement to a minimum of 12 inches (305mm) above the finished floor under front and side partitions of all accessible compartments for both adults and children. This compares to the 9-inch (230mm) requirement in 2010 ADA Standards.

The horizontal toe clearance for adults and children has increased to a minimum 8 inches (205mm) deep beyond the compartment-side face of the partition in 2017 ICC Standards, while 2010 ADA Standards maintain a 6-inch (150mm) minimum. These clearances facilitate wheelchair positioning and foot placement during transfers.

Importantly, toe clearance at the front partition is not required if the compartment depth exceeds specific thresholds. There is no requirement if the compartment has a depth greater than 64 inches (1625mm) with wall-hung toilets or a depth of 67 inches (1700mm) with floor-mounted toilets. Similarly, toe clearance at side partitions is not required in compartments greater than 68 inches (1725mm) wide. These exceptions acknowledge that larger compartments provide adequate maneuvering space without the need for additional toe clearance.

### Toe Clearance Exceptions (Important for Full-Height Partitions):

Toe clearance NOT required on compartments exceeding:

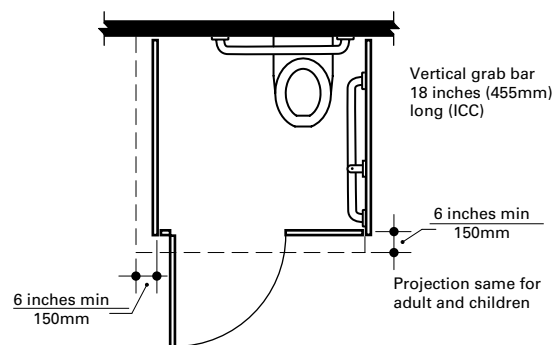
- ADA: 65" depth (floor-mounted) or 66" width
- ICC 2017 New: 67" depth (floor-mounted) or 68" width

*This exception enables full-height partition systems while maintaining compliance*

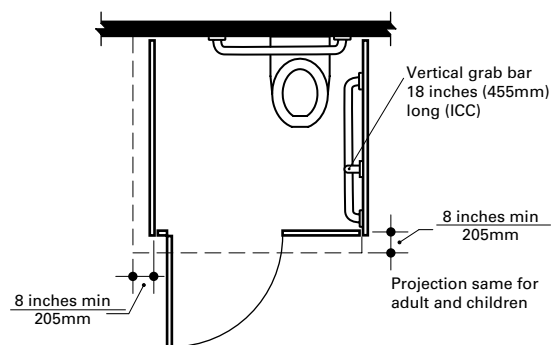
Full-height partitions are a growing trend in restroom design, for clear reasons. They offer enhanced privacy while still maintaining compliance to accessibility standards and requirements. These systems use taller-than-average panels and doors that can extend as high as 84 inches (2135mm) or even 96 inches (2440mm) while extending lower than standard partitions, sometimes as low as 1 inch (25mm) above the floor.

Compartments using full-height partitions can meet accessibility standards if they maintain 67 by 68 inch (1700 by 1725mm) interior clear dimensions regardless of toilet type. The 2017 ICC Standards eliminate toe clearance requirements for full-height partitions when the compartments exceed the dimensional thresholds noted above. This allows design flexibility while maintaining functional accessibility.

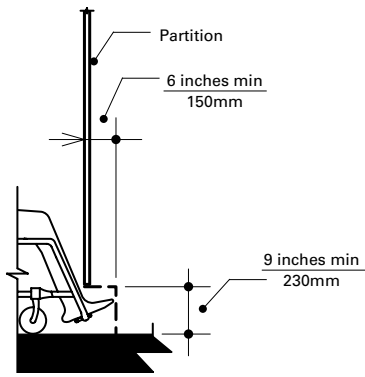
**Fig. 28 Horizontal Toe Clearance**



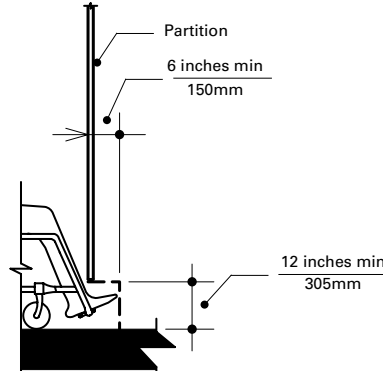
**Fig. 28a Horizontal Toe Clearance (2010 ADA Standards)**



**Fig. 28b Horizontal Toe Clearance (2017 ICC Standards)**

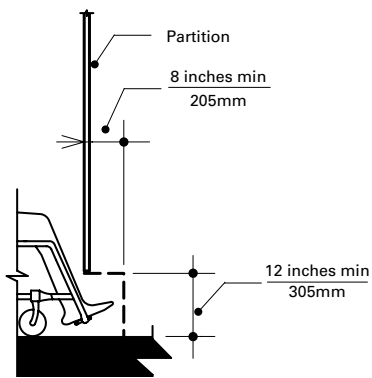


Elevation adult



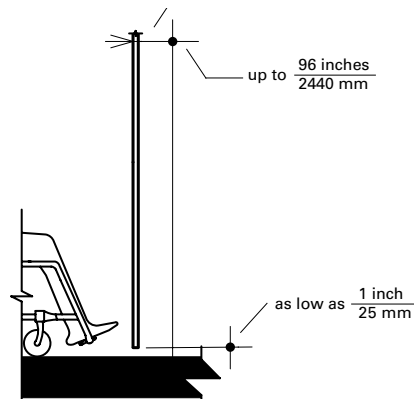
Elevation children

Fig. 28c Vertical Toe Clearance (2010 ADA Standards)



Elevation adult / children

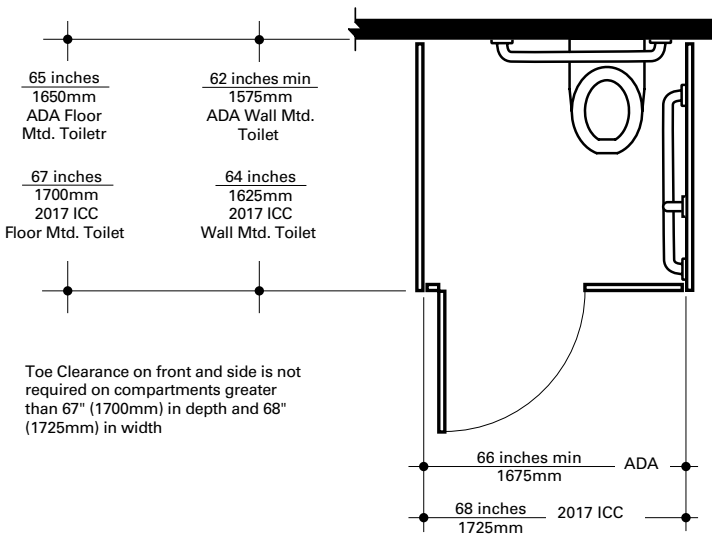
Fig. 28d Vertical Toe Clearance (2017 ICC Standards)



Elevation adult / children

Fig. 28e Full Height Partition

Fig. 29 Full Height Partitions, Compartment Size to Avoid Toe Clearance



## DOORS AND HARDWARE

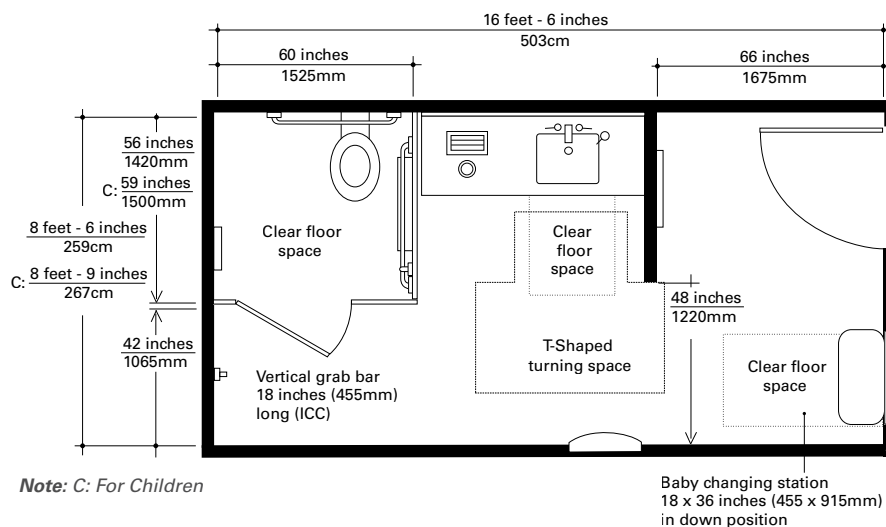
Doors on all accessible toilet compartments must meet stringent operational requirements to ensure usability by people with varying abilities. All doors need to provide a minimum 32-inch (815mm) clear width opening when they are opened 90 degrees. This is measured from the face of the door to the opposite door jamb.

Out-swinging doors are strongly recommended, except when using extra-long compartments or the Alternate Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Compartment configuration. Out-swinging doors approached from the latch side require access aisles at least 42 inches (1065mm) wide, while other approaches may require aisles up to a minimum of 60 inches (1525mm) wide. These requirements ensure adequate space for wheelchair maneuvering during door operation.

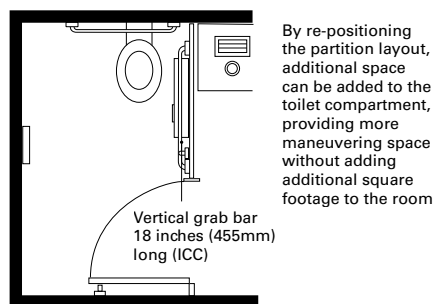
Door hardware must be able to be operated with one hand without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. Acceptable hardware includes lever handles, push bars, and U-shaped pulls. The 2017 ICC Standards establish specific force requirements of 15 pounds (66.7N) maximum for pushing and pulling, and 28 inch-pounds (315N-cm) maximum for rotational motion.

Self-closing mechanisms are required on accessible toilet compartment doors, but they need to be adjusted to allow adequate time for users to enter and exit. It is recommended that doors close completely, as partially open doors may encroach into required maneuvering clearances and impede access for other users.

**Fig. 30 Accessible Restroom with Entry Clearance Space**



**Fig. 30a Accessible Restroom with Additional Entry Clearance Space**



**Fig. 30b Larger Size Compartment with Alternate Door Opening**

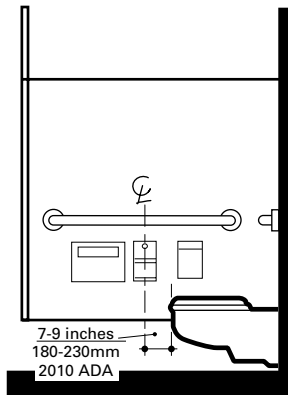
## TOILET INSTALLATION AND GRAB BARS

Compartment functionality is significantly impacted by toilet selection and installation. Accessible toilets with undercut bowls are recommended as they provide better toe clearance for wheelchair positioning and transfer activities. The height of toilet seats measured from the finished floor to the top of the seat needs to be a minimum of 17 inches (430mm) up to a maximum of 19 inches (485mm).

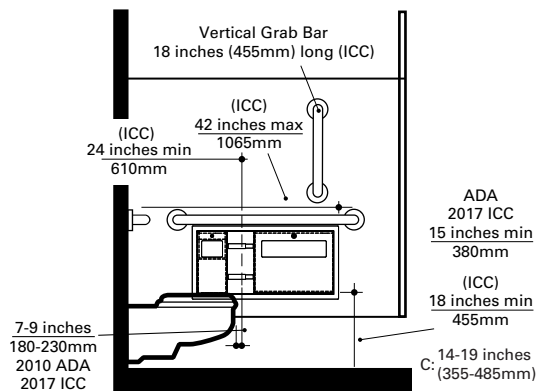
Providing an ideal seat height in multi-use facilities does present design challenges since people have varying abilities and preferences. The specified range is intended to accommodate most users transferring from wheelchairs while remaining comfortable for ambulatory users. Toilet seats cannot be spring-loaded to return to a lifted position because this feature interferes with transfer activities and the use of the grab bar.

Flush controls must be located on the open side of the toilet in wheelchair accessible compartments, though they may be positioned on either side in ambulatory accessible compartments. All flush controls need to meet accessibility standards for operable parts, requiring operation with a maximum of 5 pounds (22.2N) of force and operable with one hand without tight grasping or twisting motions.

**Fig. 31 Individual and Combination Accessories**



**Fig. 31a Individual Accessories (2010 ADA)**



**Fig. 31b Combination Accessories (2017 ICC)**

*Note: C: For Children*

## **GRAB BAR INSTALLATION AND CONFIGURATION**

Grab bars are common and essential safety features that prevent falls and provide critical support during transfers and position changes. All grab bars must be able to support a minimum of 250 pounds (1112N) of force in any direction and feature circular cross-sections with outside diameters between a minimum of 1.25 inches (32mm) and a maximum of 2 inches (51mm). Non-circular profiles such as ovals and rounded rectangles are permitted if they meet equivalent gripping surface requirements.

### **Measurement Methods Differ for Rear Wall Grab Bar Positioning**

- ADA 2010: Centers on toilet (12" one side, 24" other side of centerline)
- ICC A117.1-2017: Measures from side wall (max 6" from side wall, extends 42" min)
- Both require 36" minimum length
- When space restricted, both allow 24" centered bar
- Coordinate with flush valve location and toilet selection

In wheelchair accessible toilet compartments, the side wall grab bar must be at least 42 inches (1065mm) long, though a length of 48-inches (1220mm) is recommended to eliminate installation compliance problems. This grab bar must be positioned no more than 12 inches (305mm) from the rear wall and extend at least 54 inches (1370mm) from the rear wall, with mounting height between 33 and 36 inches (840 to 915mm) above the finished floor, measured to the top of the gripping surface.

Rear wall grab bar requirements differ between accessibility standards where positioning methodology is concerned. The 2010 ADA Standards position the 36-inch (915mm) rear wall grab bar relative to the centerline of the toilet, requiring 12 inches (305mm) on one side and 24 inches (610mm) on the other side of the centerline. The 2017 ICC Standards determine grab bar location differently. Those standards require the bar to be mounted no more than 6 inches (150mm) from the side wall and to extend at least 42 inches (1065mm).

When space constraints prevent the installation of a 36-inch (915mm) rear wall grab bar, both standards allow a 24-inch (610mm) minimum length grab bar that is centered on the toilet. When flush valves interfere with standard grab bar installation, the bar may be split to either side of the valve or shifted entirely to the open side of the toilet.

The 2017 ICC Standards require an 18-inch (455mm) vertical grab bar on the side wall. The vertical bar provides additional support during transfers and position changes, benefiting users who may have difficulty with lateral movements. It needs to be positioned 39 to 41 inches (990 to 1040mm) from the back wall.

In ambulatory accessible compartments, grab bars need to be provided on both side walls following side wall dimensional requirements. Vertical grab bars provide essential support for users who may need assistance with balance or rising from seated positions.

## **ACCESSORY PLACEMENT AND INTEGRATION**

Restroom accessories within toilet compartments require careful coordination with grab bars, door swings, and user reach requirements. All accessories need to be positioned to avoid interference with maneuvering space and allow access to grab bars while remaining within accessible reach ranges.

Toilet tissue dispensers in accessible compartments need to have theft-resistant mechanisms while still being easy to operate for users with limited dexterity. The 2010 ADA Standards require dispensers to be positioned with centerlines between 7 inches (180mm) and 9 inches (230mm) from the leading edge of the toilet. The 2017 ICC Standards use a different measurement approach, placing dispenser outlets between 24 inches (610mm) and 42 inches (1065mm) from the rear wall of the compartment.

The 2017 ICC Standards introduced an exception for toilet tissue dispensers that accommodate two rolls that are no more than 5 inches (125mm) in diameter. These dispensers can be located according to 2010 ADA Standards measurements and may have outlet heights as low as 15 inches (380mm) above the floor, compared to the standard 18-inch (455mm) minimum height requirement.

When accessories are mounted above grab bars, they need to maintain a clearance of at least 12 inches (305mm) to the top of the grab bar. The space between grab bars and projecting objects below and at the ends must be at least 1.5 inches (38mm). Surface-mounted accessories cannot extend more than 4 inches (100mm) into circulation paths when their leading edges are more than 27 inches (685mm) above the floor.

Sanitary napkin disposals should be installed in side walls or partitions below grab bars in women's toilet compartments. There is an exception in the 2017 ICC Standards that allows recessed units, including combination dispenser/disposal units, to be installed behind grab bars with reduced clearances under specific conditions.

Toilet seat cover dispensers are a hygienic amenity that should be included in all compartments, no matter the configuration. The opening for toilet seat covers must be positioned between 15 and 48 inches (380 and 1220mm) above the floor, in an accessible location within the compartment. Combination units can simplify installations by incorporating multiple accessories such as toilet tissue dispensers, seat cover dispensers, and sanitary napkin disposals in one convenient location.

## **COAT HOOKS AND STORAGE ELEMENTS**

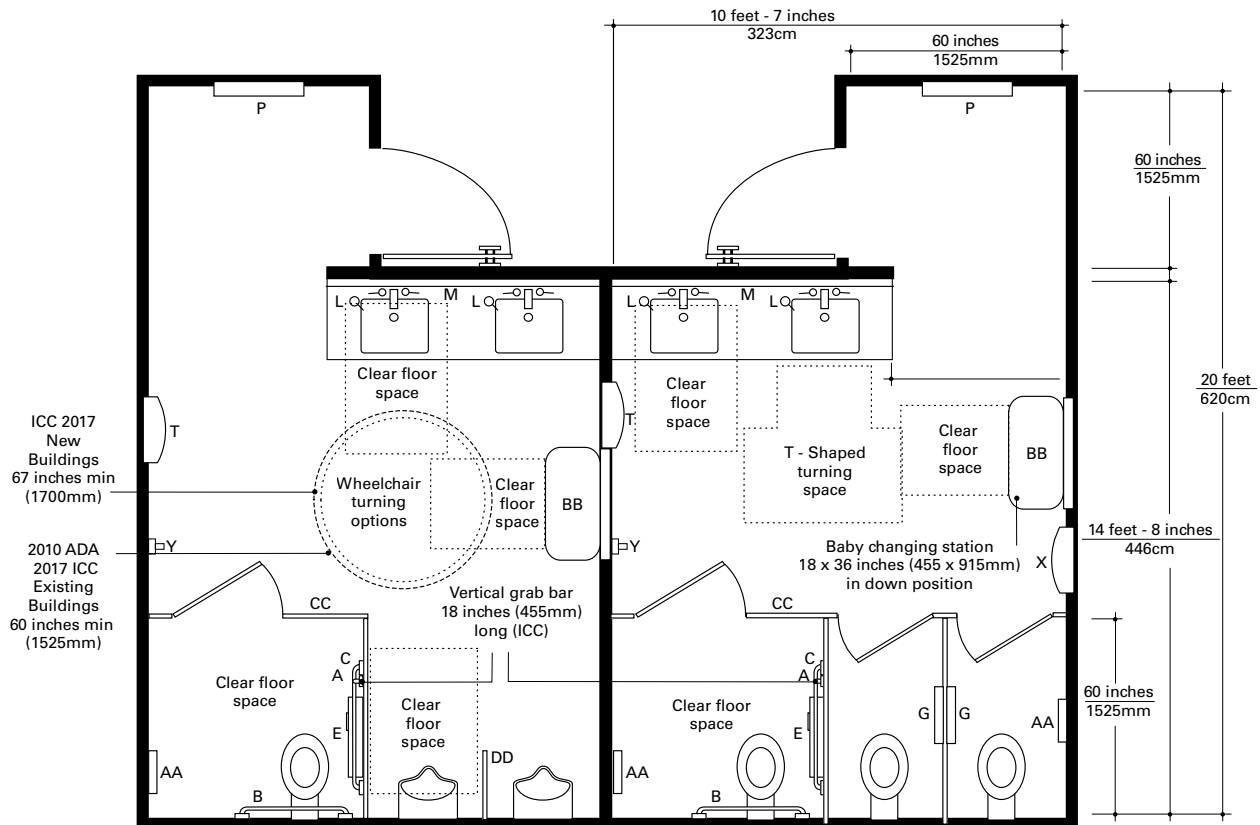
Coat hooks and shelves complete the functional design of accessible toilet compartments, providing essential storage for personal items during restroom use. These elements must be positioned a maximum of 48 inches (1220mm) high and project no more than 4 inches (100mm) from walls or partitions to maintain accessibility compliance.

Multiple hooks at different heights are there to serve users of varying statures and abilities. Lower hooks accommodate wheelchair users and children, while higher hooks serve standing adults. The projection limitation ensures that storage elements do not create obstacles in the limited compartment space or interfere with access to the grab bar.

Child protection seats provide safe and secure seating for young children while parents or caregivers use restroom facilities. These seats should be installed inside toilet compartments to provide visual and physical security. This is in contrast to baby changing stations which are better located in the main restroom area. When in the down position, adequate maneuvering space needs to be maintained around the seated child. For ease of access, the bottom of the lowered seat should be no less than 15 inches (380mm) above the floor.

## APPENDIX OF LAYOUT FIGURES WITH PRODUCT LEGENDS

Fig. 32 Small Accessible Public Restrooms



### LEGEND

- |   |                                                                                                                   |    |                                                                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | 3701-18P Straight Grab Bar                                                                                        | P  | 0600-T Series Adjustable Tilt Inter-Lok Frame Plate<br>Glass Mirror, Variable Sizes |
| B | 3856 Horizontal Grab Bar, 54" x 36"                                                                               | T  | 20469 ROVAL™ Recessed Paper Towel Dispenser and<br>Removable Waste Receptacle       |
| C | 3857 Horizontal Grab Bar, 54" x 42"                                                                               | X  | 0473 Sanitary Napkin Disposal – Recessed                                            |
| E | 0487-L9 Traditional™ ADA-Compliant Toilet Tissue<br>& Seat Cover Dispenser W/ Waste Disposal –<br>Surface Mounted | Y  | 0719 Door Bumper – Surface Mounted, Chrome<br>Plated Zamak                          |
| G | 0481 Toilet Seat Cover & Toilet Tissue Dispenser w/<br>Napkin Disposal (Dual Access) – Partition Mounted          | AA | 9020 Toddler Safety Seat – Plastic, Surface Mounted                                 |
| L | 0389 Top Fill, Multi-Feed Foam Soap Dispensers                                                                    | BB | 9018 Baby Changing Station, Horizontal – Stainless<br>Steel, Recessed               |
| M | 0600-T Series Adjustable Tilt Inter-Lok Frame Plate<br>Glass Mirror, Variable Sizes                               | CC | Overhead-Braced, Plastic Laminate Moisture Guard<br>Partitions                      |
|   |                                                                                                                   | DD | Wall-Hung Urinal Screen                                                             |





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