



Tourism Accessibility Updates

Washrooms



Grab Bars

Grab bars are typically metal bars that are placed in areas where people may need something to grab for extra stability, such as in washrooms or hallways. A grab bar should be properly fixed to the wall, so it can bear the weight of the user to pull themselves up from a seated to a standing position or leaning on it to stop themselves from falling.

BC Building Code

Specifications:

- Surface this slip resistant, not sharp or abrasive
- Mounted to a surface with no sharp or abrasive
- Withstand minimum 1.3kN horizontally or vertically
- Bar size is 30-40 mm in diameter
- Clearance to wall is 35-45 mm



Additional considerations for universal accessibility view CAN/ASC B156.

Learn more: travelnbc.com/accessibility



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Automatic Faucets

An automatic faucet allows the user to easily distinguish between hot and cold and allows for the temperature to be freely changed regardless of the mobility of the user. This could also mean there is a temperature block on the water source so even at its maximum temperature it does not burn the user.

BC Building Code Specifications:

- Clear space centred on space 1250 x 800 mm
- Spout height 455-1200 mm
- Control height 455-1200 mm
- Control manipulation closed fist operable
- Operate automatically, or have a manual control that does not require the application of continuous force to maintain water flow, and where metered, provides at least 10 s of water flow

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Washroom Fixtures

Correct placement of toilet paper, soap, wall-mounted garbage receptacles and paper towel dispensers in a washroom allows for most users to use a facility autonomously. Maintaining proper heights and distances for these dispensers provides the opportunity for people of different abilities to use them and allows for greater overall accessibility to a business.

BC Building Code Specifications:

- Toilet paper dispenser location: side wall, near edge max 300 mm from front of toilet
- Toilet paper dispenser height: bottom 600-800 mm
- Coat hook location: side wall max 1200 mm high
- Coat hook additional specs: projecting max 50 mm from wall
- Shelf: max 1200mm high, surface min 200 x 400 mm unless at least this much counter space already exists

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Washroom Hooks

Hanging hooks in washrooms are useful for hanging clothes, purses, backpacks, coats, etc. Hooks should be placed at a universal height to be accessible to a wheelchair user or a person of short stature. Sometimes multiple hooks are placed so they can be accessed by people of varying heights.

BC Building Code Specifications:

- Coat hook location: side wall max 1200 mm high
- Coat hook additional specs: projecting max 50 mm from wall



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Shower Benches

Shower benches provide an alternative option to standing when showering. The use of a folding shower bench is recommended, as it allows for the option to use it or not and does not get in the way of someone who may use a different mobility device for the shower.

BC Building Code Specifications:

- Seat location: on same wall as vertical grab bar, 460-48 mm high
- Seat strength: minimum load of 1.3kN
- Seat construction: hinged without spring-loaded, or fixed with smooth, slip-resistant surface, no rough edges, impervious to water, easily cleaned
- Seat width: minimum 450 mm

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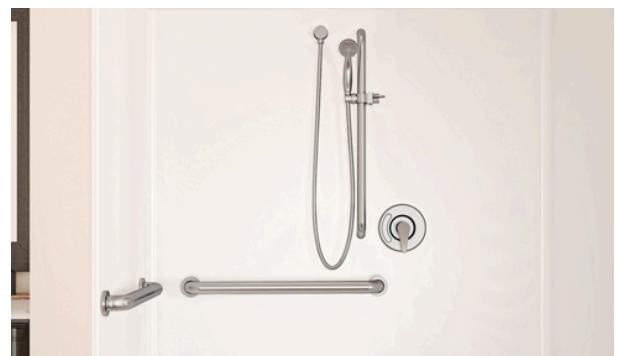


Shower Heads

Adjustable hand-held shower heads allow people who shower in a seated position control over the stream of water. This is particularly useful for people who use shower chairs or benches and may not be able to manoeuvre as easily.

BC Building Code Specifications:

- Shower head style should be hand-held, minimum 1800 mm flexible hose, reachable from seated position, usable in fixed position 1200-2030 mm high, does not obstruct grab bars



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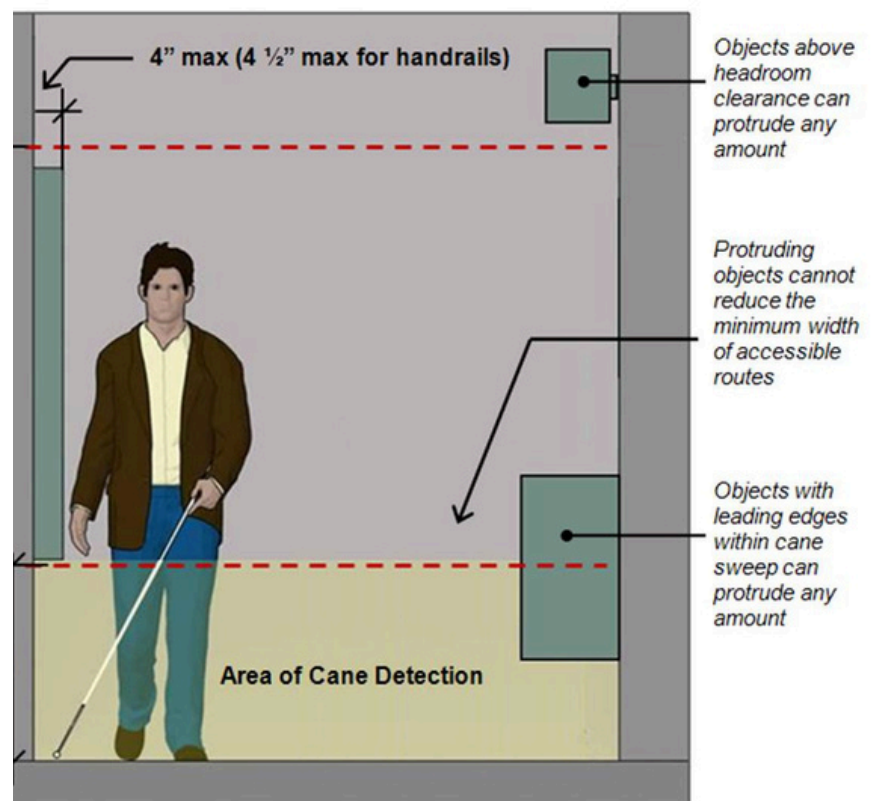
Washrooms



Wall Hung Objects

For the safety of all users, heavy objects should be placed and secured in a way that does not pose a threat of falling to visitors or workers.

They pose a safety hazard, as they may fall off the wall and injure someone. Heavy objects should be placed and secured in a way that they do not pose a threat to fall to visitors or workers.



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