

Wheelchair-friendly toilets

A basic checklist

A guide by **ABLE** 
AMSTERDAM

Wheelchair-friendly toilets: A basic checklist

Accessible toilets are an absolute necessity for many people living with a disability. A crucial part of inclusive spaces, their design features allow wheelchair users and individuals with a range of (physical) disabilities to use the toilet as independently and safely as possible.

Below you'll find an **Accessible Toilet Checklist** with important considerations when designing a wheelchair-friendly toilet.

Entrance

- Is the doorway wide enough for a wheelchair user to pass through? (min. 80 cm / 32 inches wide)
- Is the doorway threshold-free?
- Is the door lightweight?
- Does the door have a horizontal bar across the inside (along its full width) to help close it?
- Does the door open outwards, allowing safe and easy access in an emergency?

Support

- Are there grab rails on both sides of the toilet?
- Is the toilet seat raised?

Amenities

- Is the mirror low enough for wheelchair users?
- Is the sink low enough for wheelchair users?
- Is the soap dispenser within reach for wheelchair users?
- Is the paper towel dispenser/ hand dryer within reach for wheelchair users?
- Is the bin within reach for wheelchair users?
- Is the toilet paper within easy reach when seated on the toilet?
- Is the paper towel dispenser/ hand dryer close enough to the sink and bin (so that users don't have to use wet hands on their mobility aids to move between the two)?

Design

- Is the tap a design that doesn't require much force to operate?
- Is the tap a design that can be used with a closed fist? (*Tip: Use a lever design*)
- Is the bin a design that doesn't require much force to operate?
- Is the bin a design that can be used with a closed fist?
- The bin does not require the use of feet/ legs to operate (*i.e. it is not a foot pedal bin*).
- The bin is large enough to dispose of diapers, stoma bags or other larger waste/ sanitary items.

Space

- Is the toilet spacious enough to turn at least 1.5 m full circle in a wheelchair?
- Is the space underneath the sink free, allowing a wheelchair user to roll right up to it?
- The accessible toilet is not being used for storage space.

Safety features

- Is there an emergency alarm cord inside the toilet?
- Does the emergency alarm cord go around the whole parameter of the accessible toilet?
- Is the emergency alarm cord strung along the wall approx. 40 cm from the ground?
- Is the emergency alarm cord system fully functioning?
- Are staff members well-trained in responding to the emergency alarm system?

Signposting

- Is the way to the accessible toilet clearly signposted with a wheelchair icon?
- Is the door to the accessible toilet clearly signposted with a wheelchair icon?
- Is all signposting clearly visible from afar?

Disclaimer

I am not a professional with regards to the specifications for accessible toilets. However, based on personal experience as a wheelchair user, I consider the criteria above important. The information in this document should serve as a guide in combination with expert advice.

Questions? Email hello@ableamsterdam.com

Head to [**www.ableamsterdam.com**](http://www.ableamsterdam.com) for more accessibility tips.