



Unisex (Single-User or Family) Restrooms

Public and Employee Use - Common Accessibility Issues

2019 California Building Code, Chapter 11B

California Building Officials - Access Committee

GENERAL

Code Section

	Number of Fixtures - Unisex toilet rooms shall contain not more than one lavatory, and not more than two water closets without urinals or one water closet and one urinal.	11B-213.2.1
	Multiple Unisex Restrooms - Where multiple single user toilet rooms are clustered at a single location, 50%, but no fewer than one at each cluster shall be accessible.	11B-213.2, Exception 4
	All Single-User Restrooms Shall Be Unisex - All single-user toilet facilities in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or state or local government agency shall be identified as all-gender (unisex) toilet facilities.	CA Health and Safety Code Section 118600

SIGNS

	Unisex Symbol Required – Doors to unisex restrooms shall have geometric symbols with a combined circle and triangle symbol on the door to the unisex restroom. Geometric symbols do not require a pictogram or text.	11B-216.8.1 11B-703.7.2.6.3
	Unisex Symbol Location - Unisex geometric symbols shall be centered vertically 58" - 60" above the finish floor and centered horizontally within 1" of the centerline of the door.	11B-703.7.2.6
	Unisex Symbol Shape, Size, and Contrast - Unisex geometric symbols shall be a 12" diameter circle with an equilateral triangle superimposed on and inscribed within the circle. The circle and triangle shall each be 1/4" thick. The edges of the triangle shall have a 1/8" - 1/4" radius. Color of the circle shall a light-dark contrast with both the color of the triangle and the color of the door. In new construction, the door signs shall be geometric symbols only and shall not have raised characters or Braille characters.	11B-703.7.2.6.3
	Tactile Sign Required - Where the restroom is identified by a sign or pictogram, a tactile sign (with raised letters and Braille characters) shall be provided on the wall.	11B-216.2
	Tactile Sign Location - Tactile signs shall be located on the wall at the latch side of the door and centered horizontally within an 18" minimum clear floor space beyond the arc of any door swing. Bottom of raised letters shall be no more than 60" above the floor. Bottom of Braille characters shall be at least 48" above the floor.	11B-703.4.1 11B-703.4.2
	Tactile Sign Letters, Braille and Background - Raised letters shall be 5/8" - 2" tall, block uppercase, and raised 1/32" minimum. Braille characters shall be located below the raised letters flush left or centered and be contracted (Grade 2). Raised letters and their backgrounds shall have a non-glare finish and light-dark contrast. Raised letters and Braille characters shall be placed horizontally.	11B-216.2 11B-703.2 11B-703.3 11B-703.5

DOOR

	Privacy Latch - Doors to unisex toilet rooms shall have privacy latches.	11B-213.2.1
	Accessible Door Hardware - Door hardware shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist or more than 5 pounds force to operate. Operable parts of door levers, pulls, deadbolts and sliding locks shall be located 34" - 44" above the finish floor.	11B-404.2.7
	Door Kick Plate - On the push side of swinging doors, the bottom surface shall be smooth within 10" of the finish floor measured vertically. The smooth surface shall extend the full width of the door and shall not be interrupted by edges or door stops.	11B-404.2.10

	Door Maneuvering Clearances, Pull Side - On the pull side of swinging doors, provide maneuvering clearance for the width of the door plus 18" on the strike side that is at least 60" deep.	11B-404.2.4.1
	Door Maneuvering Clearances, Push Side - On the push side of swinging doors with a closer and latch, provide maneuvering clearance for the width of the door plus 12" on the strike side that is at least 44"/48" deep for hinge or latch/forward approach.	11B-404.2.4.1
	Door Closing Speed - Door closers shall be set to provide at least 5 seconds when the door closes from 90 degrees to 12 degrees. Spring hinges shall be set to provide at least 1.5 seconds when the door closes from 70 degrees to closed.	11B-404.2.8

ROOM MANEUVERING

	<p>Turning Space, Size - Turning spaces shall be provided within unisex restrooms. Turning spaces shall be either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 60" diameter circle, which may include knee and toe clearance. • A T-shaped space within a 60" square minimum with arms and base 36" wide minimum. Each arm of the T shall be clear of obstructions 12" minimum in each direction and the base shall be clear 24" minimum. The space shall be permitted to include knee and toe clearance only at the end of either the base or one arm. 	11B-603.2.1 11B-304.3
	Turning Space, Door Encroachment - Doors in any position may encroach into turning spaces no more than 12".	11B-603.2.3
	Clear Floor Space Outside Door Swing - Where a 30" x 48" clear floor space is provided within the restroom room beyond the arc of the door swing, doors shall be permitted to swing into the clear floor space or clearance required for any fixture.	11B-603.2.3, Exception 2

TOILET

	Toilet Clearances, Dimensions - Toilet fixtures shall be centered 17" - 18" from the side wall. Clearance around the toilet shall be 60" minimum from the side wall and 48" minimum in front of the toilet fixture.	11B-604.3.1
	Toilet Clearances, Overlapping Elements - Required clearance around toilets may overlap the toilet, associated grab bars, dispensers, sanitary napkin disposal units, coat hooks, shelves, accessible routes, clear floor space and clearances required at other fixtures, and the turning space. No other fixtures or obstructions shall be located within the required toilet clearance.	11B-604.3.2
	Toilet Seat Height - Top of toilet seats shall be 17" - 19" above the finish floor and 2" high maximum. In alterations, a 3" high seat is permitted where the existing fixture is less than 15" high.	11B-604.4
	Toilet Flush Control - Toilet flush controls shall be hand operated or automatic, located on the open side of the toilet, and 44" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-604.6
	Toilet Paper Dispenser - Toilet paper dispensers shall be located below the grab bar 19" minimum above the finish floor and 7" - 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. Dispensers shall not control delivery and shall allow continuous paper flow.	11B-604.7.1

GRAB BARS

	Rear Grab Bar - A grab bar shall be provided at the rear of the toilet. The rear grab bar shall extend 24" minimum on the open side of the toilet and 12" minimum on the other side.	11B-604.5.2
	Side Grab Bar - A grab bar shall be provided at the side of the toilet. The side grab bar shall be located 12" maximum from the rear wall and extending at least 24" in front of the toilet. Side grab bars shall be 48" long when toilets extend more than 30" from the rear wall and may be 42" long when toilets extend no more than 30" from the rear wall.	11B-604.5.1

	Grab Bar Heights - Grab bars shall be installed in a horizontal position, 33" minimum and 36" maximum above the finish floor measured to the top of the gripping surface.	11B-609.4
	Grab Bar Clearances - Space between the wall and the grab bar shall be 1-1/2". Space between the grab bar and projecting objects below and at the ends shall be 1-1/2" minimum. Space between the grab bar and projecting objects above shall be 12" minimum. Seat cover dispensers shall not be located above grab bars.	11B-609.3
	Grab Bar Cross Section - Grab bars with a circular cross-section shall have a diameter measuring 1-1/4" - 2". Grab bars with a rectangular or elliptical cross-section shall be 2" maximum in width and have a perimeter of 4" - 4.8".	11B-609.2
	Grab Bar Allowable Load - Grab bars and their fasteners, mounting devices, and supporting structures shall support an allowable load of 250 lb. in any direction.	11B-609.6

LAVATORY

	Lavatory Wall Clearance – Centerline of lavatories shall be at least 18" from side walls and partitions	11B-606.6
	Lavatory Rim or Counter Height – Rim of drop-in lavatories or countertops of undermount lavatories shall be 34" or less above the finish floor or ground.	11B-606.3
	Lavatory Faucet Controls - Controls for faucets shall be operable with on hand and not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. Hand-operated metering faucets shall remain open for 10 seconds minimum.	11B-606.4
	Lavatory Clear Floor Space - A 30" x 48" clear floor space positioned for forward approach shall be provided at the lavatory and shall extend not less than the required reach over the lavatory to any faucets or dispensers.	11B-308.2.2 11B-606.2
	Lavatory Knee and Toe Clearance - Lavatory knee clearance shall be at least 29" high at the front of the fixture or counter. Depth of knee and toe space shall extend to the furthest reach to any faucet or dispenser over the lavatory but not less than 17". Knee clearance from 27 to 9" above the finish floor can reduce at a rate of 1 inch in depth for each 6" in height, starting at 9" above the finish floor. Toe clearance may extend a maximum of 6" past knee clearance provided at 9" above the finish floor.	11B-306.2.3 11B-306.3.1 11B-306.3.3 11B-308.2.2
	Lavatory Pipe Insulation - Water supply and drain pipes under lavatories shall be insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact. There shall be no sharp or abrasive surfaces under lavatories and sinks.	11B-606.5

URINAL (where provided)

	Urinal Clear Floor Space – Urinals shall be provided with a 30" x 48" clear floor space positioned for forward approach.	11B-605.3
	Urinal Type and Rim Height - Urinals shall be the stall-type or the wall-hung type with the rim 17" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-605.2
	Urinal Depth - Urinal shall be 13-1/2" deep minimum measured from the outer face of the urinal rim to the back of the fixture.	11B-605.2
	Urinal Flush Controls - Urinal flush controls shall be hand operated or automatic and located 44" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-605.4

DISPENSERS AND ACCESSORIES

	Mirrors - Where mirrors are provided, mirrors located above lavatories or counter tops shall be installed with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface 40" maximum above the finish floor. Mirrors not located above lavatories or counter tops shall be installed with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface 35" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-213.3.5 11B-603.3
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	Accessories - Where towel or sanitary napkin dispensers, waste receptacles, or other accessories are provided, at least one of each type shall be located on an accessible route. All operable parts, including coin slots, shall be 40" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-603.5
	Coat Hooks - Where a coat hook is provided, at least one coat hook shall be 48" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-603.4
	Shelves - Where provided, shelves shall be located 40" minimum and 48" maximum above the finish floor.	11B-603.4
	Sanitary Napkin Disposal Units - Sanitary napkin disposal units, if provided, shall have accessible operable parts and shall be wall mounted and located on the sidewall between the rear wall of the toilet and the toilet paper dispenser, adjacent to the toilet paper dispenser. Disposal units shall be located below the grab bar with the opening of the disposal unit 19" minimum above the finish floor.	11B-604.7.2
	Baby Changing Tables Location - Baby changing tables in the up position shall not overlap required toilet clearances and shall be provided with a 30" x 48" clear floor space positioned for forward approach.	11B-604.3.2 11B-226.4 11B-902.2
	Baby Changing Tables, Height and Knee and Toe Clearance - Working surface height of baby changing tables shall be 28" - 34" above the finish floor. Knee and toe clearance measuring 19" minimum deep and 27" minimum high shall be provided under the baby changing table.	11B-902.3 11B-226.4 11B-902.2
	Baby Changing Tables, Operable Parts - Operable parts of the baby changing tables shall be 48" or less above the finish floor. Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. Force required to activate operable parts shall not exceed 5 lb.	11B-226.4 11B-309

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