



**Policy Type:** Administrative

**Category:** Facilities

**Policy Name:** Design Standard for All-Inclusive Restrooms in New Construction of County-Owned Facilities

**Policy Owner:** County Executive

**Policy Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide employees with the Design Guidelines and Standards for All-Inclusive Restrooms for New Construction of County-Owned Facilities made under Board Policy 3.62 – Restroom Access, and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 17, 2018.

**Policy Summary**

The Guidelines provide design standards for all-inclusive restrooms that are required to be included in all new construction of County-owned facilities under Board Policy 3.62 – Restroom Access. The following standards apply only to the construction of County-owned buildings beginning design on or after the date of adoption of Board Policy 3.62 – Restroom Access, on April 17, 2018.

**Location:** Recommend construction of at least one All-Inclusive Restroom, located on the Ground Floor and accessible to all users, including families and individuals with special needs, regardless of gender.

**Showers and Changing Facility:** When designing for shower and changing facilities, at least one shower/changing facility should be identified as single-user and where possible, locate all-inclusive restroom infrastructure and amenities such as lockers and a changing area.



**Sizes of Restrooms:** To provide adequate maneuvering space for someone using a wheelchair being assisted by a care-giver (i.e., a family member or assistant), an all-inclusive restroom must, at the minimum, meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for clearances at each restroom fixture/element and provide additional area for care-giver / family member(s).

The recommended average area of an all-inclusive restroom is **12 x12 feet**. Sizes can range from *8 x10 feet* to *12x15 feet* based on equipment sizes and provision of other amenities and / or shower facilities.

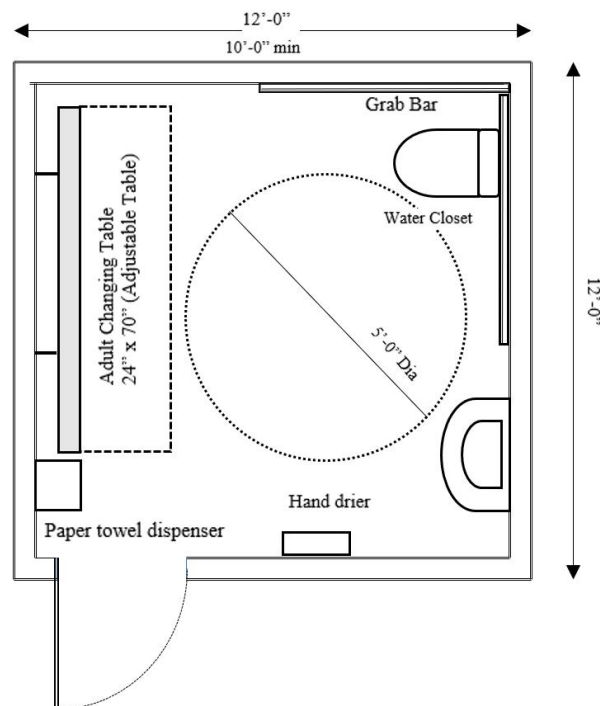


Fig 1. Example - All Inclusive Restroom

**Adult Changing Stations:** With an all-inclusive restroom, the restroom should have equipment that can accommodate adults with severe impairments such as spinal injuries and cerebral palsy, including an adult



sized, powered, height-adjustable changing bench, a hoist and a peninsular (centrally placed) toilet.

**Equipment:** In addition to the standard features of an accessible toilet, recommended equipment includes the following for consideration during design:

- Height Adjustable, adult sized changing bench either free standing or wall-mounted. Should have the ability to support up to 350 lbs. and be powered and adjustable (120 vc).
- A tracking hoist system or mobile hoist with access to the washbasin, changing bench and open space to transfer the person.
- Grab rails, both wall mounted vertical grab rails and drop-down support rails should be fixed to the wall on either side to offer support to people while transferring and while seated. Grab rails should be strong enough to hold the weight of the person.
- Privacy or 'Dignity' Screens should be provided for privacy for the disabled person and/or the care taker.
- A waiting chair for the attendant or care taker.
- Changing table liner dispenser.

**Noise Limiting Fixtures:** All-inclusive restrooms should include paper dispensers (and not just hand-dryers) and low-noise flush systems to help alleviate sensory processing issues for individuals with sensory sensitivities.

**Signage:** Signs are governed under the ADA section of the California Building Code (CBC), and the terms used are "All-Gender" and "Unisex". The



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Division of State Architect, State of California has published a Bulletin: [\*Identification of Single-User Toilet Facilities as All Gender \(DSA: BU 17-01\)\*](#) for reference by schools, community colleges and other entities under its jurisdiction, as an aid in complying with new state law requirements with recommendations for Signage.

### Door Signs:

The image below represents the door symbol that is required by CBC 11B-216.8 to identify a single-user toilet facility. The symbol must comply with the requirements of CBC 11B-703.7.2.6.3. No pictogram, text, or braille is required on the symbol, but the International Symbol of Accessibility, the wheel chair, is required where applicable.



### Wall Signs:

The California Building Code does not require adjacent wall signs. However, the Code allows the use of wall signs for additional clarification, with requirements regarding font size, braille, height of placement, etc. The California Division of the State Architect further clarified by providing the following examples of acceptable wall signs:





For County facilities, the All-Gender Restroom sign is recommended for single-user / all-inclusive restrooms to meet County Policy and CBC provisions.

### Definitions

- 1) **All-Gender Restroom:** A unisex public toilet (alternatively called gender-inclusive, gender-neutral, or gender non-conforming) that people of any gender or gender identify are permitted to use.
- 2) **All-inclusive restroom:** Refers to a Family Restroom, but with additional amenities and features such as a powered, height-adjustable adult changing table, a hoist, grab bars and other ADA accessible features.
- 3) **Existing Building / Facility:** A facility in existence on any given date, without regard to whether the facility may also be considered newly constructed or altered.
- 4) **Existing Construction:** Any building or structure for which the start of design commenced before the effective date of Board Policy 3.62.
- 5) **Existing Structure:** A structure erected prior to the date of adoption of Board Policy 3.62, or one for which a legal building permit had been issued prior to that date.
- 6) **Family Restroom:** ADA Accessible, single-stall restroom designed to allow for families, special needs, all-gender inclusive, breastfeeding parents and parents with children of opposite sex. Amenities include a baby-changing table and sometimes an additional toilet for a child.
- 7) **Gender-Specific Restroom:** Restroom for use by one specific gender (i.e. male or female).



- 8) **Multi-user Restroom:** Restroom with more than one toilet stall, which more than one person can use at a time. Each toilet stall generally has a locking mechanism for privacy. Additional features can include urinals with partitions and sinks in an adjacent communal area.
  
- 9) **New Construction:** Refers to site preparation for, and construction of, entirely new structures and/or significant extensions to existing structures and is deemed to be a 'substantial improvement' as defined above by the Building Official, whether or not the site was previously occupied.
  
- 10) **Single-user Restroom:** Restroom with floor to ceiling walls and locking mechanism (capable of emergency unlocking mechanism from outside); and contains a toilet and/or urinal and sink. In some designs, the handwashing, hand-drying and light grooming could be done in an adjacent communal area.
  
- 11) **Substantial Improvement:** Any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the area being renovated. If the structure has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial improvement regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:
  1. Any project for improvement of a building required to correct existing health, sanitary, or safety code violations identified by the building official
  2. Any alteration of a historic structure, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.

### Related Policies



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- Restroom Access – Board Policy 3.62  
<https://saecommon.sccgov.org/countypolicy/Board-Policy-3.62-Restroom-Access.pdf>

### Related Forms and Information

- Design Guidelines and Standards for All-Inclusive Restrooms for New Construction of County Owned Facilities -  
[\[url\]/sites/policies/FormsrelatedtoPolicies/Guidelines-for-Single-User-All-Inclusive-Restroom-for-County-Owned-Facilities.pdf](#)
- Identification of Single-User Toilet Facilities as All Gender - DSA: BU 17-01 -  
[https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/bulletins/BU\\_17-01.pdf](https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/bulletins/BU_17-01.pdf)

### History

Date	Changes Made
5/8/2018	Policy uploaded.
3/14/2017	Board Policy 3.62 adopted. <a href="#">View legislative file.</a>