



Accessible sanitary facilities

This technical note has been produced to provide technical information for plumbing work in accessible sanitary facilities. Australian standard, AS 1428 Design for access and mobility parts 1 and 2 are referenced in section E of the Plumbing Code of Australia 2022 (PCA). These standards list requirements of the lay out and clearances for plumbing fixtures in access bathrooms.

Accessible requirements

AS1428 has requirements for sanitary facilities for people with disability and people with ambulant disabilities. Ambulant applies to people who have a mobility disability but are able to walk.

AS 1428.1:2009, clause 15 and clause 16 list installation requirements for water supply taps, plumbing fixtures and fittings to assist people with disabilities.



Photo 1: Typical accessible bathroom facilities

Note: contrasting seat colour

AS 1428.1:2009 was amended in November 2010 and now sets out a height of 700 mm + or - 5 mm from finished floor level of the wall outlet of the shower hose and a minimum shower hose length of 1500 mm as shown in diagram 1.

These changes have resulted in an increased likelihood that the shower head will fall and remain below the rim of the toilet pan creating a high hazard backflow risk.

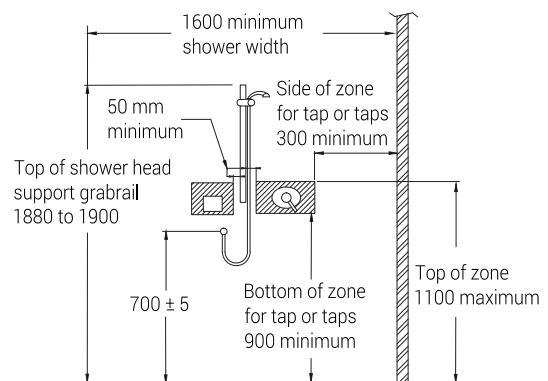


Diagram 1: Shower recess fittings

It is recommended that the provisions for access facilities is discussed at the building design stage or before construction commences. Reconfiguration of the plumbing fixtures or moving the outlet for the shower hose horizontally along the wall away from the toilet pan may avoid a high hazard backflow risk (see diagram 2).

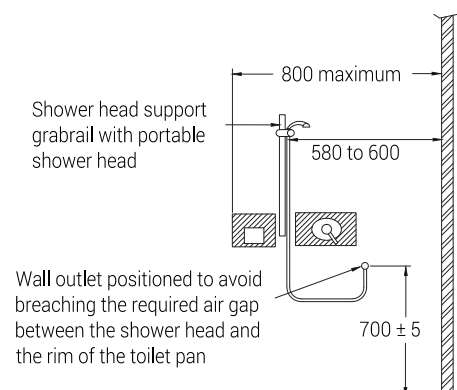


Diagram 2: Shower outlet re-located to avoid cross connection with toilet pan

The installation of a high hazard rating backflow prevention device, for example a reduced pressure zone device is not a solution and must not be used on the water supply to the shower outlet. The performance requirements of the PCA under B1P1 and B2P1 state that only drinking water must be supplied to outlets for personal hygiene.



Photo 2: Non-compliant facility with shower head below rim of the toilet pan

If reconfiguration of the plumbing fixtures does not solve the backflow issue, another solution is the installation of a proprietary fitting as shown below in photo 3. This device retracts the shower head after use and removes the cross-contamination hazard.

The use of a bracket or clip to restrain the hose to avoid backflow issues is not acceptable as it may affect the usability of the shower for people in wheelchairs.



Photo 3: Proprietary fitting with retractable arm

Toilet pan and basin clearances

AS 1428.1:2009, clause 15.2 sets out requirements for toilet pans and basins, see diagrams 3 and 4.

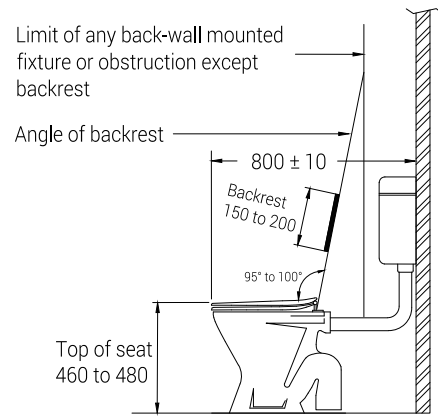


Diagram 3: Toilet pan side view

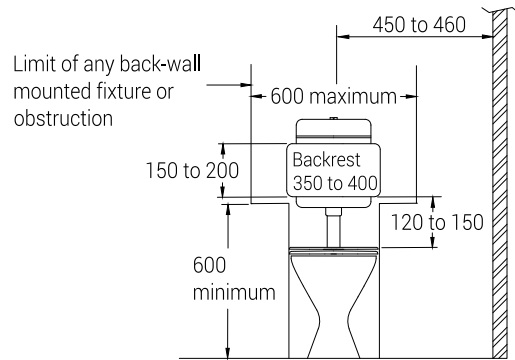


Diagram 4: Toilet pan front view

Water taps and temperature control

Water taps in access facilities must have lever handles with a minimum clearance of 50 mm, sensor plates, or similar controls.

It is not mandatory to provide heated water to accessible facilities although where cold and heated water are supplied they must discharge through a mixing outlet.

The PCA, B2D5 requires that heated water at outlets of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene in access facilities shall not exceed 45°C. This provision only applies to fixtures in those facilities and not at other sanitary fixtures for personal hygiene within the same building.

As stated in the PCA, B2D6, the only deemed-to-satisfy solutions for the control of heated water delivery temperature to accessible facilities are from a thermostatic mixing valve (TMV) complying with AS 4032.1:2000 or a thermostatically controlled tap complying with AS 4032.4:2014.

Water temperatures may be required to be lower in other regulated circumstances. In child care centres for example, under the Child Care Services (Child Care) Regulations 2006, heated water must be thermostatically controlled to a temperature of less than 42°C.

Notes

The technical note series is issued by the Plumbers Licensing Board to assist the plumbing industry to comply with the Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 (the Regulations) applicable to plumbing work in Western Australia.

Each technical note is to be read in conjunction with Part 6 of the Regulations that currently adopt the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) and the deemed to satisfy provisions of AS/NZS 3500:2021, parts 0, 1, 2 and 4 but modified in certain matters to suit the State's building approach and other local conditions.

Feedback

The Plumbers Licensing Board welcomes your feedback. If you have any questions on this technical note or any suggestions on any areas of plumbing work that the technical notes should cover, please contact the Board's Senior Technical Officer on (08) 6251 1377.

Copies

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