Adapting to an accessible toilet: Quick guide to getting it right!

The realisation that we can't manage any more, and need a little help to go to the toilet, is a big thing to accept. But little changes can make the transition easier.

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Adaptations are now commonplace (approx. 40,000 each year): the bathroom is the room most frequently adapted, and the WC the most often altered fixture therein. A little thought at the start of the process can ensure the adapted space meets needs, and still looks good.

Our 'quick guide' covers the small things that make a difference, so you – or your client – have dignity, independence, and remain in control.

1. Colour: Use it to brighten the space, and help differentiate different zones.
2. Fixings: Make sure they're strong enough if being used for leverage or to lean on!
3. Grab rails: Fixed or fold-away?
4. Washbasin: If a wheelchair or frame is now in the equation, a wall-mounted one provides better 'access'.
5. The WC: Away from a wall to enable easier transfer. Ideally, upgrade to a wash and dry toilet that will clean without any need to stretch for, tear off toilet tissue and then contort to wipe.
6. Toilet seat (height): If transferring from a wheelchair, the seat/WC may need to be raised; the seat itself is the most frequent adjustment to the fixture! Soft, horseshoe, bariatric, coloured: get it right, as many people spend a lot of time sat there...
7. Hoist: Make sure it reaches the areas it needs to, and there is adequate clearance to lift from the floor.
8. Room to move: If a wheelchair or frame is now "in the picture" is there enough space to easily turn and move around? Changing the door from a pivot to a slider can add precious inches. Removing a shower tray and making that fitting a level access similarly gives extra space for manoeuvre.
9. Light: Enough to use the room, but avoiding glare. Ambient light can highlight specific zones.


1
Height adjustable shower seat.
Height adjustable changing bench.
7
Ceiling track hoist.
9
5
3
6
2
4
Palma Vita wash and dry toilet.
Height adjustable wash basin.
8

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The white paper 'Design guidance and considerations for a domestic accessible toilet' covers the fine detail and is part of a series of white papers available at: www.closomat.co.uk

To build a specification, visit our dedicated configurator:
configurator.closomat.co.uk/palma-vita

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