OPENING THE DOOR TO OPTIMUM WC ACCESSIBILITY – TOP TIPS

Accessible toilets – the perception is facilities that cater for disabled people. What about cultural or religious considerations?

Everyone needs appropriate toilets, wherever they are when away from home. All needs should be considered for a true accessible WC.

Why does it matter?

- At least 20% of our population is disabled.
- More than 2.5m Muslims now reside in the UK: Islam has specific hygiene practices.
- The number of Japanese visitors to the UK is increasing (by almost 10% in 2019*): at home, they are used to 'washlets' – WCs that include at least a douche facility and often a drier too.

Following our top tips below will ensure that, with a few key elements addressed, the needs of most will be met, in just one toilet facility, regardless of the particular Regulatory requirements for your venue.

1. Space: sufficient to allow someone in a wheelchair to manoeuvre. Note this includes ensuring the doorway is wide enough to enable wheelchair access

2. Peninsular WC, to allow access, transfer from either side. Note a wash & dry toilet helps address religious and cultural considerations, and helps ensure optimum hygiene for anyone regardless of ability

3. Emergency pull cord. NB do NOT tie up

4. Wash basin: either fix low to enable ease of use by someone in a wheelchair, or choose a height adjustable version to accommodate ambulant and wheelchair users

5. Lever tap to address manual dexterity

6. Mirror, set at an appropriate height to suit wheelchair and ambulant users



7. Waste bin

8. Drop down support rail alongside WC

9. Grab rails by WC and basin

10. Shelf

Note, addition of a ceiling track hoist occupies no additional space but further extends useability of the WC.

The small print: the above 'top ten tips' are guidance only, offered as a result of our extensive experience in supplying and installing hundreds of assisted accessible toilets across the UK. All relevant permissions need to be obtained, and Building Regulations followed. We would also recommend cross-referencing with our white papers and appropriate Regulations particularly Building Regulations Approved Document M: 2015 and BS8300:2018

The Closomat solution:

We are the only specialist manufacturer and supplier of accessible bathroom/toilet equipment to offer clients a complete, compliant project management service.

Fully CDM (Construction Design & Management) 2015 compliant, our service gives you the peace of mind that our element of your project will be executed in an efficient, professional and timely manner, to all relevant Standards and Regulations.

Our service encompasses design advice, site survey, installation, and commissioning.

If required, we can also offer subsequent service, repair and maintenance: see our service page for further details.

For full details of the specification for Accessible Toilets and our white papers, please visit our website: closomat.co.uk

* Travel Weekly

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