

# OUTDOOR TOILET FACILITIES AVAILABILITY GUIDELINES

## PURPOSE

The intent of these guidelines are to protect the health of individuals, to reduce the spread of disease, to improve the livability of our communities and to make life viable for those who would otherwise hesitate to participate in activities that put them out or reach of toilet facilities.

## SCOPE

The scope of this document is limited to public areas outside of buildings. This document is not intended to cover restroom access in the workplace nor is it intended to address toilet availability within buildings. Existing ADA regulation address accessibility

## DEFINITIONS

As used in this document:

"Toilet room, - a room maintained within or on the premises of any building, containing toilet facilities.

"Urinal" - a toilet facility maintained within a toilet room for the sole purpose of urination.

"Toilet facility," - a fixture maintained within a toilet room for the purpose of defecation or urination, or both.

"Restroom" - A room equipped with toilets and lavatories for public use. [ term is often used to describe access controlled corporate facilities]

"Public restroom" - A room equipped with toilet facilities unarguably intended for public use

"Lavatory" - A room equipped with washing and often toilet facilities

"Bathroom" - A room equipped with facilities for taking a bath or shower and usually also containing a sink and toilet. In the context of this document "going to the bathroom" indicates the need void bowel or bladder.

PSU - A portable sanitation unit. (portable chemical toilet) with a 200 gallon capacity.

**Application based on focused locations**

## Municipalities

Every incorporated municipal district, borough, city, town, or village, or other entity of local self-government shall provide access to restrooms for the public at all times of the day and at any time of the year.

In jurisdictions unable to provide dedicated public facilities, or at those times of the day or year when dedicated public facilities are closed, written and published policy should exist to allow access by the public to public toilet facilities in government buildings that are continually (24X7) operational.

[ Examples: police, fire stations, and hospitals]

Toilet facilities shall be provided in accordance with table 1 of this section. Facilities to be provided for each sex. Where toilet rooms will be occupied by no more than one person at a time, can be locked from the inside, and contain at least one water closet, separate toilet rooms for each sex need not be provided. Where such single-occupancy rooms have more than one toilet facility, only one such facility in each toilet room shall be counted for the purpose of table

Table 1

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Toilet Facilities for the maximum typical 1 hour peak persons count within a 500 meter radius shall have at least shall comply with FEMA "[Special Events Contingency Planning](#)" [toilet guidelines](#)

**Note:** Chemical Toilets have capacity limitations that may require additional units

- .1 - Provide access to toilet facilities for the public in business and retail districts through out the period that pedestrian activity (300 visitors per hour) can typically be expected.
- .2 If within 500 meters of an existing toilet facilities, signs with directions to an restroom known to be open is acceptable.
- .3 - When for whatever reason an established well known restroom must be closed for more then 10 minutes, alternatives must be provided.
  - (a) Redirection to an operational facility within 500 meters.
  - (b) Portable Toilet Alternatives

(c) Published policy that require toilet service and cleaning persons to operate without closing the facility.

.4 Include restroom locations on municipal maps and with promotion materials.

.4 a Provide seasonal and time of day limitations with alternatives.

.5 Municipal Visitors Guides, Visitor Information Specialists and those employees such as Police Officers who interface with the public should be required to know and provide directions to public toilet facilities.

### **Special Events**

For Special Events for which there are no permanent toilet facilities, PSUs should be provided as follows.

.1 For a typical distribution of men, women and children, there must be 1 toilet for every 300 people.

.2 For an Event attended primarily by women and children there should be 1 toilet for every 200 people.

.3 For an even distribution of men and women at an event where alcoholic beverages are served, there should be 1 toilet for every 240 people.

Note: based on PSU holding capacities.

### **Popular Locations**

.1 Any location typically expected to have pedestrian activity exceeding 2000 people per day must have toilet facilities within 500 meters.

.2 Any location, permanent or otherwise, typically expected to accommodate a peak average concentration of 50 persons per hour must provide additional toilet facilities if the nearest restrooms facility is greater than 500 meters

### **Linear Parks and Trails**

- .1 During the month of the year where the peak monthly temperature is above 50, any multi-use trails system accommodating 2000 trail users per day shall provide toilet facilities at no greater than five kilometer intervals.
- .2 During the months of the year where the peak monthly temperature is below 50, any multi-use trails system accommodating 500 trail users shall provide toilet facilities at no greater than five kilometer intervals.
- .3 Trail and Park maps should include restroom location symbols and time of day availability information.
- .4 PSU should be substituted for unexpected closure of permanent facilities

### **Athletic Fields**

- .1 Athletic fields must have toilet facilities within 500 meters during team activity.
- .2 Toilet facilities should be provided at such locations when at least one team event per week is expected.
- .3 Toilet facilities should be provided at athletic fields when during a given week there are days when usage reaches 50 individuals per day.

### **Marinas**

- .1 All Marina Facilities must provide restroom facilities. Portable facilities located on shore are acceptable.

### **Application based on point to point Transit**

#### **Bus Transit Systems<sup>(1)</sup>**

Toilet facilities at transit systems should meet the minimum toilet fixture requirements of the applicable municipal building code. Where such code is not applicable, the transit authority will provide public restrooms at transit centers that meet the following criteria.

- .1. The transit center has been designed and sited principally to facilitate transfers between different routes.
- .2. The transit center is to be developed off-street on property that the county either owns or controls through a long-term lease.
- .3. County service through the transit center makes significant use of "timed meet" schedules.

- .4. The transit center has capacity for eight or more in-service coaches; layover bays or terminal space do not count toward meeting this capacity requirement.
- .5. There is adequate space on the transit center platform to provide a restroom facility without compromising operating requirements.
- .6. A daily platform population of 2,000 or more patrons is projected. This includes transfer activity as well as trips originating or terminating at the center.
- .7. At least 25 buses per peak hour pass through the transit center.
- .8. Independent of any decision to provide a public restroom, the level of operational activity at the transit center justifies the on-site assignment of a service supervisor for all or a portion of the operating day.
- ..8 (a). If these criteria are met, the public restroom will be a uni-sex facility that will be used both by county employees and by the general public. The restroom will only be available to the public for those hours when a department representative is scheduled to be on-site to manage the service. During those hours, public access to the facility will be controlled by this supervisor.
- .8 (b) If a local jurisdiction or adjacent property owners wish to expand hours of public access to the restroom beyond those available through the department's normal staff assignments, the local jurisdiction or property owner and the county may elect to enter into an agreement to share the additional operating costs for expanded restroom hours; provided, that such agreements shall be approved by the council as required ordinance and/or applicable state law.

(1) based on King County WA. 28.94.100

## **Mass Transit Rail Systems**

Toilet facilities at transit systems should meet the minimum toilet fixture requirements of the applicable municipal building code.

.1 Transit Stations without open public restroom access, should published Policy that requires station employees to open access controlled station restrooms.

.2 Portable toilets, preferably with waterless hand cleaner, should be placed in discrete, but safe areas, adjacent to stations.

.3 Stations with large sprawling parking lots should have a portable toilet in the area located the greatest distance from the station.

### **Commuter Parking Lots**

.1 All commuter parking lots with a capacity of 10 or more vehicles must provide TF.

.2 Placement should consider esthetics, security, and maintenance.

.3 If used, PSU's should have a sufficiently wide base or employ other measures to prevent tipping from wind or by vandals.