

Access Check



A How-To Guide on Common
Accessibility Problems

Accessibility Quiz

Before you begin, it's important to gauge your understanding of accessibility and ask yourself a few basic questions. So, please take a moment to complete this short quiz:

Q1: Did you perform any construction or alteration between July 26, 1991 to March 14, 2012? YES NO

Q2: Did you perform any construction or alteration after March 14, 2012 to the present? YES NO

Did this construction...

Q3: Make your facility readily accessible in all areas to persons with disabilities? YES NO NOT SURE

Q4: Improve access to goods and services to persons with disabilities? YES NO NOT SURE

Q5: Make your entrance fully accessible to persons with disabilities? YES NO NOT SURE

Q6: Provide at least one accessible restroom for both men and women, or a single-user accessible restroom? YES NO NOT SURE

Q7: Provide adequate accessible parking for persons with disabilities? YES NO NOT SURE

The ADA: A Short Intro

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990 and prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. The ADA is divided into five titles: Title I: Employment, Title II: Public Services, Title III: Public Accommodations, Title IV: Telecommunications, and Title V: Miscellaneous. It was later amended with changes effective January 1, 2009.

Title III regulations of the ADA include the Standards for Accessible Design (1991 Standards). These standards include all the requirements for making businesses, facilities and the like accessible for persons with disabilities. On September 15, 2010, Titles II and III of the ADA were revised and new accessibility standards were adopted. The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (2010 Standards) included new regulations for construction, alterations, program accessibility and barrier removal. Under the 2010 Standards, all new construction or alterations after March 15, 2012 must comply with the 2010 Standards.

This publication will provide information regarding the 2010 Standards.

How to Use This Guide

You have probably noticed accessible parking spaces and accessible stalls in restrooms, but do you know if they are truly accessible for persons with disabilities? Do you really understand what it takes for an area to be accessible?

This guide will give you the basic information needed to improve access for persons with disabilities. Specifically, this guide will focus on the areas where the most common mistakes occur.

- Access Routes
- Access to Goods
- Bathrooms
- Entrances
- Parking

With that said, let's review the quiz from the first page...

If you took our accessibility quiz and answered **YES** to **Q1**, you fall under the 1991 Standards.

If you answered **NO** to **Q1** but **YES** to **Q2**, you fall under the 2010 Standards.

If you answered **NO** or **NOT SURE** to the remainder of the questions, this guide will provide you with the right information to become more accessible and disability friendly.

**With this guide
you will be able
to identify...**

“The Good”



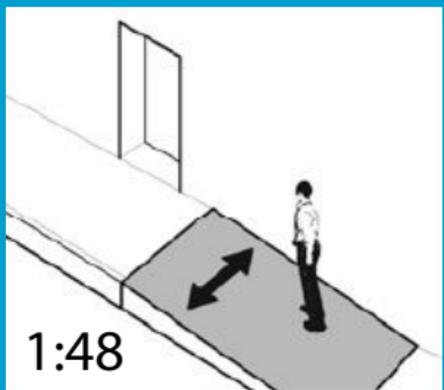
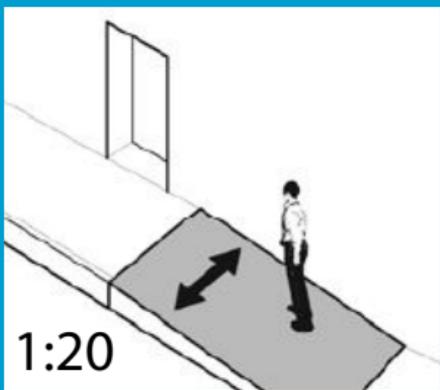
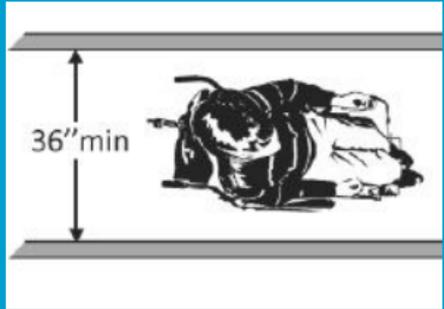
“The Bad”



“The Ugly”



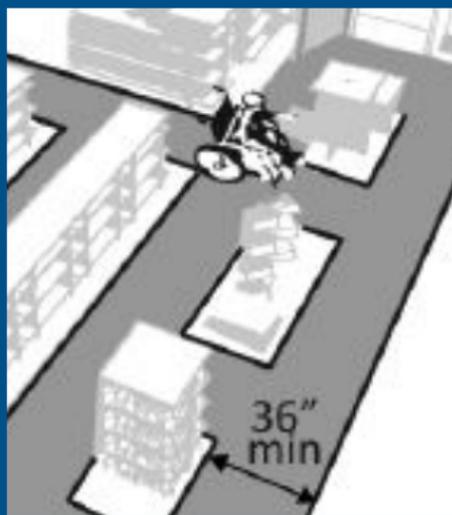
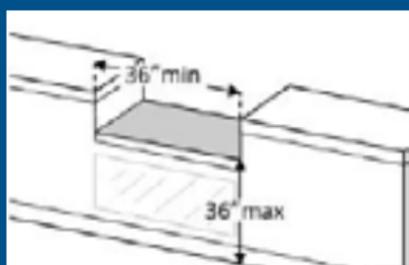
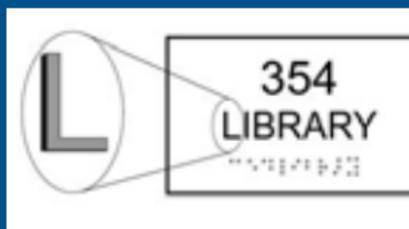
Access Route



- Accessible route must be marked with signs directing people to the accessible entrance
- The route must connect to an access aisle
- The route must be free of obstructions, such as curbs, bumps greater than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, broken or missing concrete or macadam
- Slope must be no steeper than 1:20, with a cross-slope no steeper than 1:48
- Must be 36 inches wide or greater with passing spaces every 200 feet (only for outdoor access routes)
- Surface must be firm, stable and slip resistant



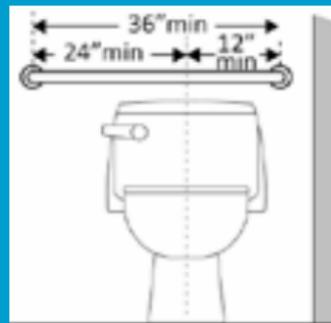
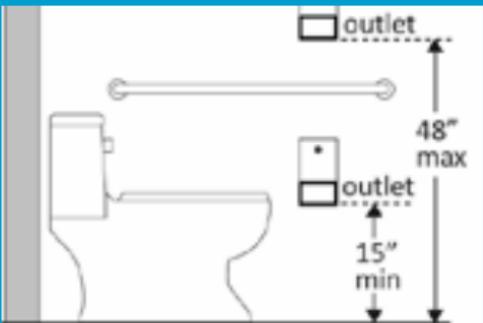
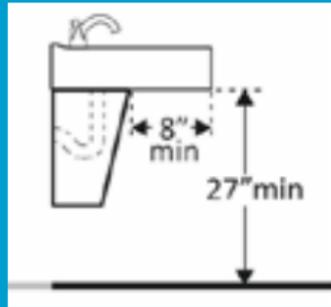
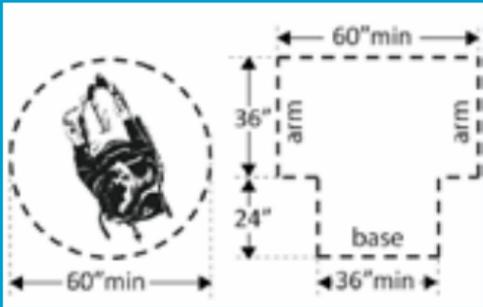
Access to Goods



- Aisles must be a minimum of 36 inches wide
- No obstacles or objects should protrude more than 4 inches into the path of travel
- Elevators or platform lifts should be available to access all public areas
- Signs with raised, contrasting lettering and Braille should be posted throughout
- Slope must be no steeper than 1:20, with a cross-slope no steeper than 1:48
- Interior doors should be 32 inches or wider, should include hardware that can be operable with a closed fist, and should be opened with less than five pounds of force
- Carpet should be no more than ½ inch thick
- Service counters should be no higher than 36 inches and should take into account parallel approach or have a pull under space



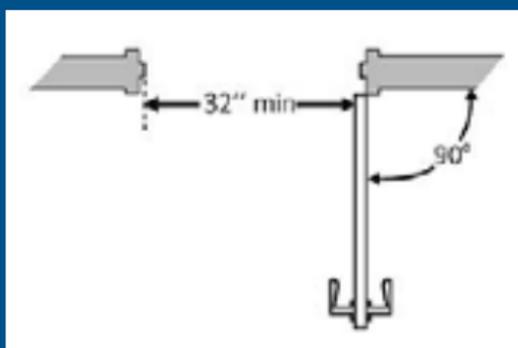
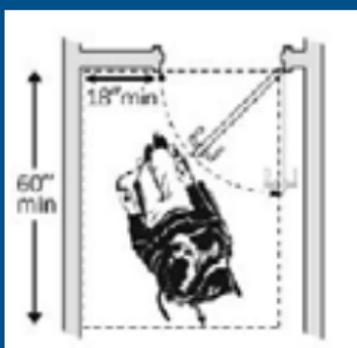
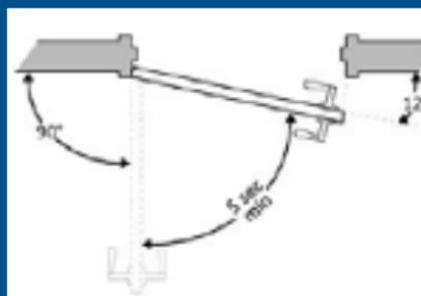
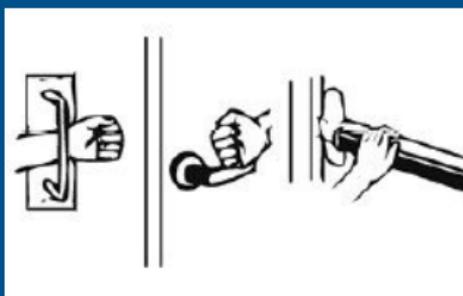
Bathrooms



- Accessible stall should have a 60 inch diameter of clear floor space, or a "T" shaped space within a 60 inch square
- Sink mounted between 27-34 inches with 8 inches under for knee space
- Piping should be wrapped underneath the sink
- The faucet should be operable without tight grasp or twisting of the wrist
- The toilet should be mounted 16-18 inches from the wall, with the flusher 17-18 inches high on the open side of the toilet
- Grab bars should be mounted 33-36 inches high. The side grab bar should be mounted 12 inches from the wall and be 42 inches in length. Rear grab bar should span 24 inches left of the centerline of the toilet and 12 inches to the right, for 36 inches total.
- Mounted items should be 12 inches minimum above the grab bars and 1½ inches minimum below the grab bars



Entrance



- Accessible entrance must be clearly marked
- The entrance must be accessed without the use of stairs
- Accessible entrance must connect to an access route
- The doorway must be 32 inches or greater when the door is opened at 90°
- If the door opens out, there should be at least 18 inches on the latch side of the door for maneuvering
- The door should be operable with a closed fist
- Thresholds should be less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
- The door should take 5 seconds to close from 90° to 12° from the latch
- The door should be opened with less than five pounds of force (unless it's a fire door)



Parking



| Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided in Parking Facility | Minimum Number of Required Accessible Parking Spaces |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 to 25 | 1 |
| 26 to 50 | 2 |
| 51 to 75 | 3 |
| 76 to 100 | 4 |
| 101 to 150 | 5 |
| 151 to 200 | 6 |
| 201 to 300 | 7 |
| 301 to 400 | 8 |
| 401 to 500 | 9 |
| 501 to 1000 | 2 percent of total |
| 1001 and over | 20, plus 1 for each 100, or fraction thereof, over 1000 |

- Accessible parking spaces should be at least 96 inches wide (minimum) with a 60 inch wide access aisle
- Van accessible spaces should be 132 inches wide with a 60 inch wide access aisle—OR—96 inches wide with a 96 inch wide access aisle
- An access aisle should be marked and connected to an accessible route
- Signs should be posted at a minimum of 60 inches above the ground and should display the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA). Van spaces should be marked as such.
- Slopes for accessible parking should be no steeper than 1:48



Best Practices

Aside from making physical improvements, there are many more ways in which your business or organization can become more disability friendly.

Person-First Language

Updating your language is way to become more accessible and disability friendly. Person-first language puts more emphasis on the individual, rather than his/her disability. An example would be saying “a person with a disability” rather than “disabled person.” A person’s disability does not define who they are; therefore, terms such as “handicapped,” “disabled,” and “wheelchair bound” should never be used.

New ISA

The International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) is perhaps the most recognizable symbol in the entire world. In 2009, it got a reboot courtesy of artist and researcher Sara Hendren. This new symbol emphasizes motion and is a much-needed update from the static ISA of the past. Thus, the new ISA was born. The new symbol is completely legal and many places, such as New York City, have adopted this new symbol. For more information, visit www.accessibleicon.org.



AccessCheck is brought to you by:

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