WATER CLOSET COMPARTMENTS

The regulations require that where more than 5 water closets are located within a toilet room, in addition to the wheelchair accessible compartment, one stall must provide ambulatory accessibility [cf Sec. 1108.11.4; Appendix A, p. 16]. This configuration provides assistance to the person who may use crutches, a walker, or leg brace, or who may have difficulty in rising.

The height of the water closet is established to allow for lever horizontal transfer from the average size wheelchair. The most common method is a lateral transfer from the wheelchair to the water closet. This is accomplished by removing the arm of the chair and sliding across, and requires sufficient space for positioning the chair to the side of the water closet.

Since there are many transfer techniques, it is necessary to provide space to allow for the wheelchair to take various positions adjacent to the water closet (see illustration, below).

Grab bars must be placed properly, so as to accommodate as many individual requirements as possible. Wall-mounted grab bars are necessary, to avoid the obstructions created by floor-mounted grab bars. A swing-away grab bar on the wide side of the water closet may be added, to provide additional options.

The compartment must be large enough to allow the wheelchair to turn so that the user may approach the water closet from a variety of positions, and close the door. Dispensers must be mounted within the reach of seated persons, and should not violate the required unobstructed space. There should be lever- or loop-type pulls on each side of the compartment door. A lower coat hook and small shelf are recommended.

The drawings on the facing page show some of the preferred alternatives for installing accessible water closet compartments in existing toilet rooms.
PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS

Public toilet rooms should be located so as to be found easily, and to minimize physical stress and travel distance. In addition to adequate clearance through doorways, careful attention must be given to the provision of sufficient wheelchair maneuvering space through vestibules and partitioned entrance spaces.

The interior of the room must allow space for a wheelchair user to gain access to all of the facilities, and to turn full circle. All mechanisms must be reachable and operable by persons who have reach and manipulative limitations. Properly utilized, the clearance underneath fixtures can be included as part of the unobstructed floor space, thus reducing room size.

In public toilet rooms with numerous fixtures, it is best to locate the accessible fixtures where the wheelchair, or persons using walking aids, will not obstruct access to other fixtures. In toilet rooms used predominantly by children, fixture heights should be appropriately adjusted.

The drawing on the far right of the facing page illustrates the permissible overlap of fixtures and unobstructed floor space for a toilet room with one water closet. The drawings of alternate vestibule arrangements demonstrate recommended solutions that do not create the physical hardship of passing through two doorways.

Note: It is important that fixture placement and sizes comply strictly with the regulations, since deviations can cause serious problems in use and safety.
1105.2.2 Toilet Facilities. Toilet facilities located within accessible dwelling units, guest rooms and congregate residences shall comply with Sections 1106.11 and 1106.27.

**EXCEPTION:** Within accessible dwelling units, only one toilet facility need be accessible.

In each toilet facility in other occupancies, at least one wheelchair-accessible toilet stall with an accessible water closet shall be provided. In addition, when there are 6 or more water closets within a toilet facility, at least one ambulatory accessible toilet stall complying with Section 1106.11.A shall also be installed.

Where urinals are provided, at least one urinal shall be accessible.

1105.2.3 Lavatories, mirrors and towel fixtures. At least one accessible lavatory shall be provided within any toilet facility. Where mirrors, towel fixtures and other toilet and bathroom accessories are provided, at least one of each shall be accessible.

1106.11 Bathrooms, Toilet Rooms, Bathing Facilities and Shower Rooms.

1106.11.1 General. Bathrooms, toilet rooms, bathing facilities, and shower rooms shall be designed in accordance with this section. For dwelling units, see also Section 1106.27.

1106.11.2 Unobstructed floor space. An unobstructed floor space shall be provided within bathrooms, toilet rooms, bathing facilities and shower rooms of sufficient size to inscribe a circle with a diameter not less than 60 inches (1525 mm). Doors in any position may encroach into this space by not more than 12 inches (305 mm). The clear floor spaces at fixtures, the accessible route of travel and the unobstructed floor space may overlap.
WATER FOUNTAINS

The projecting water fountain which has clearance beneath for the wheelchair is accessible by most persons. If a water fountain is recessed in an alcove, or is adjacent to a wall return, there must be sufficient space for the wheelchair to maneuver into position. It is essential for the spout to be set as close as possible to the front edge to allow persons with limited head and upper trunk mobility to drink. The spigot should be within 3 inches of the leading edge of the fountain, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) require this placement in fountains with round or oval bowls. Locate projecting faucets where they do not obstruct the accessible route of travel, or become a hazard for persons with sight disabilities.

1105.4 Other Building Facilities.

1105.4.1 Water Fountains. On any floor where water fountains are provided, at least 50 percent, but in no case less than one fountain, shall be accessible complying with Section 1106.13 and at least one fountain shall be mounted at a standard height.

1106.13 Water Fountains.

1106.13.1 Clear floor space. Wall- and post-mounted cantilevered units shall have a minimum clear floor space in front of the units, of 30 inches (760 mm) in width by 48 inches (1220 mm) depth to allow a forward approach.

Free-standing or built-in units not having a clear space beneath shall have an adjacent clear floor space at least 30 inches (760 mm) in depth by 48 inches (1220 mm) in width in order to allow a person in a wheelchair to make a parallel approach to the unit.

1106.13.2 Knee space. Wall- and post-mounted cantilevered units shall have knee space in accordance with Section 1106.2.4.3. The knee space shall be not less than 17 inches (430 mm) nor more than 19 inches (485 mm) in depth.

1106.13.3 Spout location. Spouts shall be located not more than 36 inches (915 mm) above the floor or ground surface. Spouts shall be located at the front of the unit and shall direct a water flow not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height, in a trajectory parallel to the front of the unit. Recessed units shall be installed such that the spout is not recessed beyond the plane of the wall.

1106.13.4 Controls. Controls shall be located not more than 6 inches (152 mm) from the front of the unit and shall comply with Section 1106.3. The force required to activate the control shall not exceed 5 pounds (22.2 N).

1106.13.5. Water fountains in alcoves. Where a unit is installed in an alcove greater than 8 inches (205 mm) in depth, the alcove shall be not less than 48 inches (1220 mm) in width. A minimum 24 inches (610 mm) of clear space shall be provided from the spout to the nearest side wall of the alcove.