

Provision of Sanitary Appliances and Their Space Requirements

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GOOD BUILDING GUIDE **GBG 79**

PROVISION OF SANITARY APPLIANCES AND THEIR SPACE REQUIREMENTS

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Sanitary appliances found within buildings include WCs, washbasins, baths or showers, sinks, urinals and bidets. In addition, water-using appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers may also be specified and installed. The numbers of appliances required within a building will depend on its use. Mandatory requirements are contained in the building regulations¹ and Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations² with guidelines for scale of provision for a wide variety of buildings given in BS 6465-1³. Additional guidance on the strategy and provision of public toilets is given in BS 6465-4³. Some guidance is given for special design of sanitary facilities for people with disabilities in BS 8300⁴ and BS 6465-4³.

This Good Building Guide also illustrates space requirements for bathrooms designed to give the minimum activity space for each appliance for personal use or for households with children, ie enough space for an adult to supervise the bathing and washing of children. Further guidance on space requirements for bathrooms and other locations is provided in BS 6465-2¹.

PROVISION OF APPLIANCES

While use of most appliance provision will be at the occupier's convenience, WC provision should be such that a person can visit the WC quickly when necessary to avoid distress or health problems. The level of provision is based on studies which show that men take an average of 35 seconds to use an urinal, while a woman takes an average of 60 seconds to use a WC. Recommendations are given such that adequate provision is made to avoid people normally having to queue.

A range of building types is covered and it will be seen that the need for appliances for a shopping mall,



where usage is continuous, is very different from a theatre where all the usage will usually come at an interval in a performance. The tables in the following sections give minimum recommended provision of each appliance.

Private dwellings

Minimum provision is given in Table 1. A WC with washbasin should be provided on the entrance storey or

Table 1: Minimum provision of sanitary appliances in a private dwelling
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Sanitary appliance	No. of sanitary appliances per dwelling	Remarks
WC	1 for up to 4 persons, 2 for 5 persons or more	There should be a washbasin in or adjacent to every WC
Washbasin	1	WC
Bath or shower	1 per 4 persons	
Kitchen sink	1	

* Details of how to obtain BSI publications are given on page 6.



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