

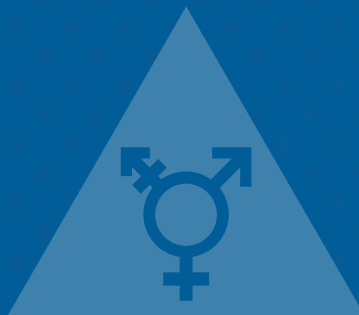


City of West Hollywood

Design Standards for Multi-stall Gender Neutral Public Toilet Facilities



UNISEX



GENDER NEUTRAL



City of West Hollywood

Design standards for multi-stall gender neutral public toilet facilities

The City of West Hollywood is strongly committed to creating a safe and accessible environment for all people.

The City has been first in the State to create a **gender-neutral restroom policy** to make restrooms more welcoming and safer for transgender and gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities, personal attendants of a different gender, and people with children of a different gender.

West Hollywood has acted by adding **Section 19.20.260** to the West Hollywood Municipal Code and established the following design standards for gender neutral public toilet facilities in all new commercial developments and commercial remodels.

AS OF MARCH 6, 2023, GENDER NEUTRAL PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED IN:

1

All new and renovated commercial buildings that constitute a major remodel, as defined under Article 19.90* of the West Hollywood Municipal Code

2

Commercial renovations requiring a building permit that include the removal of interior partitions or a complete floor plan alteration

3

Commercial renovations that include relocation, expansion, or accessibility upgrades of existing restrooms.

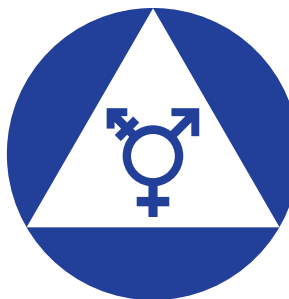
*WHMC Article 19.90 – Major Remodel. The removal of 50 percent or more of the exterior wall area (which includes walls, doors, and windows), or the removal of 50 percent or more of the supporting members of a structure (e.g., beams, bearing walls, columns, or girders), whichever is more restrictive.

The following gender-neutral bathroom policies and design standards shall apply to all restroom facilities required to provide gender neutral public toilet facilities:

A Public restroom facilities shall be designed and constructed with single-user toilet compartments and identified for use by all genders instead of the design standards for separate facilities for male and female found in the applicable provisions in Chapter 4 of the California Plumbing Code.

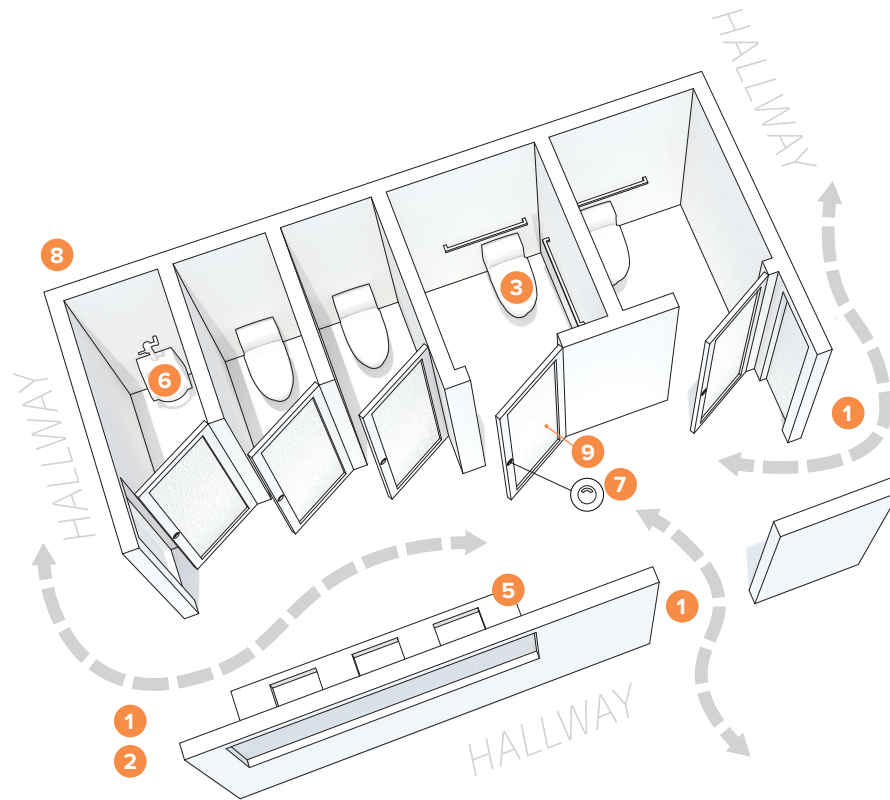
B Gender neutral public toilet facilities are defined as restrooms whose access shall not be restricted to persons of a specific sex or gender identity.

C Signage indicating that public toilet facilities are gender neutral shall comply with Part 5 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and be clearly and conspicuously posted on all entrances to such restroom facility or facilities. An example of signage that may be used is depicted below:



D

Public restroom facilities shall be designed to serve all genders and shall adhere to the following criteria:



- 1 The location of facilities shall be along the maximum number of open circulation paths that will maintain privacy and allow for high visibility for security.
- 2 The main entrance to the space or area where restroom facilities are located shall not have a door that will obstruct or prevent visual security.
- 3 Water closets shall be designed as single-user compartments and designated for use by no more than one occupant at a time or for family or assisted use.
- 4 Water closets shall be enclosed on all sides by walls or partitions extending from the floor to the ceiling and shall have a door to enclose the compartment for privacy and security.
- 5 Lavatories may be located in the same compartment as a water closet or grouped in an immediately adjacent common use area accessible to all users.
- 6 Urinals shall be located in an area visually separated from the remainder of the facility or in an individual compartment(s).
- 7 The door to each individual compartment shall be provided with locking hardware that can be controlled by the occupant and a lock release to open from the outside for emergency access. The lock shall also visually indicate that the compartment is occupied to outside occupants.
- 8 Adequate light and ventilation shall be provided within each compartment and each area of the facility.
- 9 Windows or glazing used in the compartment enclosures shall be translucent to provide privacy.

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The design standards shall not be construed as requiring or authorizing:

1. A reduction in the number of toilet facilities that are required by Title 24, Part 5 of the California Code of Regulations or,
2. A reduction in the number of toilet facilities accessible to persons with disabilities that are otherwise required under either Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations or the Federal Americans with Disability Act.

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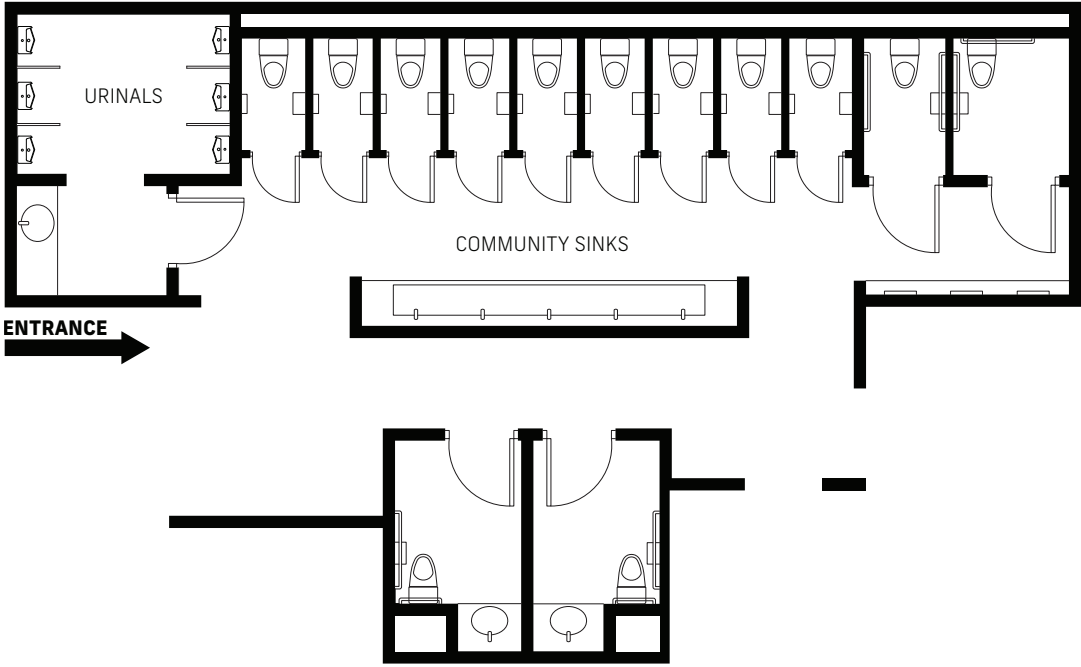
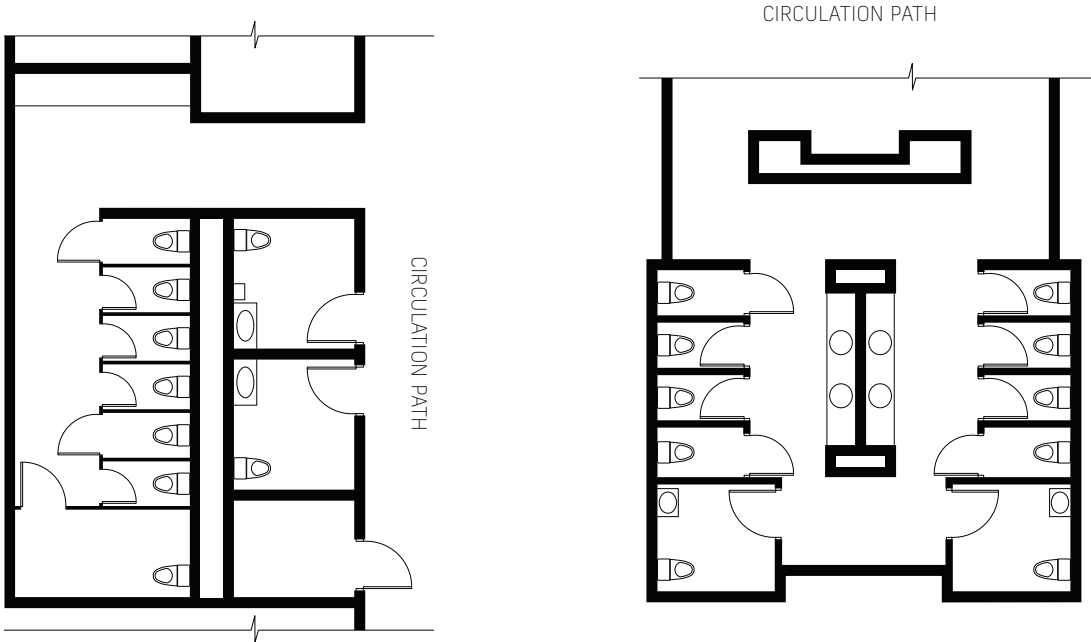
Waiver/Modifications. The City may waive or modify the requirements of this Section upon application to the Director of Planning and Development Services where any of the following are present and substantiated:

1. Compliance is technically infeasible. The alteration shall provide equivalent facilitation or comply with the requirements to the maximum extent feasible.
2. Compliance will create an unreasonable financial hardship. The cost of compliance, the valuation of the project, the impact of proposed improvements on financial feasibility of the project, and the use of the facility under construction shall all be considered to determine a hardship. Equivalent facilitation or compliance shall be provided with the requirements to the maximum extent feasible.
3. Use and occupancy. Special consideration will be made for certain occupancies such as religious and educational uses.
4. The policy for the consideration, approval and appeal of the Director's decision on waiver or modification requests under this Section will be adopted by the City Manager or their designee.

G

Gender neutral public toilet facilities may be further designed in any manner that provides the greatest access, equivalency, and privacy for patrons, and maximizes space, with shared washbasins, fully enclosed lavatories (floor-to-ceiling walls), doorknobs, enclosed urinals and/or toilets, or other design features that promote the purposes herein promulgated and that may be most effective for the applicant(s).

Floor Plan Examples



For more information:

Zoning Ordinance Information

Current and Historic Preservation Planning Division
Planning@weho.org
323-848-6475

Design Standards Information

Building and Safety Division
Planchecker@weho.org
323-848-6320

