

# Actsafes Fact Sheet #17

## WASHROOM FACILITIES



### General guidelines for Washrooms while on Location.

The employer must ensure that a sufficient number of plumbed washrooms are readily available for the crew. Readily available means the walking distance from a working area to a washroom should not be more than 60 metres (200 feet). In multi-storied workplaces, washrooms should not be more than one floor above or below the working area.

### Number of Washrooms Required

In determining the number of facilities to provide, the calculations should be based on the anticipated largest number of workers on any shift at the workplace at one time; workers who spend more than 75% of their time away from the workplace may be excluded from the count. Recommendations for sufficient plumbed washroom facilities include the following:

- Where there are more than 9 workers, separate washrooms clearly signed for male and female workers. However, if the total number of workers on shift is 9 or fewer, or if a work area with 9 or fewer workers is located more than 60 metres (200 feet) from other washroom facilities, a single washroom for use by both male and female workers is generally suitable, provided it has a lockable door.

- In each female or male washroom, one toilet for 9 or fewer workers, two toilets for 10 to 24 workers, plus one more toilet for each additional 25 workers. If more than one toilet is required in a washroom for male workers, urinals may be substituted for half the recommended number of toilets.

- In each male or female washroom, one wash basin connected to a source of hot and cold water in each washroom containing one or two toilets and/or urinals, and at least one additional wash basin for each additional two such fixtures. If a large circular pedestal wash basin is provided, 60 centimetres (2 feet) of the circumference is generally considered equivalent to one wash basin.

- Washrooms should be designed so as to provide privacy for workers using the facilities.

### When Plumbed Washrooms are Unavailable

Where access to or installation of plumbed facilities is not practical, portable toilets should be provided and maintained. The number of portable facilities (toilets and hand-washing facilities) should be sufficient for the number of workers, and the facilities should be readily accessible to workers. In highly transient or short-term operations, where it is not practicable to provide portable facilities, the needs of workers must be reasonably accommodated. Depending on the workplace location, workers may be given the opportunity to access alternative facilities such as those in parks or public buildings, or be provided with other options appropriate to the workplace location.

### Maintenance of Washrooms

If washroom facilities are provided they must be, maintained in proper working order, kept clean and sanitary, and provided with the supplies necessary for their use.

See Section 4.85 of the WorkSafeBC OHS Regulation