

REACHING ADA STANDARDS WITH DRINKING FOUNTAINS



HYDRATION WHITE PAPER



Reaching ADA Standards with Drinking Fountains

The American Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990, is a broad civil rights law designed to make public areas and services fully accessible for those living with disabilities.

WHAT ARE THE ADA STANDARDS FOR DRINKING FOUNTAINS?

Both the ICC A117.1-2009 (International Code Council) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design outline a list of requirements for design, accessibility, clearance, and minimum number of drinking fountains. To ensure compliance, drinking fountains must be mounted at a height for wheelchair users, providing clear floor space for a forward approach that allows knee and toe clearance. To accommodate the height of small children, a parallel approach for drinking fountains need to be installed. The 2010 Standards also includes a technical requirement for drinking fountains for standing persons. Drinking fountains must comply with the following standards:

- **MINIMUM NUMBER OF DRINKING FOUNTAINS [211.2]:**

No fewer than two drinking fountains shall be provided.

One drinking fountain is designed for people confined to wheelchairs with an appropriate approach and a

stream flow such that a glass can be placed under it [Sections 602.1-602.6].

The second is for standing persons (not able-bodied) with difficulty stooping [Section 602.7].

- **EXCEPTION 1:** Drinking fountains are not required in buildings with less than 15 occupants or at restaurants that serve water.

- **EXCEPTION 2:** A single drinking fountain that complies with the requirements for wheelchair bound and standing persons is permitted to be substituted for 2 separate fountains (hi-lo).

- **MORE THAN THE MINIMUM [211.3]:** Where more than the minimum number of drinking fountains specified are provided, 50% must comply for wheelchair bound persons and 50% for standing persons.

- **Exception:** Where 50% yields a fraction, 50% can be rounded up or down provided the total equals 100% of the fountains. Example: 7 DF's are provided. 50% = 3.5. Round up =4, Round down = 3

- **SPOUT HEIGHT [602.4]:** Drinking fountain spouts may be no higher than 36 inches (915 mm) above the floor.

- **FOR STANDING PERSONS:** 38" to 43" (965 to 1090 mm) above floor

- **CHILD HEIGHT:** 30" (760 mm) max

- **SPOUT LOCATION [602.5]:** Spouts must be a minimum of 15 inches (380 mm) from the vertical support and no more than 5 inches (125 mm) from the unit's front edge.

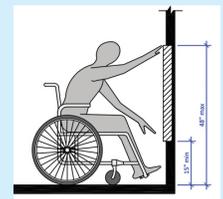
- **WATER FLOW [602.6]:** The fountain's water height must reach a minimum of 4 inches (100 mm) high and be located no more than 5 inches (125 mm) from the unit's front edge. This ensures that a cup can be placed under the water to provide a drink for any individual who cannot physically use the drinking fountain itself.

A number of requirements must be met in order to ensure ADA compliance.

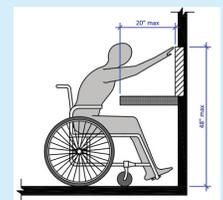
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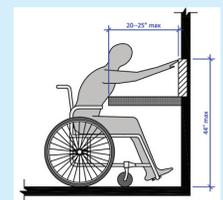
- **CLEAR FLOOR OR GROUND SPACE [305.3]:** Access space requires 30 inches (760mm) by 48 inches (1220 mm) for either a forward or parallel approach to a drinking fountain.
- **TOE CLEARANCE [306.2]:** A 9-inch (230 mm) minimum height from floor to the bottom of the drinking fountain; a depth between 17 and 25 inches (430 to 635 mm); and a width of at least 30 inches (760 mm).
- **KNEE CLEARANCE [306.3]:** The distance from the floor to the bottom of the drinking fountain must measure between 9 and 27 inches (230-685 mm) with a width at least 30 inches (760 mm). The depth maximum can be no more than 25 inches (635 mm), with a minimum depth of 11 inches (280 mm) at 9 inches above the floor and 8 inches (280 mm) at 27 inches above the floor.
- **UNOBSTRUCTED FORWARD REACHING RANGES [308.2.1]:** High forward unobstructed reach height shall not be more than 48 inches (1220 mm). Low forward unobstructed reach height shall not be less than 15 inches (380 mm).
- **OBSTRUCTED FORWARDING REACHING RANGES [308.2.2]:** When reach depth is 20 inches (510 mm) or less, reach height shall be no more than 48" (1220 mm). When reach depth is between 20 and 25 inches (510-635 mm), reach height shall be no more than 44 inches (1120 mm). Reach depth cannot exceed 25 inches (635 mm).
- **UNOBSTRUCTED SIDE REACHING RANGES [308.3.1]:** High side unobstructed reach height shall not be more than 48 inches (1220 mm). Low side unobstructed reach height shall not be less than 15 inches (380 mm) from the floor.
 - **Exception:** An obstruction shall be permitted between the clear floor or ground space and the element where the depth of the obstruction is a maximum of 10 inches (255 mm).
- **OBSTRUCTED SIDE REACHING RANGES [308.3.2]:** When reach depth is 10 inches (255 mm) or less, reach height shall not be more than 48 inches (1220 mm). When reach depth is between 10 to 24 inches (255-610 mm), reach height shall be no greater than 46 inches (1170 mm). Reach depth cannot exceed 24 inches (610 mm).



Unobstructed High/Low Forward Reach



Obstructed High Forward Reach



Obstructed Low Forward Reach

The modern drinking fountain was invented in 1906 by Luther Haws, then three years later the Haws Sanitary Drinking Faucet Company was formed in Berkeley, California. Today, Haws manufactures a range of drinking fountain models designed with ADA compliance in mind. Many of the Haws drinking fountains, bottle fillers, and supplemental products meet ADA compliance. From indoor wall mounted to outdoor pedestal fountains, Haws continues to provide ADA compliant hydration solutions.

For more information on ADA compliance requirements, please refer to Section 4 of the ADA Standard for Accessible Design. For more information regarding ADA compliant hydration products, visit www.hawsc.com.