

Washrooms

A large majority of buildings in the Calgary Diocese were built prior to building codes or at least prior to the current one. Consequently, many have washrooms which are inadequate in terms of the number of fixtures and accessibility. Until recently, codes required a fixture for every 150 building occupants Of each gender. The current code does not specify numbers of fixtures but requires that they be appropriate to the occupancy of the building. Current programs often mean that people spend more time in the building than they did when the building was built.

In most cases, renovations are indicated when there are line-ups waiting to use the facilities and maintenance and cleaning become problems

Any renovations will require attention to accessibility and capacity. The Barrier Free Design Guide covers many considerations for barrier free access. The document can be obtained free from cochrane.ca/DocumentCentre/View/7012/Barrier-Free-Design-Guide Pages 61-73 details requirements and suggestions along with clear diagrams for washrooms, universal washrooms, mirrors, lavatories and toilet stalls.

In men's washrooms, it is efficient to supply the permitted 50% of the fixtures in the form of urinals. Wall surfaces adjacent to urinals should be finished with ceramic tile. Mount urinals low enough that they can be used by boys.

Recent recommendations suggest that fixtures be installed in women's washrooms at twice the rate of men. Traffic can be reduced in washrooms by providing drinking fountains in corridors or other public areas.

Universal Toilet Rooms

Consideration should be given to the installation of a "universal toilet room" which has a single toilet and lavatory. There are situations generated in churches for which gender segregated multiple facilities are not appropriate. These include handicapped whose caregiver is often the spouse or person of the opposite gender.. parents with young children of opposite gender. These universal units are often designated as "family washrooms" and include infant changing facilities.

Keeping it Clean

Surfaces should be hard and easily cleaned. Toilet partitions should be steel with a baked on enamel finish or surfaced with plastic laminate. Under the counter mounted liquid soap dispensers are rarely operational for long can contribute to messy counters. Paper towel disposal needs to be sized to demand.