

Sanitary installations —

Part 1: Code of practice for scale of provision, selection and installation of sanitary appliances

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Foreword

This Part of BS 6465 has been prepared under the direction of the Technical Sector Board for Building and Civil Engineering. It supersedes BS 6465-1:1984 which is withdrawn.

Sufficient space should be provided around all sanitary appliances to ensure convenience in use and to facilitate maintenance and cleaning. Recommendations on the space to be provided for appliances will form the subject of Part 2 of this standard.

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 30, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This Part of BS 6465 gives recommendations for the scale of provision and guidance for the selection and installation of sanitary appliances.

It does not give guidance on the space requirements for appliances or the levels of accommodation in sports stadia and such places of public entertainment.

This standard applies to the following:

- a) dwellings;
- b) accommodation for elderly people;
- c) facilities for disabled people;
- d) public toilets;
- e) workplaces;
- f) shops with sales area in excess of 1 000 m² and shopping malls;
- g) schools;
- h) buildings for public entertainment including cinemas, theatres, town halls (when used for entertainment), leisure centres, libraries;
- i) hotels, guest houses and hostels;
- j) restaurants, canteens, cafeterias and fast food outlets;
- k) licensed bars;
- l) swimming pools.

NOTE 1 The requirements for sanitary appliances in hospitals and other healthcare buildings are covered by the general recommendations of this standard. However, for the scale of provision, ergonomic data and the special requirements for appliances in hospitals, the various guidance documents produced by NHS Estates should be followed.

NOTE 2 This Part of BS 6465 does not deal with the detailed provisions of water supply, sanitary pipework, or drainage. Information on these subjects is covered in BS 6700, BS 5572 and BS 8301 respectively.

NOTE 3 Attention is drawn to Acts, Byelaws, Regulations and other Statutory requirements listed in Annex A, which relate to sanitary appliances, water supplies and drainage.

NOTE 4 Other British Standards that give information are listed in Annex B (Bibliography).

2 References

2.1 Normative references

This Part of BS 6465 incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are made at the appropriate places in the text and the cited publications are listed on pages 29 and 30. For dated references, only the edition cited applies; any subsequent amendments to or revisions of the cited publication apply to this Part of BS 6465 only when incorporated in the reference by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the cited publication applies, together with any amendments.

2.2 Informative references

This Part of BS 6465 refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on the inside back cover, but reference should be made to the latest editions.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 6465 the definitions given in BS 6100-3.3 apply, together with the following.

3.1

toilet

a room in which sanitary appliances are installed and which is used solely for the ablutionary and/or excretory purposes

3.2

WC compartment

a self-contained room in which a WC or a WC and hand rinse basin is installed

3.3

WC cubicle

a space within the toilet, partitioned to contain a WC, but open at high level to circulation of air within the toilet

3.4

bathroom

a room primarily used for ablutions, which contains a bath and/or shower, wash basin and may contain a bidet and/or a WC

3.5

workplace

any non-domestic premises made available to any person as a place of work and includes:

- a) any place within the premises to which such person has access while at work; and
- b) part of a workplace.

3.6

public toilet

a toilet open to the public which is usually maintained and upheld by a local authority or other corporate body

3.7

automatic toilet

automatically cleansed toilet booth

NOTE Such toilet booths are usually coin operated.

**3.8
food business**

any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any or all of the following:

preparation, processing, manufacturing, packaging, storing, transportation, distribution, handling or offering for sale or supply of foodstuffs.

**3.9
double sink**

sink with two separate compartments which have separate waste outlets

NOTE Where an overflow is incorporated this often serves both compartments.

**3.10
multiple bowl sink**

sink formed, or inset, with various numbers of whole and half bowls

**3.11
semi-pedestal wash basin**

wall mounted wash basin complete with a wall mounted cover partially covering the supply pipes and drainage outlet

**3.12
sanitary towel macerator**

automatic electromechanical appliance with a pre-set operating cycle activated by closing the lid, in which any interruption of the cycle automatically re-sets the full cycle, used for the immediate destruction of sanitary towels or dressings by maceration, the residue being flushed away through the drainage system

**3.13
sanitary towel incinerator**

automatic appliance with a pre-set cycle of operation activated by closing the lid, for the immediate destruction of sanitary towels by intense heat produced by either gas or electricity

**3.14
bag collection unit**

wall mounted container holding a plastic bag, the neck of which is automatically opened to receive the soiled article when the lid is opened

**3.15
chemical type collection unit**

plastics container charged with scented germicidal fluid

4 Exchange of information

The requirement for the provision of sanitary appliances and their location should be determined by consultation whilst the planning of the building in which they are to be installed is in its early stages. It is necessary to know the number of persons likely to occupy the building, its intended use, and the gender and special needs of the occupants.

The level of provision recommended is based on studies which show that for physiological and other circumstances females have more frequent need and longer use than males.

5 Design**5.1 General recommendations****5.1.1 Access**

Access to a toilet containing a WC or urinal should be as follows.

- a) It should be separated by a door from a room or space where food is prepared or washing-up is done, except in the case of a food business. In the latter case, it is essential that the room or space be separated from the toilet by a lobby;
- b) It should not be entered directly from a bedroom or dressing room unless there is an alternative toilet containing a WC, or the bathroom is constructed so that it can be entered without passing through the bedroom or dressing room;
- c) It should be separated by a door from a workplace.

Steps should not be installed in toilets and bathrooms. Doors to WC compartments, WC cubicles and bathrooms should be fitted with simple safety locks which may be easily released from outside for access in case of emergency. This is particularly important where use is by elderly or disabled persons or children. All door latches should be easily operated by the user.

5.1.2 Ventilation

Adequate ventilation is a necessary requisite for all toilets and bathrooms. Toilets should have windows or skylights with openings direct to the outside. These openings should have a total area of at least 1/20th (1/30th in Scotland) of the floor area of the room and with some part of the ventilation opening at least 1.75 m above the floor level. It may be advantageous to supplement such natural ventilation by mechanical means. Mechanical ventilation is required in rooms with baths or showers to reduce the possibility of condensation and should be installed in accordance with BS 5720, BS 5250 and BS 5925.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the Building Regulations (see Annex A).

Where the ventilation is necessarily entirely mechanical, it should be capable of extracting air at a rate of not less than three air changes per hour, which may be operated intermittently with 15 min overrun.

5.1.3 Layout

The grouping together of appliances can lead to considerable economies in pipework. The installation of pipework should be in accordance with BS 5572, BS 6700 and BS 8301. All appliances, pipework and controls should be arranged so as not to obstruct users and to facilitate cleaning, maintenance and repair. Pipework and fixings should be enclosed to deter vandalism.

Noise from sanitary appliances can be reduced by appropriate siting, secure fixing and insulation of pipework.

In order to cater for the requirements of people with special needs toilets should be planned in accordance with BS 4467, BS 5619, and BS 5810.

NOTE 1 Attention is drawn to the Building Regulations (see Annex A).

NOTE 2 Further design details and information is available in *Sanitary provision for people with special needs* [1].

5.1.4 Walls and floors

The wall surfaces should be smooth. Except for domestic toilets, floor surfaces in all other toilets containing urinals and/or WCs should be of an impervious material, non-slip and preferably coved to the walls. Where floor and wall coverings are designed and installed using ceramic tiles, this should be in accordance with BS 5385-1.

5.2 Non-domestic toilets

In addition to the general design recommendations (see 5.1), all non-domestic installations should incorporate the following features.

- a) For buildings with a transitory population (such as theatres) the location of the facilities should be well signed and, if there is more than one location, directions to the nearest alternative location should also be signed.
- b) The entrance to toilets should be positioned to avoid interference with the freedom of movement in main circulation areas or stairways. The layout of the appliances and the peripheral fittings such as mirrors, should allow adequate circulation. The hand washing and drying appliances should be located between the WCs and/or urinals and the exit but positioned to prevent congestion.
- c) Labelled drinking water points should be located in areas intended for food preparation and in rooms provided for beverage making.

d) Where beverage making facilities are not provided, labelled drinking water points should be provided in the vicinity of, but not inside, WC cubicles. Nevertheless, a drinking water fountain may be installed within a toilet area but it should be sited as far away as possible from WCs and urinals and should be of the shrouded nozzle type discharging above the spill-over level of the bowl.

e) In the design of toilets, it is essential that all removable panels concealing pipework and/or fittings be locked in position and be incapable of removal by the users. Anti-graffiti measures should also be included in the design.

f) WC compartments should be self-contained. Where a range of WC cubicles is provided with cubicle partitions that do not meet the floor, ventilation, cleaning and supervision are simplified. These advantages are gained only at the expense of a certain degree of privacy. Where cubicles are used, toilets may be regarded as a single unit for the purposes of ventilation. Where partition walls and doors of WC cubicles are kept clear of the floor, the clearance should be not less than 100 mm and not more than 150 mm. Partitions and doors that terminate below ceiling level should not be less than 2 m in height from the floor.

g) Toilets for both males and females should be provided with facilities for the safe disposal of soiled continence aids. Where provision is made for nappy changing, appropriate adjacent disposal facilities should also be provided. WC compartments in female toilets should additionally be provided with disposal facilities for soiled sanitary dressings by use of incinerators, macerators and/or sealed bags and bins (see 17.4 and 17.5). Storage of waste should be in accordance with BS 5906.

h) WC compartments and cubicles should be provided with hooks so that clothing and articles need not be placed on the floor.

5.3 Public toilets

In addition to 5.1 and 5.2, public toilet installations should also incorporate the following features.

- a) Accommodation for an attendant should be provided, unless it is an automatic toilet.

NOTE In addition to cleaning, an attendant also limits the amount of misuse and damage which might otherwise occur.

- b) All fittings and appliances, should be robust, hard wearing and mechanically reliable.
- c) Doors to WC compartments and cubicles should be designed to stay open when the compartment is not in use and be capable of being removed from the outside in case of emergency.

d) Vandalism and other damage to pipework and flushing cisterns can be substantially reduced by the provision of a service duct at the back of ranges of sanitary appliances. This service duct can be used to accommodate pipes, to enable flushing equipment to be fixed out of reach of the public and to protect pipework against frost. It may also be used to accommodate a ventilation duct.

e) Public toilets should be sited conveniently to allow them to be used by people who are disabled or who have reduced mobility. They should be located in a prominent location with visible access. Access should be flat or ramped and entrances and doorways should be wide enough for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

f) Toilets should be well lit internally and externally.

g) Directional signs are recommended and should be in a prominent position giving the distance to the nearest toilet. Toilets should have symbols showing male, female and disabled entrances.

h) The use of wall hung WC pans should be in accordance with BS 5504. Flushing troughs are particularly recommended where there are four or more WCs in a range (see 12.6.1.2).

5.4 Appliances

Appliances should be selected and installed correctly to allow subsequent disconnection for maintenance or replacement. Appliances should be fitted with servicing valves in accordance with BS 6675.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the Water Byelaws 1986.

Sanitary appliances, such as WCs and urinals should be ordered as a suite to ensure compatibility. The component parts of the suites should be identifiable at all times including during delivery, storage and handling on site.

Appliances that have taps which may cause splashing should be fitted with a flow straightening device in accordance with BS 1010 and BS 5412-3, preferably of the corrugated sleeve type.

Adequate space should be left around taps to enable ease of use, maintenance and cleaning.

Where appliances will be subjected to heavy use they should be robust in construction.

The selection and siting of items like toilet paper holders, soap dispensers, shelves, towel cabinets, hand-dryers, disposal bins, sanitary towel and condom dispensers and mirrors should be considered at the design stage.

5.5 Hygiene

It is particularly important that sanitary appliances should be assembled and fitted to ensure easy cleaning. Where appliances abut a floor and/or a wall or walls, the joint between the appliances and the floor and/or wall or walls should be sealed.

Overflows to appliances may be omitted where greater hygiene is a necessity.

Shower trays and surrounding areas should be easily cleaned to minimize the risk of cross infection of foot ailments. This is particularly important in the case of communal showers.

Back flow from sanitary appliances should be avoided.

NOTE For information on preventive measures see BS 6700.

Proper and thorough cleaning of toilets is an important aspect of hygiene, and storage space should be provided for cleaning materials and implements. Hot and cold running water with a suitable sink should be provided in the vicinity of non-domestic toilets.

Suitable materials either to wipe or to cover the WC seats before use should be available to the public. Similar materials should be provided where nappy-changing facilities are available.

5.6 Support

5.6.1 General

The fixing of supports for sanitary appliances should conform to the relevant product standards.

Pipework or other plumbing should not be used for support or fixing.

All fixing screws should be of non-ferrous metal or stainless steel and any brackets or other supports should be protected against corrosion.

5.6.2 Brackets

Brackets should be securely fixed.

Where brackets are fixed to thin or lightweight partitions or the inner leaves of cavity walls, special cavity fixing devices should be used.

5.6.3 Floor supports

When sanitary appliances are fixed to floors, the surfaces to which they are fixed should be level.

Appliances on pedestals or legs should also be fastened to walls to give added stability, except in those cases where the whole fitting is designed to be self-supporting.

6 Toilets for disabled people

In all non-domestic buildings where toilets are installed, facilities designed in accordance with BS 5810, should be provided for disabled people. In existing buildings, this provision should be made if at all reasonable or practicable. All new buildings, other than private dwellings, to which members of the public are admitted, should be provided with toilet facilities designed in accordance with BS 5810.

NOTE 1 Attention is drawn to Part M of the Building Regulations, Part T of the Building Regulations Scotland or Part R of the Northern Ireland Building Regulations (see Annex A).

NOTE 2 The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) operates a key scheme that can be used to ensure that only disabled people may use the facilities.

NOTE 3 Disabled persons may require the assistance of a carer who may not be of the same sex and provision of unisex compartments enables such use.

NOTE 4 For further information on the recommendations for domestic housing for disabled people see BS 5619.

7 Provision of appliances

7.1 General

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland it is necessary to provide adequate washbasins in rooms containing WCs or in spaces adjacent to rooms containing WCs. It is preferable for an additional washbasin, which could be a hand rinse type, to be within the room containing the WC, even when it is next to a bathroom. In Scotland, it is necessary to provide all WCs with a washbasin either within the WC compartment or within an adjacent space which provides the sole means of access to the WC compartment.

7.2 Dwellings and other residential accommodation

7.2.1 General

Every new dwelling should be provided with a minimum of one WC, one bath or shower, one washbasin and one sink. Minimum provision should be in accordance with Table 1.

It is essential that toilets are provided for any non-residential staff employed in large blocks of residential accommodation.

7.2.2 Location of appliances

The bathroom should contain a bath and/or shower and a washbasin and it may contain a WC and/or bidet. Where a WC is separate, a washbasin should be provided, either in the WC compartment or in a room adjacent to the WC compartment.

It is recommended that a second WC with a wash/hand rinse basin is provided and a convenient location is near an entrance and at the entrance level of the dwelling.

A bathroom containing a WC should not be entered directly from a bedroom unless it is intended for the sole use of the bedroom occupants, and a second WC is provided elsewhere in the dwelling. Even with this provision it may be desirable to provide the bathroom with a second door opening on to the hall or landing. This would apply particularly to a three storey dwelling, e.g. a town house where the second WC may be on the ground floor.

7.3 Accommodation for elderly people

7.3.1 General

Minimum provision for the elderly should be in accordance with Table 2.

NOTE For further information see BS 4467 and *The Scottish Housing Handbook* [2].

7.3.2 Self-contained dwellings including sheltered accommodation

The WC may be in the bathroom but, where it is provided separately, both WC compartment and bathroom doors should be capable of being opened or removed from the outside.

Where a bidet is provided it should be adjacent to the WC.

Hand grips should be provided beside any WC, bidet, bath or shower.

7.3.3 Grouped one-person apartments

Groups of one-person apartments intended for elderly people with reduced mobility are usually provided with shared bathrooms. In a group of not less than four bathrooms one shower compartment may be provided in lieu of one of the proposed bathrooms. A wall mounted seat should be provided within the shower cubicle.

Consideration should be given to level access showers.

Toilets for visitors should be sited near the entrance or communal area.

7.4 Residential and nursing homes

Minimum provision in residential and nursing homes should be in accordance with Table 3.

NOTE Local authority inspection units may have their own requirements for levels of provision.

7.5 Public toilets

The provision of sanitary appliances in public toilets should be determined according to local needs.

7.6 Workplace facilities for staff

Minimum provision of sanitary appliances should be in accordance with Table 4.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 (see Annex A).

Flushing troughs may be provided where there is a peak demand for successive flushing of WCs (see **12.6.1.2**).

In addition to any washing facilities provided elsewhere, washbasins with hot and cold water should be provided adjacent to WCs and urinals.

Where a first aid room is provided, the minimum equipment should be a sink or a washbasin having taps operated by wrist, elbow or remote control. A supply of drinking water should be available. A WC and a wash basin should be provided in an adjacent compartment.

In large buildings it may be necessary to provide a cleaner's sink or bucket sink on each floor. A cleaner's room on alternate floors may be adequate if fewer than five cleaners are employed per floor (assuming an area approximately 400 m² per cleaner). In addition to a cleaner's sink or bucket sink, a cleaner's room should be provided with a wash basin and adequate space for the storage of cleaning appliances and materials.

A sink and a labelled drinking water supply may be provided for the making of beverages. Alternatively, vending machines may be provided. These facilities should be located away from toilets and other sources of contamination.

7.7 Workplace facilities for customers and visitors

7.7.1 General

Minimum provision of facilities for the use of customers and visitors should be in accordance with Table 4.

Where toilets are also used by the public, the number of toilets specified should be increased by at least one for each sex as necessary, to ensure that staff can use the facilities without undue delay.

7.7.2 Offices

Toilets for the use of the public should be sited off entrance halls and should be designed to accommodate wheelchair users.

7.8 Shops and shopping malls

Minimum provision of facilities in shops and shopping malls should be in accordance with Table 5.

Toilet facilities for customers should be easily accessible and should include separate unisex toilets with nappy changing facilities and WCs appropriate for use by young accompanied children, together with hand washing facilities for use by both young children and adults.

Mothers should not be expected to use toilets for the purpose of breast feeding.

Toilet facilities in shops should be situated on the entrance floors and in large shops on alternate floors. In shopping malls toilets should be distributed to provide convenient use by shoppers from any part of the mall.

NOTE For further information see [3].

7.9 Schools

Minimum provision of facilities in schools should be in accordance with Table 6.

Where it is desired to make greater use of school facilities for purposes such as adult education or social activities, the choice of sanitary appliances, layout and location of toilets should be appropriate to both child and adult usage.

To ensure the correct operation of WCs, provision should be made for frequent flushing under peak load conditions, particularly in toilets for girls (see **12.6.1.2**).

Showers should be provided for the use of children engaged in physical education, and should be accessible from the changing rooms by all users. The provision of shower units should conform to **10.3**.

NOTE For information on water supply see BS 6700.

The medical inspection room should be fitted with a sink and a separate drinking water supply. A WC should be provided in an adjacent compartment with a wash basin.

Schools which are designed to accommodate more than 1 000 pupils may not necessarily be required to comply with the scale of sanitary provision shown in Table 6 and will be subject to specific approval in each case.

7.10 Buildings for public entertainment

Minimum provision of facilities in buildings for public entertainment should be in accordance with Table 7.

The following building types are included:

- a) cinemas;
- b) theatres;
- c) town halls (when used for entertainment or leisure);
- d) libraries;
- e) leisure centres.

Where the building type or form of entertainment is subject to an entertainment licence, the scale of provision and the location and arrangement of the toilets should be agreed with the licensing authority.

Toilets should be provided within the building and/or within the area of the arena or activity area used by the general public or the floors to which they have access. Separate toilets should be provided for disabled persons.

The number and type of appliances in each toilet should be related to the usage and the figures in Table 7 are given on that basis.

Premises that have distinct intervals in programmes of entertainment, such as single screen cinemas and theatres, require greater provision of toilet facilities than those with continuous performances or staggered intervals, such as libraries and multi-screen cinemas. It is also necessary for premises with licensed bars to have a greater provision of toilets in accordance with 7.13.

7.11 Hotels

Minimum provision of facilities in hotels should be in accordance with Table 7 and Table 8.

Bathrooms should be en-suite and provided with a bath and/or shower with a WC and wash basin; consideration should be given to the provision of a bidet. A clearly marked drinking water supply should be provided in each bathroom.

In siting toilets for non-residents, excessive travel from public rooms should be avoided. Washing facilities should be provided in close proximity to WCs and urinals.

7.12 Restaurants, canteens, cafeterias and fast food outlets

Minimum provision of facilities where food is served should be in accordance with Table 9.

Separate toilets should be provided for each sex and for disabled persons (see clause 6). However, in very small establishments unisex facilities may be considered. Facilities for staff should be reserved solely for their use. All toilets in food business premises should be separated by a lobby from food eating or preparation areas in accordance with 5.1.1.

A minimum requirement in all but very small establishments is one wash basin and WC for each sex. In all other circumstances the scale of provision should be determined by the number of seats or occupancy, assuming equal numbers of male and female diners where specific ratios are unknown.

The toilets for kitchen and serving staff should be conveniently situated in relation to the kitchen and the servery, and provision made for a wash basin or hand rinse basin in the kitchen and in other food preparation areas.

The general principles applying to the installation of sanitary appliances elsewhere apply equally to the installation of sanitary appliances in kitchens. Owing to the specialized nature of most kitchen installations, recommendations regarding layout, number and type of kitchen sanitary appliances are not included in this standard and expert advice should be sought.

In the case of works or office canteens, the scale of provision, as stated in the table, may be reduced proportionally where there are readily accessible workplace facilities close to the canteen.

7.13 Licensed bars

The following types of premises are included:

- a) public houses;
- b) public houses with restaurants;
- c) public houses with public music, singing and dancing licences;
- d) buildings for public entertainment with licensed bars.

For new public houses, the minimum provision of toilets should be in accordance with Table 10.

For existing premises exceeding 100 m² of effective drinking area (i.e. the total space of those parts of those rooms to which the public has access), toilets should be by negotiation with the appropriate licensing authority.

Where public houses have separate restaurants or space available for other functions, such spaces should not be included in the calculation of effective drinking area but should be dealt with separately on criteria agreed with the appropriate authority (see Table 9).

7.14 Swimming pools

Minimum provision of facilities at swimming pools should be in accordance with Table 7 and Table 11.

Toilets for bathers and spectators should be separate. Toilets for bathers should be between the changing area and the pool(s). It will usually precede, or be combined with, the pre-cleanse area. If unisex changing facilities are provided showering facilities may also be unisex.