

Living Safely

with disabilities and special health needs

Public Restroom Safety

There are times when you are away from home and need to go to the bathroom.

The purpose of a public restroom is to use the toilet, wash your hands, or check how you look in the mirror. Public restrooms may look different than those in your house or apartment.

You can use the toilet just like you do when you're at home.

There are signs in public places showing you where the bathrooms are. If you can't find it, ask someone for help.

In a public restroom, there are signs near the door to let you know which restroom to use.

There may be words or pictures. Use the restroom that is labeled for you.

Sometimes a public restroom is made for men. Sometimes it is made for women. Some public restrooms can be used by both men and women. The public restroom may have urinals or stalls with toilets. If you have a question which one to use, you can ask a person nearby.

There are times that there are lines to get into the restroom. Sometimes there are lines inside the restroom.

It is important to wait in line until it is your turn to use the toilet.

The toilet is a private place. When a door is closed, knock on the door or the stall to make sure that no one is using that toilet.

People don't look at, touch, or make comments to other people while they are using the toilet in the public restroom. Remember that a public restroom isn't used for other things except for using the toilet, washing, or checking how you look.

Pick a urinal or a toilet stall that is not being used by another person.

After going into a toilet stall, close the door. Urinate or make bowel movements in the toilet in a stall with the door closed.

No matter if you are using a urinal or a toilet, be sure that the urine or bowel movement does not get on the floor or wall.

Once you are finished using the toilet, wipe yourself to make sure you are clean. Put the used toilet paper into the toilet bowl. Try not to flush too much toilet paper at one time so the toilet bowl doesn't get clogged.

Once finished, flush the toilet.

When you are finished going to the bathroom, wash your hands. Dry your hands using either a paper towel or a hand-drying machine, whichever is available in that specific restroom.

It might be a good idea to use the restroom if you need to, before leaving a public place, if you will be in a car or walking afterwards and might not be around another restroom for a while.

We value the expertise of our partners in safety who have demonstrated their commitment to inclusive healthy communities.

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