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## ADVISORY GENDER INCLUSIVE WASHROOMS

BUILDING CODE SERVICES



### GENDER INCLUSIVE WASHROOMS

This Advisory applies to the design and use of gender inclusive washrooms.

#### **WASHROOM FIXTURE ALLOCATION**

The Ontario Building Code (OBC) requires the design and allocation of washroom facilities and fixtures to be assessed on equal distribution of sex and gender physiology. A designer may also allocate washroom spaces based on anticipated gender division and identity, all genders or specific gender groupings.

Washrooms within existing buildings may be reallocated based on changes to gender distribution without need for a building permit provided there are no changes made to the plumbing system, relocation of fixtures, additional fixtures or an increase in occupant load.

#### **UNIVERSAL WASHROOMS**

Universal washrooms are gender inclusive but must be designed in accordance with minimum OBC requirements including accessibility provisions.

#### **SIGNAGE**

The OBC requires entry signage on all accessible washrooms identifying the facility as barrier free (International Symbol of Access for accessible washrooms) including all universal washrooms. Gender identification signage at washroom entrances is not regulated but is recommended. Power door operator controls also require signage incorporating the International Symbol of Access.

#### **ACCESS DOORS - PRIVACY**

Access to rooms serving as a washroom must be designed to provide privacy. All plumbing fixtures within washrooms containing multiple fixtures and multiple water closet cubicles or urinals are required to be screened from viewing at the entrance to the room, subject to applicable requirements from other regulations such as the Day Nurseries Act.