

Washrooms



Locate washrooms so they are convenient, accessible and well-marked.



Install round, slip-resistant handrails for wheelchair transfers.



Locate hand towels near sinks to reduce the amount of water on the floor.



Use slip resistant flooring.

Need more Information?

1. Thumbs Up 519-633-6919
2. Falls Prevention – Elgin St. Thomas Public Health 519-631-9900
3. Access Guide Canada www.abilities.ca/agc
4. Access ON www.AccessON.ca



Thumbs Up



Shelves, Racks & Displays



Secure shelves and racks so they cannot be moved or tipped when leaned against or grasped.



Place heavier products on lower shelves.



Keep floors cleared of clothes hangers and racks with protruding legs.

*Developed by Kelly E. Husband
(Summer Student)
with information from:*

Victoria, BC:
North Bay, ON:
Toronto, ON:

*STEPS Project
Safe Stores : "Stores Blitz"
2002 Canadian Standards
Association www.csa.ca*

Helpful Hints

For Safe & Accessible
Businesses



www.thumbsupstthomas.com

Stairs

-  Ensure free from slip and trip hazards
-  Make stair edges more visible by using bright yellow coloured tape or non-skid paint to highlight edges.
-  Use special lighting and warning signs to warn users of steep or irregular stairs.
-  Ensure stairs are uniform – the rises should be the same height (7”) and the tread should be the same width (11”) .
-  Use handrails that are round with a circumference of 120mm.



Floors & Aisles

-  Keep free from slip and trip hazards such as water, uneven surfaces
-  Wash floors before opening in morning or after closing in evening.
-  Keep aisles free of clutter (boxes, merchandise, produce)
-  Keep exit routes free from obstructions.
-  Use slip-resistant floors to prevent falls if water or snow is tracked in from outside.

Entrances & Exits

-  Provide handrails on any stairs or ramps coming into or in the building.
-  Doors to a public entrance should open easily with one hand – even for a person with limited dexterity.
-  Doors should have a wide entrance (at least 81 cm) and should not have steps that could cause trips.
-  Use hydraulic springs to make heavy doors easier to open. This is a cost effective alternative to installing automatic doors.
-  Use non skid mats
-  Keep mats flat, clean and free of water and snow, using a mop constantly in the winter. Take mats up at night and hang to dry.
-  Provide seating that is a minimum of 18 inches from the ground and have arms rests.



Reminder – all renovations must meet the “Ontario Building Code”

Parking Lot or Street Access

-  Provide disabled parking space at least 12 feet wide and marked with a vertical sign.
-  Remove snow rather than ploughing it into piles that block pedestrian travel.
-  Provide adequate drainage where salt is used to melt snow, to prevent water from accumulating, freezing and creating a hazard.
-  Ensure that all pedestrian routes are clearly marked and all obstacles are brightly coloured.



Visually Impaired

-  Seniors need twice the illumination.
-  Shiny floors can cause difficulties with depth perception.
-  Braille signs inside of a building enable blind individuals to safely find their way around the building.
-  The blind need touchable cues to warn of the presence of a staircase and the ending of a staircase.