



#91—ACCESSIBLE WATER FOUNTAINS

This handout describes general requirements. For complete code requirements, see Washington State Building Code Chapter 11.

Drinking Fountains Required

All occupancies that have an occupant load greater than 30 persons, except eating and drinking establishments, require drinking fountains. On any floor where water fountains are provided, at least 50%, but in no case less than one fountain, shall be accessible.

General Requirements

Wall- and post-mounted cantilevered units shall have a minimum clear floor space 30" wide by 48" deep in front of the unit, and shall have a knee space not less than 17", nor more than 19" in depth.

Free-standing or built-in units not having a clear space beneath them shall have an adjacent clear floor space at least 30" deep by 48" wide in order to allow a person in a wheelchair to make a parallel approach to the unit.

Spouts shall be located not more than 36" above the floor or ground surface. Spouts shall be located at the front of the unit and shall direct a water flow not less than 4" tall, in a trajectory parallel to the front of the unit. Recessed units shall be installed such that the spout is not recessed beyond the plane of the wall.

Controls shall be located not more than 6" from the front of the unit and shall have a lever or other shape which will permit operation by wrist or arm pressure and does not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting to operate. The force required to activate the control shall not exceed 5 lbs.

Where a unit is installed in an alcove greater than 8" deep, the alcove shall be not less than 48" wide. A minimum 24" of clear space shall be provided from the spout to the nearest side wall of the alcove.

Figure 1: Accessible Water Fountains.

