






Residential aged care services built environment audit tool

Online version 1.2: Part 1. Audit tool table


E. Bathrooms, ensuites and toilets


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Environmental recommendation	Achieved?	Useful tools/tips
<p>157.A communal bathroom is available and easily accessed for residents' independent bathing.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: Bathroom is warm, well-lit and free of clutter.</p> <p>Certification: Other building related issues OH&S – inadequate storage of patient handling equipment (for example bathrooms used as stores)</p> <p>Resource: [1]</p>
<p>158. The placement of the communal bathroom ensures dignity and privacy for residents being transferred to the bathroom from their room.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if access is via public or communal areas and consider alternative options. • If bathroom is flush to an adjoining hallway, consider the use of a temporary screen. • Ensure there is sufficient space between the bath and the door to provide privacy for a resident being lifted to and from the bath. <p></p> <p>Resource: [1, 20] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [20]: Refer Section 3 Privacy. </p>
<p>159. Floor surfaces are slip resistant.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: Overly slip resistant floors and thresholds between smooth and slip resistant floors can be a hazard.</p> <p>Standard: Refer AS 4586 2004 for slip resistant requirements. Resources: [1, 5-8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 19, 28, 30, 31] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 780. • Resource [30]: Refer Section 4 Floors and floor coverings. </p>

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<p>160. Flooring is in good condition and firmly attached.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure floor is sealed effectively before laying any floor covering. • Check joins for signs of weakness- these allow spills which cause odours to penetrate beneath the floor covering. Research whether sheet flooring is preferable to carpet tiles, vinyl tiles or vinyl planks. <p>Resources: [5, 8, 15, 17, 19, 26, 30, 36,42]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 780. • Resource [26]: Refer Solution Sheet 3, <i>Choosing safe floor coverings for workplaces in health and aged care.</i> • Resource [30]: Refer Section 4 Floors and floor coverings.
<p>161. Floor surfaces have a matte finish.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shiny surfaces can appear to be wet surfaces and should be avoided. • Check the effect of natural light at different times of the day. • Check reflected light on different floor surfaces. • Check that floors do not have shadows or light reflected patterns that may cause confusion to the residents throughout the day.  <p>Resources: [5, 8]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 780.
<p>162. Flooring pattern and colours are discreet.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check a sample pattern of flooring in a resident area. • Patterns may create the illusion of holes or steps and trigger mobility or balance problems in people with vision or cognitive impairment.  <p>Resources: [2, 8, 12, 24,42]</p>

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<p>163. Changes in floor surface are clearly defined.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change from one floor surface to another, such as carpet to vinyl, can be a hazard if residents are not aware of it. • Make sure the adjacent floor materials are different colours and patterns BUT are tonally similar (check 'tonality' by viewing the carpets, vinyls and joining strips in black & white- take a photo) • Restrict changes to 'expected' locations such as the bedroom/ensuite or bathroom/toilet threshold  <p>Resources: [7, 19, 30,42]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [30]: Refer Section 4 Floors and floor coverings.
<p>164. Joining strips between different floor surfaces are as smooth as possible to reduce hazards.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that the adjacent floor materials are 'tonally' similar regardless of their colour and pattern Make sure the joining strip is 'tonally similar to both of the adjacent floor materials • A joining strip that is not tonally similar can be perceived as a barrier or a step  <p>Resources: [5, 7, 12, 15, 19, 28, 30, 42]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C , section 780. • Resource [30]: Refer Section 4 Floors and floor coverings.
<p>165. Doors are sliding or on pivot hinges.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Standard: Refer AS 1428.1-2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 1428.1-2001 Section 10.2.10 WC doors: If the door opens inwards to avoid opening into walkways, it needs to be provided with removable hinges or an alternative means of access (for example, a panel in the door that can be opened). Locks on doors must be able to be opened from the outside to allow access in an emergency. <p>Resources: [5, 20, 30, 39]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 760. • Resource [20]: Refer Section 4 Access, mobility & OHS. • Resource [30]: Refer Section 4 Doors and door openings.



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<p>166. Doors can be opened by residents when sitting or standing.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where ensuites door opens outwards, make sure it does not obstruct movement or furniture with the room. Avoid toilet doors opening into walkways. <p></p> <p>Standard: Refer AS 1428.1 – 2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS 1428.1 – 2001 Section 10.2.10 WC doors: If the door opens inwards to avoid opening into walkways, it needs to be provided with removable hinges or an alternative means of access (for example, a panel in the door that can be opened). Locks on doors must be able to be opened from the outside to allow access in an emergency. <p>Resources: [5, 30, 39]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 760. Resource [30]: Refer Section 4 Doors and door openings.
<p>167. There is a lock on each door for rooms sharing an ensuite.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: People may forget to lock toilet doors, or may only lock their own side. To ensure privacy, consider the use of automatic locking –where if one side is locked the other automatically locks.</p> <p>Resources [1]</p>
<p>168. Call bells work.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Resources: [19, 31]</p>
<p>169. Call bell signals can be heard or seen by resident.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: The signal light should not be behind the resident or otherwise out of sight.</p> <p>Resources: [19, 31]</p>
<p>170. Call bells are within easy reach of the resident in the bath, toilet and shower, and allows for right and left hand use by the resident, the buttons are easy to push.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: If the call bell is located in the drop down grab rail, it may not always be accessible.</p> <p>Resources: [19, 31]</p>



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171. Power points are not close to the floor or shower. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Resource [1]
172. There is adequate space in the room for resident, staff member and all resident-handling equipment. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets that are located directly opposite the doors are recommended because they are easier for residents and staff to access, especially where wheeled equipment is used. (Ref • Check that commodes and shower trolleys have rubber stoppers in place and are in good condition, and wheels and brakes are in good working condition with good tread on tyres and wheels moving freely. • Chair and commode heights are adjustable so residents can rise and sit with ease. Toilet heights are raised using over-toilet frames as required. • Ensure all wheels remain in contact with the floor on the slope to the shower, Resources: [1, 7-9, 12, 19, 26, 30] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [26]: Refer Solution Sheet 2, <i>Ensuite design for dependent and semi-dependent persons</i>. • Resource [30]: Refer Section 5 Ensuites and assisted bathrooms.
173. Grab rails can be easily accessed by residents. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Tip: If toilet is in the corner, consider resident capacity for left and right usage of the grab rails. Standard: Refer AS 1428.1 – 2001 for independent users. Resources: [1, 5, 6, 9, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 39] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 730.4. • Resource [26]: Refer Solution Sheet 2, <i>Ensuite design for dependent and semi-dependent patients</i>. • Resource [30]: Refer Section 5 Ensuites and assisted bathrooms.
174. Walls around shower/bath and sink are marked in contrasting colours to the shower/bath and sink. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	 Resources: [2, 7, 8, 24, 39]

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175. Shower bases are step-less. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gradient of the bathroom floor must be assessed to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate drainage after the shower is used (otherwise it is a slip hazard). All equipment wheels maintain contact with the floor The floor gradient of the shower base is located far enough away from the toilet to avoid chairs rolling away from the toilet down the slope. <p>Resources: [1, 8, 19, 30]</p>
176. There is adequate space in the shower for toiletries. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: Toiletries holder can be recessed into the wall to avoid being a striking hazard.</p> <p>Resource: [1]</p>
177. Receptacles for toiletries are easy to reach when either sitting or standing, and do not require bending over to reach them. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: Make sure the receptacle is not a striking hazard when resident is seated.</p> <p>Resources: [8, 24, 27, 30, 39]</p>
178. Mirror length is extended to the basin counter and is easy to see whether resident is sitting or standing. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Resource: [1, 2]</p>
179. Lighting for the basin does not create shadows or glare.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lighting should be located on either side of the mirror and be adequately diffused. Down lights create shadows on to the person and into the hand basin. Fluorescent lighting is harsh and may cause heat and glare if not tilted correctly. <p>Resource: [1]</p>

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<p>180. Resident toiletries are stored and easily accessed by resident or staff whether sitting or standing.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place wall cabinet within easy reach of the resident, for example, to the side of the mirror above basin. Check access if stored behind the mirror. Ensure separate access for a shared ensuite e.g. 2 cabinets separated by a mirror or a cabinet each side of the basin. <p> Resource: [1]</p>
<p>181. Shower fittings have flexible hoses that can be detached if pulled abruptly.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: The extent of the shower spray reaching into the corners of the bathroom and across to the toilet can assist with impromptu clean up when accidents occur.</p> <p> Resources: [1,2, 20]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource [20]: Refer Section 4 Access, mobility & OHS.
<p>182. Taps in showers are easily accessed by residents and staff.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: Place taps within reach of seated resident, to the side rather than the back.</p> <p>Resource: [30]</p>
<p>183. Clothing hooks and towel rails are easily accessed by residents and staff when sitting or standing.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to note that towel rails may be mistaken for a grab rail. They must be strong enough to hold a person who is falling. If grab rails are used to hang towels, ensure that the towels do not pose a safety risk for residents (e.g. resident holds towel whilst transferring and towel slips off rail, causing resident to fall). If the ensuite is shared make sure the individual towel hooks/rails are kept separate e.g. one on left side, one on right side of basin/shower. <p>Resources: [1, 5, 6, 9, 23, 26, 30, 31, 39]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 730.4. Resource [30]: Refer Section 5 Ensuites and assisted bathrooms.
<p>184. Hand basins allow easy access for residents sitting or standing.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Resources:[1, 12, 30]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource [30]: Refer Section 5 Ensuites and assisted bathrooms.

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<p>185. Basin taps are recognisable, easy to access and easy to use.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capstan handles may be more suitable for the needs of residents with dementia. • For residents with hand disabilities, consider a lever attachment for the capstan. • Taps should be marked with colours for hot and cold water, for example, red and blue. <p>Resource: [2, 20, 40]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [20]: Refer Section 4 Access, mobility & OHS.
<p>186. Rooms are kept at a temperature comfortable for the resident.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tip: Bathrooms/ensuites need to be warmer than other areas and therefore installation of heat lamps or radiant heat panels is recommended [24].</p> <p>Resources: [1, 5, 15, 20, 24, 28]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part E, 'Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning'. • Resource [20]: Refer Section 5 Heating & Cooling.
<p>187. Communal toilets should have double locks that display when the toilet is occupied and should not be entered, but allow the door to be opened from the outside if the resident requires assistance.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Resource: [1]</p>
<p>188. Toilets are suitable for individual residents' needs, including both independent and dependent residents.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab rails are available either side of toilet. • Drop down grab rail is sturdy and able to be locked into up position. • It is important to note that towel rails may be mistaken for a grab rail; hence, they must be strong enough to resist a falling heavy person. • Consider resident capacity for left and right usage. <p>Standard: Refer AS 1428.1 – 2001.</p> <p>Resources: [1, 5, 6, 9, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 39]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource [5]: Refer Part C, section 730.4. • Resource [26]: Refer Solution Sheet 2, <i>Ensuite design for dependent and semi-dependent patients</i>. • Resource [30]: Refer Section 5 Ensuites and assisted bathrooms.

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189. Toilet areas allow wheelchair access. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Resources: [1, 6, 11, 12, 15, 23, 30] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource [30]: Refer Section 5 Ensuites and assisted bathrooms.
190. Toilet seats are in contrasting colour to the toilet and the surrounding walls and floor. The toilets also contrast to walls and floor. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Tip: Consider contrasting a part of the wall if the toilet is all white against a light background.  Resource: [2, 16, 24]
191. Toilet flush buttons are recognisable, easy to access and easy to use. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Tip: Cisterns with flush buttons on top are easier to recognise than wall panels.  Resource: [2, 6]
192. Toilet paper dispensers are easy to access by residents and staff. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a second roll holder for staff it should be located near cistern or on wall furthest away from the shower. If drop down grab rail is used, staff can access toilet roll from this. Consider resident capacity for left and right usage –toilet roll holders may be useful on both sides. Standard: Refer 1428.1 – 2001 for the zone in which to position the toilet paper outlet. Resources: [30, 39]
193. Rooms do not echo or create excess noise. Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Action required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Tip: Consider use of acoustic ceiling tiles, especially near communal areas. Resource: [2]

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