

Wheelchair Accessibility Guidelines

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Fact Sheet

Produced by



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Manual Wheelchair Turning and Required Dimensions

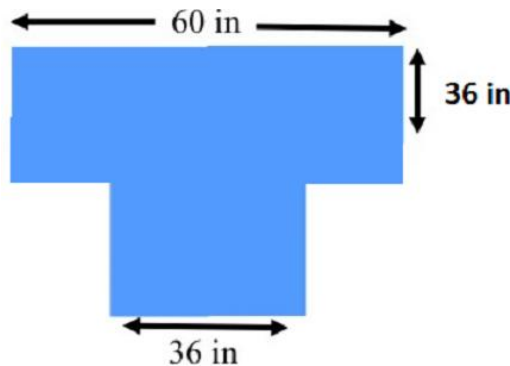
- **Turning radius:** the amount of space that is required to perform a 180° turn.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires a building to provide turning space in the shape of a circle or T-shaped¹
- 180° turn is the basis for defining a minimum space bounded by two sides with an open space along the axis of the turn.

T-shaped Turn

Procedure: Wheelchair user travels up the base of the T → turn wheelchair into one of the arms → reverse into the other arm → turn to move back down the base of the T.

Dimensions required²:

- 60-inch square minimum
- Arms and base 36 inch minimum

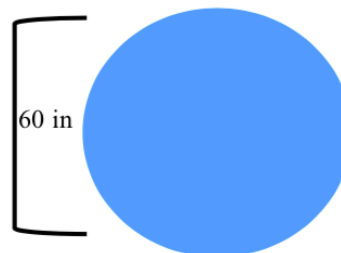


Circular Turns

Procedure: Simultaneously pull one wheel forward while pushing the opposite wheel backwards

Dimensions required:

- 60-inch diameter minimum²
- ADA requires space to include toe and knee clearance; knee clearance is 30 inches.³



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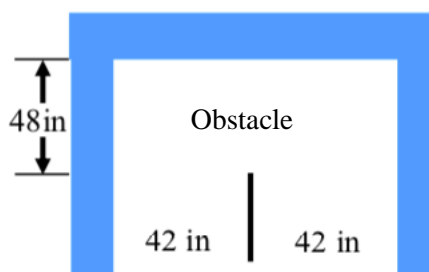
U-Shaped Turn

- This type of turn is utilized when an individual must maneuver around an object

Dimensions required when obstacle is less than 48 inches wide⁴:

- 42 inches minimum clearance width approaching the turn
- 48 inches minimum clearance width at turn
- 42 inches minimum clearance width leaving the turn

Exception: If clearance width at the turning point is 60 inches, the clearance width approaching the turn and leaving the turn the minimum requirement is 36 inches



Basic Accessibility (e.g., Hallways)

- The minimum space required to accommodate a single wheelchair is 30 inches wide by 48 inches long⁴
- The minimum clearance floor space for wheelchairs may be positioned for a forward or parallel approach to an object

Bathroom

- Clearance space surrounding the toilet with a minimum dimension of 30 inches x 48 inches is required

Ramps

- 36-inch clearance width between handrails⁵
- 36-inch landings are required at the top and 48-inch landings are required at the bottom of every ramp.
- In areas that the ramp changes direction landings must be 60-inch x 60 inch to allow room to turn.

Door Openings

- Clearance width of a door must be a minimum of 32 inches and a maximum of 48 inches⁴
- Doors can swing into the turning space

References

1. Rory A. Cooper PhD, Rosemarie Cooper MPT and ATP & Michael L. Boninger MD (2008) Trends and Issues in Wheelchair Technologies, Assistive Technology, 20:2, 61-72, DOI: 10.1080/10400435.2008.10131933
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4. Accessible routes. United State Access Board . <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-4-accessible-routes>. Published January 2010.
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