

Unsanitary Conditions

INFORMATION & RESOURCES ON REQUIREMENTS FOR SANITARY WORKING CONDITIONS



Potable (drinking) water shall be provided in all places of employment, for drinking, and in non-construction settings also for cooking, washing of the person, foods, cooking or eating utensils, food preparation or processing premises, and personal service rooms.

Portable drinking water dispensers shall be designed, constructed, and serviced so that sanitary conditions are maintained, shall be capable of being closed, and shall be equipped with a tap. Open containers from which the water must be dipped or poured, and a common drinking cup or utensils are prohibited. In activities regulated under CFR 1926, where single service cups (to be used but once) are supplied, both a sanitary container for the unused cups and a receptacle for disposing of the used cups shall be provided.

Outlets for **nonpotable water**, shall be posted or marked clearly indicating that the water is unsafe and shall not be used for drinking, cooking, washing of the person, food, cooking or eating utensils, food preparation or processing premises, or personal service rooms, or clothes. Nonpotable water may be used for cleaning work premises, other than food processing and preparation premises and personal service rooms: Provided, That this nonpotable water does not contain concentrations of chemicals, fecal coliform, or other substances which could create insanitary conditions or be harmful to employees.

Toilet facilities, in toilet rooms separate for each sex, shall be provided in all places of employment in accordance with table J-1 (1910.141) and Table D-1 (1926.51) The number of facilities to be provided for each sex shall be based on the number of employees of that sex for whom the facilities are furnished. Where toilet rooms will be occupied by no more than one person at a time, can be locked from the inside, and contain at least one water closet, separate toilet rooms for each sex need not be provided. Where such single-occupancy rooms have more than one toilet facility, only one such facility in each toilet room shall be counted. The sewage disposal method shall not endanger the health of employees. Each water closet shall occupy a separate compartment with a door and walls or partitions between fixtures sufficiently high to assure privacy.

Table J-1 Number of Employees	Minimum Number of Water Closets ¹
1 to 15	1
16-35	2
36-55	3
56-80	4
81-110	5
111-150	6
Over 150	(²)

Table D-1 Toilets at Construction Jobsites	
Number of Employees	Minimum Number of Facilities
20 or less	1.
20 or more	1 toilet seat and 1 urinal per 40 workers.
200 or more	1 toilet seat and 1 urinal per 50 workers

Under temporary field conditions, provisions shall be made to assure not less than one toilet facility is available. Job sites, not provided with a sanitary sewer, shall be provided with one of the following toilet facilities unless prohibited by local codes: Privies (where their use will not contaminate ground or surface water); Chemical toilets; Recirculating toilets; Combustion toilets.

MOBILE CREW EXEMPTIONS

General requirements of **toilet and washing facilities do not apply to mobile crews** or to normally unattended work locations so long as employees working at these locations have transportation immediately available to nearby facilities. The sewage disposal method cannot endanger the health of employees and doors and walls must be sufficiently high to ensure privacy. **Nearby means** prompt access, typically **less than 10 minutes** without a long line³ as to ensure that employees will not suffer adverse health effects. Nearby washing facilities must meet the requirements below.

Washing facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition. For CFR 1926 activities, the employer shall provide adequate washing facilities for employees engaged in the application of paints, coating, herbicides, or insecticides, or in other operations where contaminants may be harmful to the employees. Such facilities shall be in near proximity to the worksite and shall be so equipped as to enable employees to remove such substances.

Lavatories shall be made available in all places of employment. Each lavatory shall be provided with hot and cold running water, or tepid running water, hand soap or similar cleaning agents, individual hand towels or sections thereof, of cloth or paper, air blowers or clean individual sections of continuous cloth toweling, convenient to the lavatories.

For any standard that requires access to a shower (e.g. lead or asbestos removal), one **shower** shall be provided for each 10 employees of each sex, or numerical fraction thereof, who are required to shower during the same shift. Showers shall be provided with hot and cold water feeding a common discharge line, body soap or or other appropriate cleansing agent and with individual clean towels.

¹ Where toilet facilities will not be used by women, urinals may be provided instead of water closets, except that the number of water closets in such cases shall not be reduced to less than 2/3 of the minimum specified. ² 1 additional fixture for each additional 40 employees. ³From the 2002 OSHA Letter of Interpretation

MORE EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS

Whenever employees are required by a particular standard to wear protective clothing because of the possibility of contamination with toxic materials, **change rooms** equipped with storage facilities for street clothes and separate storage facilities for the protective clothing shall be provided.

Where working clothes are provided by the employer and become wet or are washed between shifts, provision shall be made to insure that such **clothing is dry before reuse**. (For CFR 1910.141 General Industry Work Only)

When temporary sleeping quarters are provided, they shall be heated, ventilated, and lighted. (For CFR 1926.51 Construction Activities Only)

No employee shall be allowed to consume or store **food or beverages** in a toilet room nor in any area exposed to a toxic material.

All employee food service facilities and operations shall be carried out in accordance with sound hygienic principles. Where food service is provided, the food dispensed shall be wholesome, free from spoilage, and shall be processed, prepared, handled, and stored in such a manner as to be protected against contamination.

Waste receptacles constructed of smooth, corrosion resistant, easily cleanable, or disposable materials, shall be provided and used for the disposal of waste food. The number, size, and location shall encourage their use and not result in overfilling. They shall be emptied at least once each working day, unless unused, and shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. They shall be provided with a solid tight-fitting cover unless sanitary conditions can be maintained without use of a cover.



All places of employment shall be **kept clean** to the extent that the nature of the work allows. The floor of every workroom shall be maintained, so far as practicable, in a dry condition. Where wet processes are used, drainage shall be maintained and false floors, platforms, mats, or other dry standing places shall be provided, where practicable, or appropriate waterproof footgear shall be provided. To facilitate cleaning, every floor, working place, and passageway shall be kept free from protruding nails, splinters, loose boards, and unnecessary holes and openings. All sweepings, solid or liquid wastes, refuse, and garbage shall be removed in such a manner as to avoid creating a menace to health and as often as necessary or appropriate to maintain the place of employment in a sanitary condition.

Every enclosed workplace shall be so constructed, equipped, and maintained, so far as reasonably practicable, as to prevent the entrance or harborage of **rodents, insects, and other vermin**. A continuing and effective extermination program shall be instituted where their presence is detected.



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