

Advisory Bulletin



BUILDING VALUE SINCE 1906

TB-105 Use of Recessed Dispenser-Disposal Unit Behind Grab Bar

Frequently, a recessed unit, combining a paper toilet seat cover dispenser, toilet tissue dispensers and a sanitary napkin disposal in one recessed cabinet, is installed inside wheelchair or ambulatory accessible toilet compartments with a horizontal grab bar mounted in front of the recessed unit. The use of a recessed dispenser-disposal unit with a horizontal grab bar is a restroom accessory industry standard offered by all product manufacturers and is a design solution widely accepted and specified by architects and interior designers. The face and flange of the recessed unit projects approximately 3/16" from the face of the wall or panel. This projection reduces the 1-1/2" grab bar wall clearance.



The application of the grab bar with the recessed unit provides maximum usability within the accessible toilet compartments. The dispensers for toilet tissue and seat covers are located in horizontal compliance with dispenser center line 7" minimum to 9" maximum in front of the leading edge of the toilet. Also, the dispensers are located in vertical compliance of maximum (48") and minimum (15") reach range and mounting height above the floor. The sanitary napkin disposal is conveniently mounted under the grab bar. The grab bar does not interfere with access to the accessories, and the accessories do not interfere with access to or use of the grab bar.

Reducing the grab bar wall clearance from 1-1/2" by 3/16" in front of the recessed unit to 1-5/16" does not reduce the accessibility and usability of the grab bar or the accessories. The safety rationale for the 1-1/2" wall clearance, prevent injury caused by forearm and elbow from being trapped between the grab bar and the wall or panel, has not been compromised. Additionally, the use of one cabinet for three accessories is an aesthetically pleasing solution to installing three separate accessories and provides a better overall accessibility and usability solution within accessible toilet compartments.

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KNOW THE APPLICABLE ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

2010 ADAS

The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADAS) apply everywhere but may not be strictly or uniformly inspected, interpreted or enforced. The ADAS requires that grab bars have 1-1/2" absolute wall clearance between edge of grab bar and the surface of the wall or panel. If compliance with the 2010 ADAS is A CONCERN, select, specify and install separate recessed or surface-mounted accessories below the horizontal grab bar, minimum 1-1/2" below the horizontal grab bar.

ICC A117.1 2009

For those 46 states (all but California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Texas) that have adopted the ICC A117.1-2009 Standard, refer to Exception #2 Section 609.3 Spacing with language that ALLOWS dispensers to project 1/4" within the minimum required spaces above, BEHIND, and below the grab bar as an alternate design to the ADA. If the ICC A117.1-2009 is accepted, select, specify and install a recessed combination dispenser-disposal unit behind a horizontal grab bar as shown in the photograph above.