Drinking Fountains and Bottle Filling Stations

2.9

Application

This section applies to drinking fountains and bottle filling stations where provided throughout interior and exterior environments.

Reference

Sec. 3.3 Exterior Paths of Travel

Sec. 4.3 Interior Accessible Routes

Best Practice

The provision of two drinking fountains / bottle filling stations, one at lowered, accessible height and the other at standing height meets the needs of diverse users.

Locating drinking fountains / bottle filling stations adjacent to the accessible route or recessing it in an alcove is preferred as it prevents potential bumping hazards.

Note

For standing use, spouts are located between 965 mm and 1090 mm (38 in and 43 in) above floor.

The space beneath the drinking fountain / bottle filling station may be included as part of the clear floor area or turning space, provided that appropriate toe and knee clearances are available for a forward or parallel approach to an unrecessed or partially recessed drinking fountain / bottle filling station.

2.9.1 Design and Layout

Where drinking fountain and bottle filling station fixtures are provided, ensure:

a. at least 50% are accessible on each floor level to all users, including lowered units for people using mobility aids, people of short stature, children, others who may have trouble bending and persons who have limited manual strength or dexterity, where there is more than one;
b. provision of an accessible, lowered unit, where only one is provided on a floor level;
c. they are located adjacent to an accessible route, recessed or with a leading edge that is cane detectable at a maximum of 680 mm (26¾ in) high, if they protrude 100 mm or more into an accessible route; and
d. provision of high colour / tonal contrast, compared with background / surroundings for easy identification.

2.9.2 Clear Floor Space Requirements and Approach

Provide clear floor space as follows: **(Figure 24)**

a. a minimum of 920 mm wide by 1525 mm depth (36 in by 60 in) for forward approach;
b. a minimum of 1525 mm wide by 920 mm depth (60 in by 36 in) for side approach;
c. ensure one fully unobstructed side adjoins an accessible route or adjoins another clear floor area; and
d. ensure clear floor space does not overlap the minimum space of the accessible route used to access the drinking fountain.

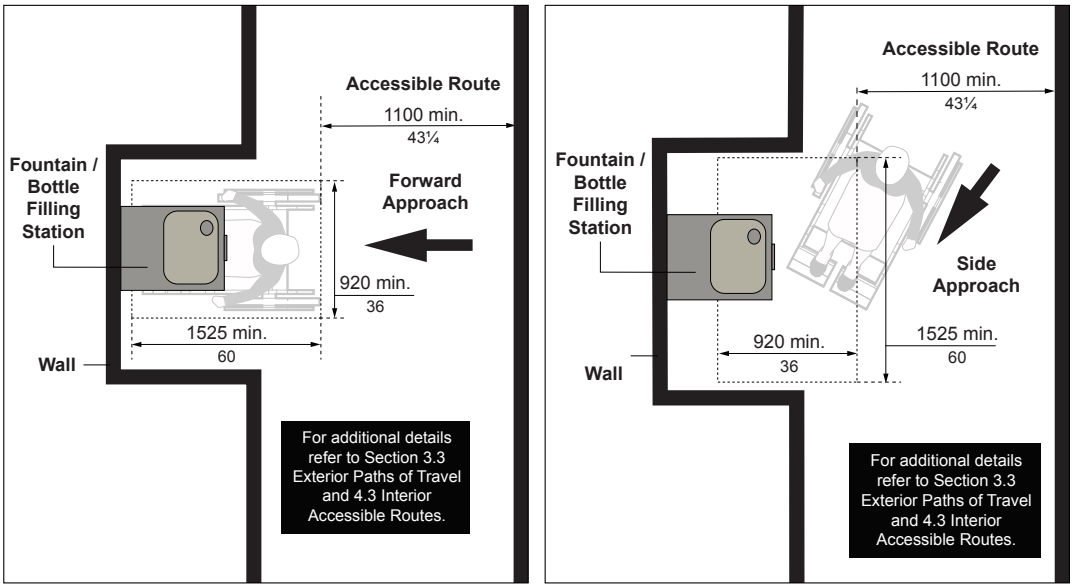

Figure 24: Clear Floor Space Requirements and Approach at Recessed Drinking Fountain / Bottle Filling Station - Plan View

2.9.3 Knee and Toe Clearances

Where accessible, lowered drinking fountains and bottle filling stations are provided: **(Figure 25)**

a. ensure clear knee space under the fountain is 920 mm (36 in) wide by 200 mm (7⅞ in) depth at a minimum of 735 mm (29 in) high above the floor;
b. ensure clear toe space under the fountain is a minimum of 350 mm (13¾ in) high above finished floor to a depth a minimum of 300 mm (11¾ in) measured from clear knee space; and
c. ensure the depth at the base of the fountain is a minimum of 700 mm (27½ in) .

Best Practice

Automatic or hands free operating controls are preferred.

2.9.4 Operating Controls

Ensure operating controls are: **(Figure 25)**

a. not foot-operated;
b. located at the front or on both sides of the drinking fountain; and
c. automatic or operable with one hand, requiring a force of no more than 22 Newtons (5.0 pounds) to operate without turning / twisting of the wrist or pinching of the fingers.

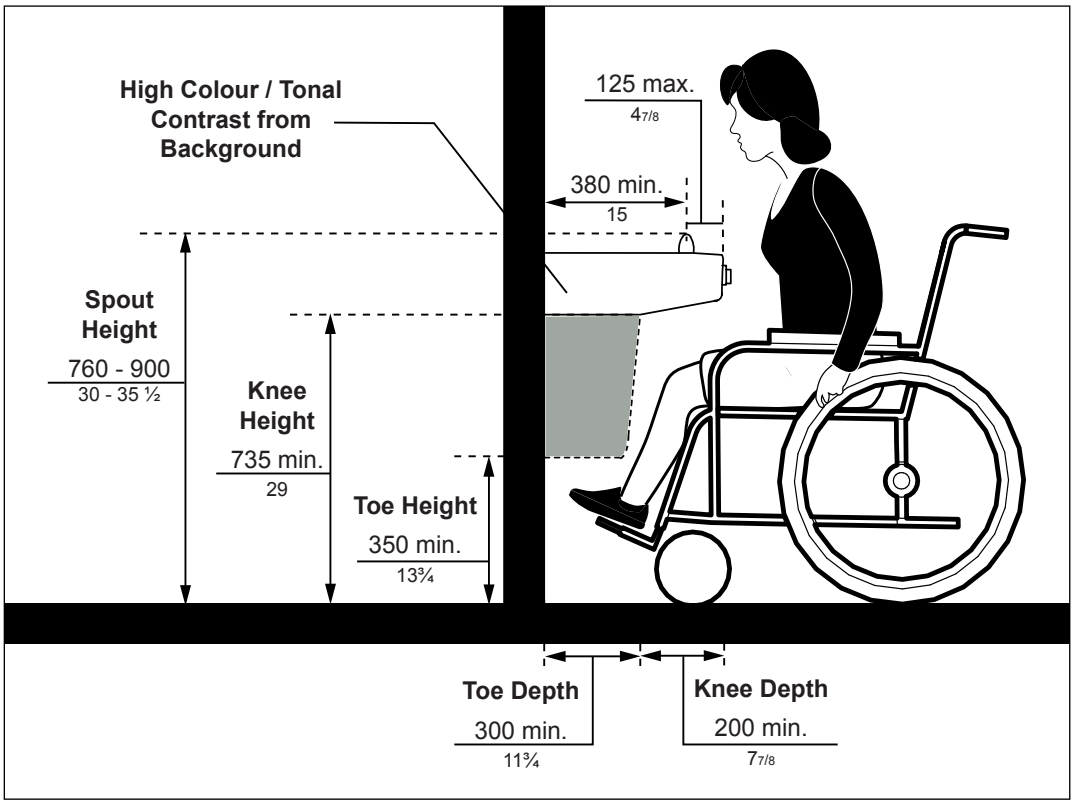

Figure 25: Drinking Fountain Design and Layout - Elevation View

Note

The purpose of requiring the drinking fountain to have a flow / projection of water at a minimum of 100 mm (4 in) high is so that a cup can be inserted under the flow of water for users who cannot use the drinking fountain.

2.9.5 Water Spout

For drinking fountain water spouts, ensure: **(Figure 25)**

a. a mounting height between 760 mm (30 in) and 900 mm (35½ in) above the finished ground / floor for accessible units;
b. to locate at a maximum depth of 125 mm (4⅞ in) from the front edge of the drinking fountain, including bumpers, and 380 mm (15 in) from the vertical support;
c. water flows / projects a minimum of 100 mm (4 in) high; and
d. water flows / projects at a vertical angle of:
    i. 30 degrees maximum, where spouts are located less than 75 mm (3 in) from the front of the unit; or
    ii. 15 degrees maximum, where water spouts are located between 75 mm and 125 mm (3 in and 4⅞ in) from the front of the unit.

Example of multiple height drinking fountains and bottle filling stations, City of London.