

# Buildings for everyone: Designing for access and usability

This guide provides information about good practice for the design of buildings that are safe and easy to use for everyone.

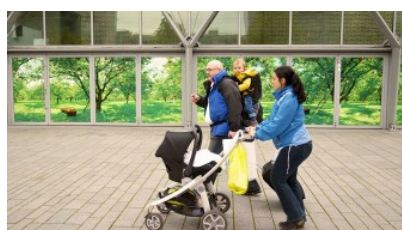


## About this guide: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Find out what this guide is for and how to use it, and learn about universal design.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/about/>)



## 1. Building user activity: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Understanding how users interact with the built environment is important for designing buildings that best meet the needs of all building users.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/user-activity/>)



## 2. Surrounding area and transport: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

How building users travel to and from a building is important for the design of the site.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/surrounding-area/>)



## 3. Pedestrian circulation: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

All building users are pedestrians at some point and need a well-designed, constructed and maintained external pedestrian environment.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/pedestrian-circulation/>)



## 4. Vehicle circulation and parking: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Vehicle circulation routes should be logical, safe and easy to follow.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/vehicle-circulation-parking/>)



## 5. Building entrances: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Design building entrances so that they are as easy to use as possible for a wide range of people.

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/building-entrances-and-exits/>)

(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/internal-circulation/>)



## 6. Internal circulation: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Effective internal circulation is critical to the safe and easy movement of people around buildings.



## 7. Interior space: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Design interior spaces and facilities such as kitchens and toilets so they best meet the needs of users.

([https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/interior-space/)

[buildings/interior-space/](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/interior-space/))



## 8. Fixtures and fittings: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Design and place fixtures and fittings such as seating, switches, controls and sanitary fittings in toilets so that they are easily accessed and used.

([https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/fixtures-and-fittings/)

[buildings/fixtures-and-fittings/](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/fixtures-and-fittings/))



## 9. Building types: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

Transport buildings, sports facilities, retail premises and historic buildings have particular issues affecting their use which need to be considered.

([https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/building-types/)

[buildings/building-types/](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/building-types/))



## 10. Means of escape: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

When designing a building and escape routes, consider how everyone can evacuate the building quickly and safely in an emergency.

([https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/means-of-escape/)

[buildings/means-of-escape/](#)

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## 11. Building management: Designing buildings for access and usability

### GUIDANCE

An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manual needs to be prepared to record information relevant to the use of the built environment.

([https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/d-access/accessible-buildings/building-management/)

[buildings/building-management/](#))

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## Related information

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### New Zealand Standard NZS 4121:2001 – Design for access and mobility: buildings and associated facilities [PDF]

WEBSITE



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