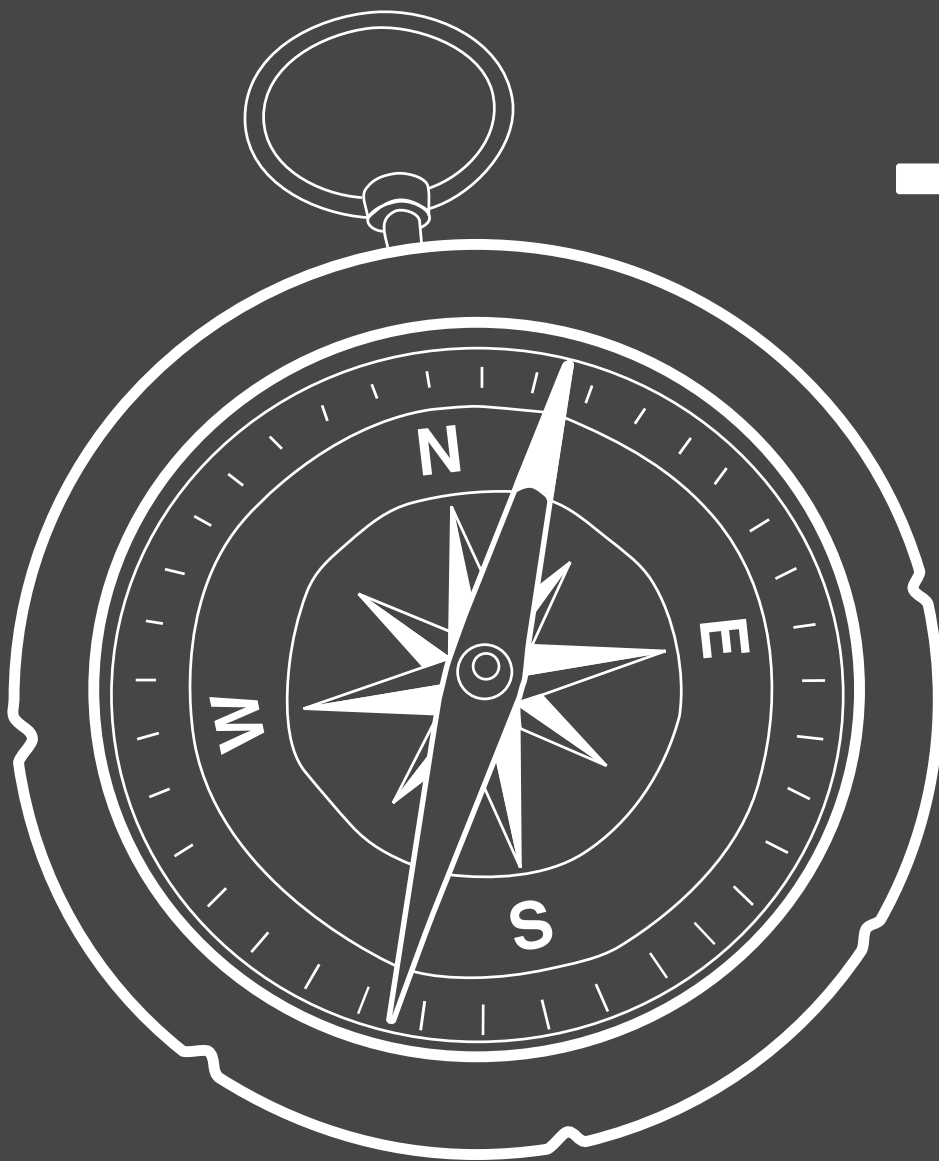


Building for Everyone:

A Universal Design Approach

Index and terminology

10



Centre for Excellence in Universal Design

Creating an environment that can be used by all people, regardless of their age, size, disability or ability.

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design has a statutory role to promote the achievement of excellence in universal design in:

- the design of the built and external environment
- product/service design
- information and communications technologies (ICT)
- the development and promotion of standards
- education and professional development
- raising awareness of universal design

More information and updates on the website at: www.universaldesign.ie

Building for Everyone

Booklet 10 - Index and terminology

The other booklets from the
Building for Everyone series:

Booklet 1 - External environment and approach

Booklet 2 - Entrances and horizontal circulation

Booklet 3 - Vertical circulation

Booklet 4 - Internal environment and services

Booklet 5 - Sanitary facilities

Booklet 6 - Facilities in buildings

Booklet 7 - Building types

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Terminology

Access route – Any route in an internal or external environment whether it is level, gently sloped, ramped or stepped that is available and understandable for a person to use. In external environments, access routes comprise paths, pavements and other pedestrian routes, such as a right of way through a public space.

Accessible – With respect to buildings, or parts of buildings, means that people, regardless of age, size, ability or disability, are able to both access and use the building and its facilities.

Accessible design – Design focussed on principles of extending standard design to people with some type of performance limitation to maximize the number of potential customers who can readily use a product, building or service.

Accessible facilities – Facilities that are designed for all users of a building or external environment, including the young and old, and those of all sizes, abilities, and disabilities.

Acoustics – Characteristics relating to sound.

Automated teller machine (ATM) – A machine for dispensing cash and undertaking other financial transactions, including checking an account balance and changing a personal identification number. Also commonly termed cash point, cash machine, or cash dispenser.

Bathroom – A room comprising a bath, WC, washbasin, and associated accessories.

Building – A permanent or temporary structure of any size that accommodates facilities to which people have access. A building accommodating sanitary facilities may include a toilet block in a public park or shower facilities at a campsite. A temporary building may include portable toilet facilities such as those provided at outdoor events.

Building user – A person regardless of age, size, ability or disability using facilities in a building or associated external environment.

Clear width – The width between handrails.

Coir matting – A coarse kind of carpet made from coconut fibre usually used as a floor mat in matwells at building entrances.

Communal – An area that a group of individual people will share for a common purpose. A communal changing area will be a room for people to change and will typically comprise an open area with minimal privacy.

Designated car parking – Car parking spaces reserved for the use of car users with disabilities, whether as motorists or passengers.

Dog-leg/Switch back stairs – Configuration of stairs between two floors of a building, often a domestic building, in which a flight of stairs ascends to a half-landing before turning 180 degrees and continuing upwards. The flights do not have to be equal, and frequently are not.

Door ironmongery – A collective term for components including hinges, handles, locks and self-closing devices, which are used to facilitate the correct functioning of a door. May also be termed ‘architectural ironmongery’ or ‘door furniture’.

Dropped kerbs – A lowered section of kerb between a pavement and carriageway forming a level or flush crossing point. Also referred to as dished kerbs.

Egress – Independent emergence of a person from a building and the immediate vicinity.

Escalator – A moving stairway.

Evacuation – Egress in an emergency situation, from a place of danger to a place of safety.

Evacuation lifts – Lifts designed to continue operating in the event of a fire, which have special design features to ensure safety.

Extranet – A private network that uses the internet to securely share part of an organisation’s information or operations with others such as suppliers, customers or other businesses. An extranet may form part of an organisation’s intranet that is extended to outside users.

Family toilets – A toilet compartment or washroom designed to meet the needs of a family group or adults supervising young children, which provides a range of facilities including baby-changing area, children’s and adult WCs, in a single room.

Fillet – A decorative filler piece on the floor between balusters.

Grille or grill – An opening of several slits side by side in a wall or metal sheet or other barrier, usually to let air or water enter and/or leave but keep larger objects including people and animals in or out.

Handed – Referring to the layout of a room, this term means the provision of both left- and right-handed arrangements in a building.

Horizontal framing member – A horizontal bar running across a window.

Inclined platform stairlift – A stairlift incorporating a fold-down platform for wheelchair users and support rails that follows the incline of a stair. Also termed wheelchair stairlift and platform stairlift.

Intranet – An in-house website that serves the employees or members of an organisation. An intranet is not a site accessed by the general public.

Internet – A worldwide system of computer networks that uses the public telecommunication network to link millions of computers for communication purposes.

Kerbed upstand – Strip used to form a raised edge (for example 150mm high) at floor level.

Laid to falls – Paving and drainage that relies on fall to carry away water. Fall may also be referred to as slope or, more correctly, gradient. By making one part of the pavement higher than another, gravity will cause the water to move in a preferred direction.

Lift core – A standard industry term for the lift/lift shaft used to service an apartment complex / multi-story building.

Matwell – Entrance Door Matting Systems set into a frame in the floor.

Nosing – An edge part of the step tread that protrudes over the riser beneath in a flight of stairs.

Park and ride – The formal provision of car parking linked with either bus or rail services.

Passenger lift – A conventional motorised lift enclosed within a structural shaft and rising one or more storeys within a building. Lift and door movement is automatic.

Path – A pedestrian route that has no adjacent vehicle carriageway and includes paths in countryside locations as well as paths in urban and residential environments.

Pavement – A pavement is the part of a roadway used by pedestrians and is adjacent to the vehicle carriageway.

Payphone – A public telephone that requires payment on a call-by-call basis, either using coins, a prepaid telephone card, or a credit or debit card.

Person with mobility difficulties – A person who is able, either with or without personal assistance, and who may depend on prostheses (artificial limbs), orthoses (callipers), sticks, crutches or walking aids, to walk, provided that particular design features are installed or available.

Personal identification number (PIN) – A personal four-digit code used to verify card-based payments.

Plinth – The base or platform upon which a structure or fixed furniture fixture, such as a cupboard, rests.

Raked – The degree to which seating in an auditorium or theatre slopes. A seating rake is where the seats are on terraces (so they slope overall), rather than flat on the floor. This helps sight lines and means you can see over the people in front of you.

Refuge area – Areas within a building separated by fire-resisting construction and provided with a safe route to a storey exit, where people with mobility difficulties can await assistance for their evacuation.

Reverberation – The reflection of sound within a room or space.

Riser – The vertical portion between each tread on the stair.

Sanitary facilities – A collective term for toilet, shower, bathing and changing facilities in buildings.

Self-contained – A single facility, such as a shower or changing area that is enclosed by walls or cubicle partitions. A self-contained facility will provide greater privacy than communal facilities.

Setting-down point – A designated area close to a building entrance or other facility where passengers can alight from a car or taxi.

Settlement hierarchy – A way of arranging settlements into a hierarchy based upon their population or some other criteria.

Shower room – A room comprising a shower, WC, washbasin, and associated accessories, such as en-suite facilities in residential accommodation.

Soffit – The underside of any construction element, the underside of a flight of stairs.

Speed Tables – Traffic calming feature normally installed as part of a traffic-calming scheme that helps to reduce vehicle speeds by introducing modest up-and-down changes in the level of the street, thereby requiring drivers to decelerate. They are the same width as the road and rise to meet the grade of the pavement,

providing safe and comfortable crossings. One benefit of speed tables is that people cross at the point where drivers decrease speed.

Stairlift – A device mounted on a support rail that follows the incline of a stair and incorporates either a seat with footrest (chairlift) or standing platform and perch (perching stairlift). Stairlifts are designed for domestic use only. Also termed chair stairlift and domestic stairlift.

Step nosing – The leading edge of a step or landing.

Street furniture – Items located in street and other pedestrian environments such as lamp posts, litter bins, signs, benches, and post boxes.

Tactile paving surface – A profiled paving or textured surface that provides guidance or warning to pedestrians with visual difficulties.

Textphone – A telephone device that facilitates text communication and incorporates a screen and keyboard.

Transfer arrangement – The technique adopted by wheelchair users to transfer from a wheelchair to a WC or shower seat and back. The technique will depend on individual preference and the layout and size of the toilet or shower compartment. Common terms for describing transfer arrangements include lateral (side) transfer, angled (oblique) transfer, frontal, or rear transfer. Transfer may be assisted or unassisted. A left-hand transfer means that a person transfers to their left when seated in a wheelchair.

Transom – A horizontal crosspiece across a window or separating a door from a window over it.

Travelator – A moving walkway designed to transport people quickly over a long distance in large buildings. Travelators are usually level, but may have a slight incline where a vertical change in level is also required.

Tread – The part of the stairway that is stepped on.

Unisex – Facilities that are usable by males and females. Unisex toilets or changing areas may be located adjacent to single-sex washrooms or changing areas but have an independent access. Unisex accessible toilets may be accessed by a person with an assistant, carer, or companion of the opposite sex.

Universal Design = Useable = Understandable - Understanding user needs – For example an older person may require many resting places due to discomfort when walking for long distances.

Vertical platform lift – A guarded platform that travels vertically and is designed to accommodate one wheelchair user and one companion. Vertical platform lifts do not require a structural shaft, but are required to be enclosed if they rise more than 2000mm. Also termed vertical lifting platform; vertical-rise platform lift; short-rise platform lift (up to 2000mm rise); enclosed platform lift; hydraulic platform lift; and scissor lift.

Vision panel – A fixed, glazed panel set into a door that enables people to see through from one side of the door to the other. May also be termed ‘viewing panel.’

Visual contrast – Colour and/or tonal contrast between surfaces and fixtures, designed to improve visual clarity.

Washroom – The term for a room or area accommodating toilet cubicles and associated facilities, such as washbasins, hand dryers, and urinals (in facilities for males).

Waterless WC – A WC that does not use water to flush and is not connected to traditional water supply pipes or a waste drainage system. Waterless WCs may be used in remote areas, such as forestry sites, fairgrounds, car parks, and construction sites.

Wayfinding – A collective term describing features in a building or environment that facilitate orientation and navigation.

Wet room – A shower room in which the floor and walls are all waterproof. The shower area can be accessed without crossing a threshold or stepping into a shower tray.

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