

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0142

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: November 18, 2025

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Where universal washrooms are required

Keywords: Accessibility, Universal washroom, Plumbing Facilities

Building Code Reference(s): 3.8.2.8.(1)

Question:

1. In a single tenant occupancy such as a large restaurant or school, that has multiple different locations of washrooms, does each location require a universal washroom?
2. If a floor area is provided with a single washroom with a single water closet, must that washroom be a universal washroom, if there are no other washrooms in close proximity?

Interpretation:

1. Yes (with some exceptions) – refer to A-3.8.2.8.

Sentence 3.8.2.8.(1) requires at least one universal washroom at each location where washrooms are provided on a storey to which an accessible path of travel is required.

If a storey is not provided with any washrooms, then a universal washroom is not required on that storey.

If separate groups of washrooms are relatively close to one another, a single universal washroom could be shared between the adjacent groups, provided the universal washroom is in close proximity to each group of washrooms.

2. Yes.

In accordance with Sentence 3.8.2.8.(1), this single washroom must be a universal washroom.

For example, even if there is a universal washroom elsewhere of the floor area, if a private washroom is provided for a single office, such washroom must be a universal washroom.

Refer to Interpretation 24-0067 for an accessible shower for private use in an office.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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