

Q. What welfare facilities do I need to have on site?

A. Everyone working on a construction site must have access to adequate toilet/washing facilities, a place for warming up and eating food and for clothing storage. Employers (and the self-employed) that control construction work are responsible for the provision or availability of such welfare facilities as are necessary.

Welfare facilities should be sufficient for all people working on site and can be arranged separately or jointly with other parties. If facilities like toilets and canteens provided by third parties are to be used, make sure they are suitable and maintained. Before work starts on site make sure that what will be provided is adequate. For short duration work, arrangements are still needed for welfare facilities. Portable facilities may be provided or the use of other existing facilities can be arranged if they are suitable.

Toilets

The numbers needed will be dependant upon the number of people working on site, and they should be adequately ventilated and lit. Wherever possible they should be flushed by water, but if this is not possible, use chemical toilets.

Men & women can use the same toilet, if it's in a separate room with a door which can be locked from inside.

A wash basin with water, soap and towels or dryers should be close to the toilets if the toilets are not near the other washing facilities provided on the site.

Washing facilities

Wash basins large enough to allow people to wash their faces, hands and forearms should be provided. They should have a supply of clean hot and cold, or warm, water. Soap and towels (cloth or paper) or dryers should also be provided.

Showers may be needed where work is particularly dirty or workers are exposed hazardous substances.

Rooms containing washing facilities should be sufficiently ventilated and lit.

Drinking water

Make sure there is a supply of clean drinking water. It should be from a tap direct from the mains if possible otherwise bottles or tanks of water may be used.

Cups or other drinking vessels should be provided at the tap, unless the water is supplied as an upward jet which can be drunk from (e.g. drinking fountain).

Storing and changing clothing

Arrangements should be made for the storage of:

- Clothing not worn on site; and
- Protective clothing needed for work.
- Lockable facilities should be made available for personal effects.

For reasons of propriety, men and women should be able to change separately where necessary.

There should be somewhere to dry wet clothing.

Rest facilities

Facilities for taking breaks and meal breaks must be provided. The facilities should provide shelter from wind and rain and be heated where necessary.

The facilities should contain:

- Enough tables and chairs;
- A kettle or urn for boiling water;
- A means for preparing food (for example, a gas or electrical heating ring, or microwave oven);
- Arrangements to protect non smokers;
- Be kept at appropriate temperatures.
- On smaller sites rest facilities can be provided within the site office.