



Help Sheet 2: Bathroom Renovation

The bathroom is designed to provide functionality and safety for aged and frail residents who wish to stay in their home longer, while demonstrating some design features to assist carers of people living with dementia. The bathroom attempts to demonstrate that it is not necessary for a compliant bathroom to look institutional. It also demonstrates that there are design options in the bathroom that can help to manage problems associated with dementia.

Prior to most renovations and particularly bathroom renovations a hazardous materials audit is recommended to ensure that asbestos is identified. Our bathroom had asbestos behind the wall tiles; this was removed using approved methods for demolition and disposal. A licensed person should be contracted for this work. The demolition revealed termite damage which needed rectification and a need for a further inspection by a suitably qualified pest manager.

The home originally had a separate bathroom and toilet, the wall between the two was removed and the resulting space made into an accessible bathroom, complying with AS1428.1.

- Colours
 1. The walls are a different colour to the floor, allowing clear delineation between the two.
 2. The toilet seat is not white, in our case we have chosen a navy blue seat and a navy blue hand rail – clearly visible to a resident with vision impairment or dementia.
 3. The other grab rails are white to demonstrate that they can look less institutional.
 4. The door has been painted dark blue to make it obvious to a person with dementia.
- The shower is hobless, removing any trip hazards from the bathroom.
- The floors are non-slip tiles, non-institutional and functional.
- The shower has the facility to install or remove, quite simply, a shower seat, the same system has been used to install or remove drop down rails beside the toilet.
- A duress alarm for emergency contact with the call centre or a nominated person has been installed; this is a stand alone product that can be installed in the home without any hard wiring, making it perfect for areas such as bathrooms.
- The hand basin is suitable for a person in a wheelchair, with a lever tap, fitted with an extended lever for easy reach and clear space underneath.
- The door can be removed from the outside should a person fall and be leaning against the door. The door lifts off at the hinges and there is a space at the top of the door that allows it to be lifted.
- The walls have been lined with plywood to enable the simple installation of more grab rails should they be required.
- The lighting for the bathroom can either be manually controlled or can be programmed to come on at 30% once a movement sensor in the bedroom has been activated at night. The path to the bathroom can be lit to provide way finding and safety. The light can be turned off at a programmed time after activation, based on the residents own patterns of behaviour.