

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When do I have to comply?

Existing single-user restroom facilities will be required to replace any gender-specific signage no later than January 1, 2024.

2. Do all restrooms have to comply?

No, only single-user restrooms must comply. A single-user restroom is defined as having one toilet, or one toilet and a urinal and designed for use by not more than one occupant at a time.

3. Do I have to upgrade my restroom to be compliant with the ADA?

No. There is no construction required by this ordinance other than changing signage to indicate that the restroom is open to all persons.

4. What will happen if I don't comply?

If the Department receives a complaint that an existing business is unaware of the Ordinance, a correction notice will be issued and the owner will be given instructions on how to comply. If it is determined that the business has knowingly not complied with the Ordinance, a Building Inspector will issue a notice of violation (NOV) and code enforcement proceedings will ensue.

5. Where can I get the signs and how much do they cost?

The signs are very common and available at most hardware stores, online, or through commercial sign companies, as well as organizations such as the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**ALL -Gender
Restrooms**

6. Doesn't California require separate sex restrooms?

This mandate is consistent with the California Building Code. Similar such as **AB 1732** (Ting).

7. Do I have to hire a contractor to install the sign?

No, anyone may install the signs. We would ask that the person doing the work check the mounting instructions on the California Building Standard Commissions website to ensure that the signs can be used by persons with sight disabilities.

8. Do I need one of those signs with the half male half female?

No. In fact, such signs are not recognized by the Division of the State Architect and they are disfavored by many persons within the LBGT community for various reasons. The Department will request that they not be installed and will require them to be removed if a complaint is filed. A **standard unisex sign** or a sign with a simple "All-Gender" or "Gender Neutral" as depicted in this brochure should be used instead. The circle and triangle should be plain with no raised lettering or braille, as these are not allowed upon a door by code.

9. How can I get more information on this?

You may find further information at the Department of Building Inspection's website: <https://www.coachella.org> You may also call the Building Department Services Division at 760-398-3002, leave a message with your questions, and a representative will return your call within 24 hours.



City of Coachella All Gender Restroom Ordinance

Mandatory Changes in Single-User Restroom Signage.



Introduction

In order to protect the rights of all **City of Coachella** residents, and to reduce gender identity discrimination, the **State of California** passed a new law that requires all new and existing single-user toilet facilities to be designated as all-gender and available to persons of any gender identity.

Per **AB783 (Ting)**, all new and existing single-user toilet facilities in any business establishment or *place of public accommodation* that are open to the public or employees shall comply.

Existing business establishments must remove any gender-specific signage from the toilet facility and replace it with signage for all genders that comply with the California Building **Code Section 11B-703.7.2.6.3** Guidelines for Accessible Buildings. See Section **11B-216.2, 118-216.3 and 11B-216.8.**

New business establishments with single-user restrooms and new single-user toilet facilities within existing establishments must provide code-compliant all-gender signage at the time of design and construction.

For requirements applicable to **City-Owned or City-Leased buildings**, please contact the Input information for reserving city buildings

"Place of Public Accommodation is defined within Chapter 2 of the California Building Code and in the American with Disabilities Act and generally speaking is a business where the public will enter the building to obtain goods and services such as hotels, banks, retail stores, health clubs, restaurants, repair shops, office

buildings, daycare centers, theaters, etc. (See Section 53.52 of the California Construction-Related Accessibility Compliance Act and 42 USC Section 12181(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as those Acts are amended from time to time.)

Single-User Toilets

The Assembly Bill only mandates a signage change for toilet facilities **designed for a single occupant** or family/assisted use. A single-user toilet facility means a private toilet facility with a single water closet (toilet) and sometimes a single toilet and a urinal. In the case where there is both a toilet and a urinal, there must not be a compartment enclosing the toilet; which would allow for two occupants to use the room simultaneously. The Ordinance does not have any requirements for multiple-user facilities (except within city buildings), but does allow a business to designate such facilities for all genders.

Signs

There are two types of signs required at toilets.

1)



California requires a geometric symbol on all toilet room doors or entrances per **CBC Section 11B-216.8.**

- The symbol required by this Ordinance would be the "unisex" circle and triangle symbol outlined in **CBC 11B-703.7.2.6.3.**
- This sign must be mounted between 58 and 60 inches above the floor to its centerline and must be within one inch of the left to right center of the door.
- The circle must contrast in color (light on dark or dark on light) with the door and the triangle must contrast with the circle.
- This sign should have no raised characters or symbols on it.

2)



Both California and the ADA stipulate that any sign identifying permanent rooms and spaces shall be tactile (read by touch) per **CBC Section 11B-216.2.**

- These signs may be visually read but must have raised characters and braille for use by blind and sight-impaired persons.
- The signs may also have a combined circle and triangle symbol A unisex sign or a sign such as the ones pictured on this brochure would allowed. Please keep these signs simple.



Note: Some commercially available signs for purchase are not code-compliant and may be considered offensive by members of the LGBT community. Also, note that if you have pre-existing "unisex" signs (see

Adjacent picture) or only the circle and triangle and no gender-specific signs, you are compliant with this ordinance and do not need to change the sign. For questions please email buildingservices@coachella.org and use the subject line SIGNS".