

ADAPTING TO AN ACCESSIBLE TOILET: QUICK GUIDE TO GETTING IT RIGHT!

The realisation that we can't manage any more, and need a little help to go to the toilet, is a big thing to accept. But little changes can make the transition easier.

Adaptations are now commonplace (approx. 40,000 each year): the bathroom is the room most frequently adapted, and the WC the most often altered fixture therein.

A little thought at the start of the process can ensure the adapted space meets needs, and still looks good.

The white paper 'Design guidance and considerations for a domestic accessible toilet' covers the fine detail: (<https://www.closomat.co.uk/resources/white-papers/214-downloads/wp-pdf/1390-accessible-toilets-white-paper-for-domestic-use.html>)

Our 'quick guide' covers the small things that make a difference, so you – or your client – have your dignity, independence, and remain in control

- 1. Colour:** Use it to brighten the space, and help differentiate different zones.
- 2. Toilet roll:** Within easy reach of the WC, so it can be reached without affecting balance.
- 3. Fixings:** Make sure they're strong enough if being used for leverage or to lean on!
- 4. Grab rails:** Fixed or fold-away?
- 5. Washbasin:** If a wheelchair or frame is now in the equation, a wall-mounted one provides better 'access'.
- 6. The WC:** Away from a wall to enable easier transfer. Ideally, upgrade to a wash & dry/ smart WC that will clean without any need to stretch for, tear off toilet tissue and then contort to wipe. (<https://www.closomat.co.uk/palma-vita.html>; <https://www.closomat.co.uk/asana.html>; <https://www.closomat.co.uk/lima-lifter.html>; <https://www.closomat.co.uk/lima-vita.html>)
- 7. Toilet seat (height):** If transferring from a wheelchair, the seat/ WC may need to be raised; the seat itself is the most frequent adjustment to the fixture! Soft, horseshoe, bariatric, coloured: get it right, as many people spend a lot of time sat there...
- 8. Hoist:** Make sure it reaches the areas it needs to, and there is adequate clearance to lift from the floor.
- 9. Room to move:** If a wheelchair or frame is now "in the picture" is there enough space to easily turn and move around? Changing the door from a pivot to a slider can add precious inches. Removing a shower tray and making that fitting a level access similarly gives extra space for manoeuvre.
- 10. Light:** Enough to use the room, but avoiding glare. Ambient light can highlight specific zones. (note the Closomat Asana includes this as standard, to point the way on the darkest of days, at night)



The Closomat solution:

Closomat is the UK's leading provider of enabling WC solutions at home, and away. It manufactures the brand leading wash & dry toilet – the Palma Vita – and does so in the UK. Closomat is unique in that it insists on commissioning every one of its wash & dry toilets, to ensure the user gets the optimum benefit, understanding how it works, how to clean it etc. The company is also unique in offering, in-house, subsequent repair, service & maintenance.