

Changing Places Design Competition Criteria

Criteria Table

1. Overall ambience and visual appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Themes• Styles
2. Use of colour for floors, walls, ceilings, and door	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patterns and contrast• Finishes• Murals
3. Consideration for sensory sensitivity, including lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials• Direction of lighting• Tactile appeal

Overview

We all spend a lot of time in the bathroom, and it is no different for people who use a Changing Places accessible adult change facility. Time spent is expected to be longer due to how this space is used, which is why visual appeal and feel of a room make all the difference to a positive experience within a Changing Places.

For spaces that get used so often, the interior design of changing facilities doesn't always get the attention they deserve. We've come a long way since plain white tiles! While there are some general guidelines to consider, the design of a Changing Places facility need not look clinical. The use of colour, materials and lighting all make a big difference to how these spaces make you feel. The aim is to imbue a mood of relaxation and calm whilst offering pleasing features to soothe the senses, spur some interest, and enhance the ritual of hygiene activities.

For spaces designed for people with disability, new products are constantly entering the market, allowing us to deviate from the traditional to the innovative. Whilst ease of maintenance is essential here, there are many robust options to choose from, which tick this box and still look and feel appealing.

Criteria Questions

1. Overall ambience and visual appeal
 - Does the room follow an overall theme?
 - Does the room's theme seem appropriate for the setting in which the changing places facility is located? (Beach, theatre, sporting venue etc.)
 - Is the style consistent with neighbouring facilities? (Toilets, change rooms etc.)
 - Does the overall design look clean and uncluttered?

2. Use of colour for floors, walls, ceilings, and door
 - How many different wall, floor and door finishes have been used? (too many different surfaces can look complicated)
 - If more than 1 finish has been used, do they all complement each other? (same colour palette)
 - Have highly contrasting colours been used? (this may cause confusion and anxiety for some people)
 - Have highly detailed, intricate, or repetitive patterns been used? (this may cause confusion and anxiety for some people, however subtle patterns create interest)
 - Are there any points of interest? (murals, graphics, stencils to the walls and ceilings etc)
 - If points of interest have been used, are they non-discriminatory and universal in appeal?
 - Has colour been introduced via fixtures and fittings? If so, do they complement each other?

3. Consideration for sensory sensitivity including lighting
 - Have any natural materials been used? (Biophilic appeal)
 - Are wall finishes considered appealing to touch? (Rough, smooth, bevelled, textured)
 - Do wall finishes reflect light to the point of glare risk? (Gloss, matte, steel)
 - Has lower lux wall lighting been introduced maybe through uplighting? (Creates calm and a softer appearance to the room)
 - If sensor lights have been incorporated, has the dwell time been considered (5-10 mins may be too short, and sudden off setting may startle some people)

