

Corridors should be simple, uncluttered and therefore safe to use, as they provide access around the building and part of emergency escape routes. In a well planned building, corridors convey information about a building and help with the circulation around it.

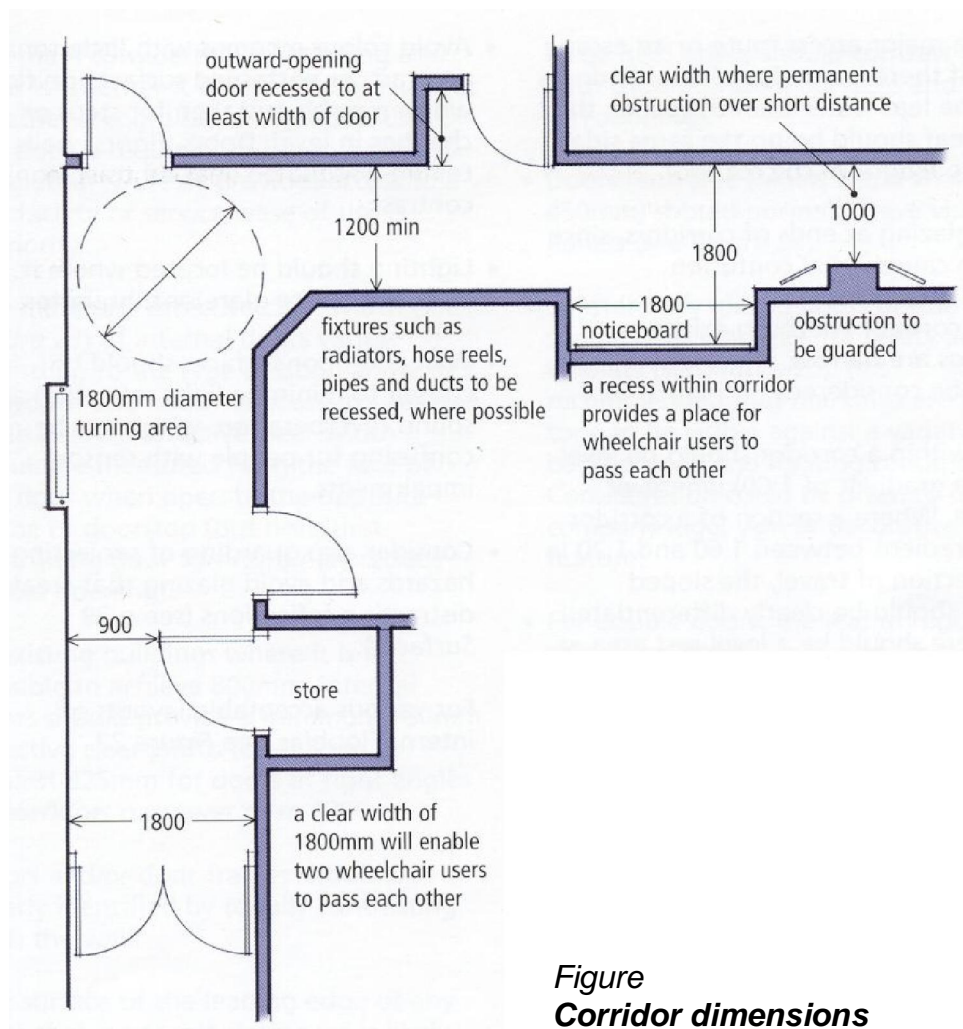


Figure
Corridor dimensions

- Corridor should be unobstructed. Ideally, radiators and equipment (like fire extinguishers) should be recessed. Where unavoidable, there should be a means for directing people around them; for example, with a visually contrasting guardrail.
- Doors that open outwards into a corridor should be recessed. Exceptions may be to outward opening doors to unisex wheelchair toilets (so long as the corridor is at least 1800mm wide and the door closes in the direction of emergency escape; doors to minor utility facilities (e.g. small store rooms, duct/heating cupboards) could also be included in the exception category.

- Where there is a series of double doors with one leaf wider than the other, the wider leaf should be on the same side over the whole length of the corridor (this applies to major access corridors and all escape routes).
- Glazing ends to corridors should be avoided as they can cause visual confusion.
- Narrow corridor widths in existing buildings should have wider doors where possible.
- Floors within a corridor should be as level as possible (no greater than 1:60). Where a section of the corridor has a gradient between 1:60 and 1:20 in the direction of travel, the sloped surface should be clearly differentiated and there should be a level rest area at least 1500mm long for every 500mm rise in level.
- Sections of a corridor steeper than 1:20 should be designed as an internal ramp (see Internal Stairs, Ramps & Handrails).
- Where a section of a corridor is divided (e.g. between a level and a sloping section), the exposed edge should be clearly identified by visual contrast and, where necessary, protected by guarding.
- Doors, floors, walls and ceilings should be highlighted using colour and tonal contrasts. Avoid using colour schemes with little tonal contrast, or patterned surfaces on floors, which can be mistaken for steps or level changes.
- Corridors should be well lit and the lighting should be located where it does not create glare or silhouettes.
- Wall and floor surfaces should be selected to minimise light reflection and sound reverberation, which can be confusing for people with sensory impairments.
- Projecting hazards should be guarded; glazing can create distracting reflections.

Circulation

Open planned spaces, including offices, restaurants, exhibition spaces, entrance foyers and shopping centres, reduce the need for internal doors, which create potential barriers to easy movement around a building.

- A minimum circulation width of 1200mm should be provided and maintained when furniture layouts are altered.
- Large open planned areas should have defining routes using contrasting floor finishes and textures.
- Tonal contrasts should be used in the colour schemes of decoration and furniture.
- Lighting systems can also be used to help define circulation routes in open planned spaces.



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