



Safety Bulletin Number: **0000042**

Issued March 23, 2026, by the Occupational Health and Safety Division, Safety Branch,
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Clean, Readily Available Washrooms for Outdoor and Temporary Worksites

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division would like to take this opportunity to remind workplaces with outdoor and temporary worksites of the requirements for clean, accessible washroom facilities. It is important for employers to ensure that each worksite is assessed to provide proper facilities for all employees at any workplace.

Legal Information

The proper level of toilet and hand-washing facilities at worksites is governed under [Part 4 - Ventilation, Lighting, Sanitation and Accommodation, subsection 19 and 20](#) of the [Occupational Safety General Regulations \(OSGR\)](#).

You can also refer to [Nova SAFE](#) for more information, under the [Sanitation and Accommodation](#) section.

Summary

Nova Scotia's Occupational Safety General Regulations require employers to provide clean, sanitary, and easily accessible toilet facilities, along with nearby hand-washing stations equipped with clean water, soap, and a sanitary way to dry hands. Toilets must offer privacy, be properly maintained, and be available in sufficient numbers for the size of the workforce, with separate or single-occupancy lockable options when both men and women are present. Hand-washing facilities must also be kept clean and functional at all workplaces. **Portable setups are acceptable on temporary worksites as long as they meet the same basic hygiene standards at all times.**



SAFETY BULLETIN



As defined under the OSGR, the regulations require:

An employer shall make accessible a **minimum** number of toilets for **each gender**, determined according to the maximum number of persons of each gender who are normally employed at any one time at the same workplace, as follows:

- where the number of persons **does not exceed 9, 1 toilet**;
- where the number of persons **exceeds 9 but does not exceed 24, 2 toilets**;
- where the number of persons **exceeds 24 but does not exceed 49, 3 toilets**;
- where the number of persons **exceeds 49 but does not exceed 74, 4 toilets**;
- where the number of persons **exceeds 74 but does not exceed 100, 5 toilets**; and
- where the number of persons **exceeds 100, 5 toilets and 1 toilet for every 30 such persons in excess of 100.**

However, where the total number of persons normally employed in the workplace at any one time **does not exceed 9, an employer may provide 1 toilet for both male and female persons if the toilet is situated in a room with an entrance door that is fitted on the inside with a locking device.**

An employer shall ensure that toilet and hand-washing facilities required by these regulations are adequately ventilated and illuminated; heated, where reasonably practicable; provided with a sufficient supply of toilet paper and sanitary hand-cleaning and drying supplies; provided with a waste receptacle; maintained in working condition; and **in the case of a self-contained unit, emptied and serviced at proper intervals to ensure that the unit does not overflow or become unusable.**

An employer shall ensure that an employee has reasonable opportunities to use the toilet and hand-washing facilities.

Contact Us

OHS Division, Safety Branch

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Province of Nova Scotia

1-800-952-2687 • SafetyBranch@novascotia.ca

Page 2 of 2