Car Parks Made Easy
A guide to easy access parking

Australian law says that customers with disabilities should be able to access your goods or services just like any other customer.

This brochure gives an overview of how to make your car park accessible and safe for customers who have a disability.

Easy-access parking bays need:

1. Space
   Easy access parking bays need to be wider, longer and higher than average bays.

2. Location
   A location with good access to the entrance.

3. Signs
   Good signs are essential to help people find your easy access parking bays.

Extra Width
Easy access bays need extra clear space on either side of a vehicle so that equipment (such as wheelchairs or hoists) can be used safely.

Extra Height
Easy access parking bays need extra overhead clearance so vans and vehicles with roof-top wheelchair carriers can be used safely.

Extra Length
Vehicles with rear mounted wheelchair lifts or tow bar wheelchair carriers need parking bays with extra length.

This information is based on the Australian Standards. Reference numbers for the relevant Standard is provided in brackets throughout this brochure.

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This information refers only to ‘angle parking’ where parking bays are lined up side-by-side, ideally at right angles to the flow of traffic.

**How Many?**

In general, 2% of bays in retail commercial centres (up to 1000 car bays) must be made accessible for people with disabilities. If your car park has less than 5 bays you still need to provide easy access parking but other visitors can use them too so you don’t need special signage. *(AS 2890.1)*

It is a good idea to check this requirement with your local council.

**Where?**

Easy access parking bays should be located close to the main accessible building entrance. *(AS 1428.1)*

**Shape and Slope**

The surface should be firm and unobstructed with a fall gradient no steeper than 1:40 (1:33 is OK for bitumen). The sloped area should be either parallel to, or at right angles to the car. *(AS 1428.1)*

**How Wide?**

Easy access bays must be at least 3200mm wide but a width of 3800mm is strongly recommended. *(AS 2890.1)*

**How Long?**

Each bay must be at least 5400mm long *(AS 2890.1)* but a length of 6000mm is strongly recommended and required by some local councils.

**How Much Clearance?**

A minimum clearance height of 2500mm (all the way from the car park entrance to the accessible bay) is needed for safety and damage prevention. *(AS 2890.1)*

**What About the Path?**

To provide a safe path from your easy access bays to the closest accessible entrance, you need:

- A continuous path of travel
- A non-slip surface
- A width of at least 1000mm, ideally 1200mm

The long openings of any grates should be at right angles to the normal path of travel. These openings must not be more than 150mm long or 13mm wide. *(AS 1428.1)*

**What About Ramps?**

So that people with disabilities can use your kerb safely, you need to provide ramps with:

- A gradient of no more than 1:8
- Sides sloping upwards at 45°
- At least 1330mm clearance at both the bottom and the top
- A width of at least 1000mm and a length no more than 1520mm
- An angle of at least 166° at the bottom and an angle no more than 190° at the top *(AS 1428.1)*
Each easy access parking bay needs signage painted on the bay itself and a sign mounted in front of the bay.

In all signage you should use the international symbol for access which must be:

- Figure in white & facing right
- On a background painted in the standard blue called ‘Ultramarine’. This is easily available from most paint suppliers but ask them to check that it is Australian Standards Blue B21. (AS 2700)

**Up Front**

- A sign displaying the access symbol must be mounted at the front of the bay, between 1200mm and 1600mm above the ground.

In some car parks it is useful to have text as well as the international access symbol.

If the accessible parking bay is not easily visible from all entrances to your car park, use extra signs with a directional arrow to show the way.

Keep these signs free of obstruction.

**On the Ground**

- The universal access symbol should also be painted on the ground inside the bay, between 500mm – 600mm from the entrance the bay.

- The symbol figure should be between 800mm and 1000mm high and on a 1200mm square of Ultramarine blue also called Australian Standards Blue B21. (AS 2700)
Where to go for further information

The Independent Living Centre of WA
Phone: 1300 885 886  08 9381 0600  www.ilc.com.au

Disability Services Commission
Phone: 08 9426 9200  www.dsc.wa.gov.au
Freecall 1800 998 214

ACROD Parking Program
Phone: 9242 5544  www.nds.org.au

Association of Consultants in Access Australia Inc.
Phone: 03 5221 2820  www.access.asn.au

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
Phone: 02 9284 9600  www.hreoc.gov.au
(“Disability Rights” then “Disability A-Z Index”)

Australian Standards Ltd
Phone: 02 8206 6000  www.standards.org.au
• AS1428.1—2001 General requirements for access - New building work.
• AS2890.1—1993 Off-street car parking
• AS2890.5—1993 On-street parking