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## Designing Spaces for Independent Living

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1. What is the recommended maximum distance from the front edge of a basin to the tapware controls to ensure accessibility for all users?

For public accessible bathrooms, the recommended maximum distance from the front edge of the basin to the tapware controls is 300mm, as per AS 1428.1:2021. In Sole Occupancy Units (SOUs), this distance can extend to 475mm.

2. What type of tap handle is recommended for users with limited grip strength or dexterity?

Lever handles are the most accessible option, as they require minimal force and no twisting of the wrist.

3. In accessible bathroom design, where should the hot tap be positioned in a horizontal configuration with separate hot and cold taps?

AS 1428.1 requires that in horizontal tap configurations, hot water is always on the left and cold on the right, following common standards for intuitive and safe use.

4. What diameter range is required for compliant grabrails under AS 1428.1?

AS 1428.1 specifies that grabrails must have an external diameter between 30mm and 40mm to ensure they can be comfortably and securely gripped by users with a range of hand sizes and abilities.

5. What is the minimum required clearance between a grabrail and any adjacent surface to allow for proper hand grip?

AS 1428.1 specifies a minimum 50mm clearance between the grabrail and the wall (or any adjacent surface) to ensure users can comfortably and safely wrap their hand around the rail without obstruction.

6. How does colour contrast improve grabrail usability for people with vision impairment?

Grabrails with high colour contrast to surrounding surfaces (e.g. dark rail on light wall) are easier to locate and use, especially for people with low vision or cognitive impairment.