

Accessible Parking

Accessibility | Solutions

Providing accessible parking at your facility is critical in order for potential users to park their vehicle and enter the building. In new construction and when a parking lot is being altered, public and commercial projects, all accessible parking is required to comply. In an alteration to a primary function, the accessible parking serving the altered area may have to be brought into compliance as part of the Path of Travel. The requirements for parking can be located at sections 208 and 502 in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Texas



Accessibility Standards (TAS). Key elements to include are:

- Located on the shortest accessible route.
- Dispersed by type.
- Minimum of one van space.
- Accessible parking space dimensions.
- Slope of the accessible parking spaces.
- Accessible parking sign.
- Vertical clearance.

As previously noted, the accessible parking space may determine whether or not the user can access your facility. The route from the parking must also coincide with the route used by the general public. The location on the shortest accessible route is to reduce the distance the user must travel and is for individuals with mobility impairments or those who may only be able to walk short distances. In facilities which have multiple entrances, such as a retail center for example, the parking should be dispersed in order to provide accessible parking closest to the different suites. Parking must also be dispersed by type, which may include surface lots, garages and covered spaces.

Each accessible parking space and access aisle must be located on an accessible route. Each accessible parking space and its accompanying access aisle must be

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level and clear. This means there is no more than a 1:48 slope (approximately 1/4" per ft.) at any point, and there are no obstacles located in the parking space or access aisle. For example, a built up curb ramp at an access aisle is not acceptable unless it is located outside of the clearance required for the parking space and access aisle.

Generally, 1 in 25 parking spaces provided on a site shall be accessible and comply with the standards. Larger sites are allowed a lower ratio. Where only one accessible parking space is required it must be a van space and shall be located adjacent to the accessible entrance. In lots providing additional spaces, a minimum of 1 in every 6 accessible spaces must be a van space. Van spaces must be 11' wide parking space with a 5' access aisle. This configuration also helps deter others from parking in the access aisle, and since the access aisle may be shared by another accessible parking space, this can create a van space and a standard accessible parking space. There is also an exception at 502.2 for an 8' wide parking space with an 8' wide access aisle.

Each accessible parking space must have a sign identifying the space, including a "van accessible" sign designating the van space. Such signs shall be reflective, a minimum of 5' above the parking surface and are required to have the international symbol of accessibility, however, the international symbol located on the parking surface is not required by ADA or TAS, but may be required by your local building code.

Where valet service is provided, at least one passenger loading zone is required. It is recommended that you also provide an accessible parking space since the valet attendant may not be able to operate the vehicle, or may not always be on duty. Passenger loading zones must have a 5' x 20' access aisle which is maximum 2% in any direction to enable the user to exit their vehicle.

For complete information and assistance with any questions you have, please contact Atelier. We will be pleased to assist you with the ADA and TAS standards and in determining the appropriate application for your project.

