Sanitary facilities in hotels

Surveys have shown that, on arrival, the first thing people examine in a hotel room is the bathroom. The quality of the bathroom fittings is also one of the main criteria for the classification of hotel rooms – regardless of whether the hotel in question is a business or spa hotel.

Bathroom landscapes instead of bathroom units
Regardless of whether people stay at a hotel for business or pleasure, the expectations when it comes to the bathroom are similar. Besides absolute cleanliness and high hygiene standards, the shape and design of a bathroom also play a crucial role in terms of the overall impression. Hotel bathrooms have long since ceased to be purely functional, with guests now wanting to feel comfortable in them.

A shower and generously-sized storage surfaces are still high on the list of priorities for guests when it comes to the bathroom fittings they consider most important. Bathtubs and whirlpools too are very much appreciated. Usually, the higher the star rating, the more exclusive the bathroom fittings. Some hotel suites literally have what can be termed bathroom landscapes.

A spa or wellness area is now too an integral part of the service provided to guests at many hotels. The planning and fitting of wellness areas with swimming pools, sauna and fitness facilities as well as associated sanitary facilities represents a major challenge for architects and sanitary engineers alike. This is because sensual perception, harmony of place and a consistent design concept with high-quality sanitary objects are of enormous importance for the evaluation of a hotel.

LAUFEN offers special solutions for the hotel sector. It can individually customize basins using cuttable materials and produce freestanding sides with no visibly-applied side panels. Freestanding washstands can also be used as drinking fountains. Individual decorations are possible for orders of 10 or more.

Universal Design in hotel rooms
More and more hotels are catering specifically to the needs of senior citizens and people with limited mobility, and are designing their bathrooms according to the principles of Universal Design. So-called „Best Agers“ are mobile, affluent and not tied to school holidays, and are an attractive target group for the hospitality industry not least in view of recent demographic changes. The Universal Design requirements for hotel rooms are derived from the general Universal Design principles: The more spacious a bathroom, the easier and safer the use of the sanitary objects. Hotel rooms can be threshold-free and include non-slip flooring, while a multi-functional and simple design ensures that all groups of people are comfortable inside, with no one excluded. A toilet seat elevated by just a few centimetres provides noticeably more comfort without visually standing out. More information about the Universal Design planning principles and barrier-free sanitary facilities can be found on the relevant pages of this guide. LAUFEN offers a large selection of products that significantly increase comfort.
Required measurements and spacing for sanitary objects in hotel rooms

Bathroom fittings in hotel rooms vary according to hotel category. Basins with sufficiently large storage surfaces and towel rails, shower, toilet, mirror with socket and waste bins are minimum requirements even for budget-standard hotels. When it comes to luxury hotel rooms, there are no limits with regard to the fittings and size of the bathroom. For reasons of hygiene, wall-mounted toilets are preferable to stand-alone toilets. Higher installation of toilets and bidets, as recommended in Universal Design, increases comfort for all users. Room sizes and distances between sanitation objects are also a major comfort factor, with a distinction being made between average, minimum and comfort distances.

Hotel Bathroom with Toilet, Double Sink and Bathtub
LAUFEN Recommendation

Hotel Bathroom with Toilet, Bidet, Sink & Bathtub
LAUFEN Recommendation

Distances between sanitary objects (minimum standard size) Figures in cm

LAUFEN Recommendation, in line with ÖNORM 5411

LAUFEN Recommendation, in line with VDI guideline 6000 Part 4

Each country has its own authoritative guidelines and regulations for the public areas of hotels and hotel facilities.

- In Switzerland, policies and guidelines (Guidelines for Hotels and Restaurants) are issued by the cantonal (construction) directorates.
- In Germany there is no law that defines how hotel rooms should be fitted. Instead VDI Guideline 6000 Part 4 is used, with individual states having their own hotel and restaurant building codes.
- In Austria, the building codes of each individual state apply.
- The minimum fittings for hotel bathrooms according to category are included in the country-specific hotel classification guidelines.
- Plan noise protection-optimized floorplans, and note the country-specific standards and regulations.
- SIA 181 (Switzerland)
- DIN 4109 (Germany)
- ÖNORM B 8115-2 standards.

Noise insulation important
When planning sanitary facilities in hotels, complying with noise insulation requirements is of particular importance. The best and most cost-effective way of preventing unwanted noise by flushing toilets and running water is a noise-sensitive floorplan (see the chapter on "Noise Insulation"). The noise insulation requirements for sanitary areas are stipulated, among other places, in the SIA 181, DIN 4109, ÖNORM B 8115 and ÖNORM B 8115-2 standards. Their purpose is to reduce noise pollution from sanitary and building services.

Saving water in hotels
While for guests the aesthetic and visual aspects of a bathroom are most important, for hotel operators what is important is the functionality, durability and ease of cleaning of the sanitary objects. Intensive use of sanitary objects by different individuals and the daily intensive cleaning required due to hotel hygiene requirements mean that the objects installed need to be high-quality. Special coatings such as LAUFEN Clean Coat facilitate cleaning, allowing strong detergents to be largely dispensed with. This aids the environment and saves water.

Saving water is an important issue for almost all hotels. Water consumption can be regulated with toilet and urinal flushing mechanisms that incorporate automatic control technologies such as ultrasonic, infrared technology or a water-saving button. The inclusion of a suitable outlet gradient and an optimal pipe diameter are also important. Small measures too, such as fully removable toilet seats that allow for rapid and hygienic cleaning, contribute to a long-term reduction in cleaning agent and water use in the hotel industry.

The use of water-saving fixtures can also help conserve resources – both financial and environmental - with no reduction in comfort. Sensible innovations lead to a substantial reduction in energy and water consumption, which in turn has a positive impact on operating costs.

More information and tips on this topic can be found in the chapter on "Water-saving innovations", p. 64.
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