Campus Considerations

As of 2016, single occupancy restrooms must display signs identifying them as "all-gender toilet facilities". This applies to buildings in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or state and local government agencies.

These signs must comply with Title 24 of the CA Code of Regulations meaning they have to have 1. a sign with a geometric symbol of a triangle superimposed on a circle and 2. a designation tactile (capable of being read by touch) sign that indicates the facility is a restroom to be ADA compliant.

While Stanford does not technically fall under the law's mandated buildings, efforts were launched by multiple campus partners and student activists to increase comfort and safety for trans and gender non-conforming folks.

These efforts include converting existing single stall restrooms across campus, including all gender restrooms in new buildings, converting communal restrooms and locker rooms, and making a campus map available (see back!).

Navigating CAMPUS RESTROOMS

brought to you by:
SARA Office
Diversity & Access Office
Weiland Health Initiative

Resources

SARA (Office of Sexual Assault & Relationship Abuse Education & Response)
Kingscote Gardens education, prevention resources advocacy

Diversity & Access Office
Kingscote Gardens accessibility assistance policy implementation advocacy

Weiland Health Initiative
Kingscote Gardens individual therapy group therapy programming advocacy

QSR @ QSpot
Queer Student Resources
2nd floor Firetruck House programming community advocacy

Get Connected
Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need all gender restrooms, especially if there aren't that many trans and non-binary people?
All gender restrooms serve multiple purposes and communities: they allow folks of any gender identity to feel comfortable knowing that they won’t be targeted or harassed, and they’re helpful for people with children, people with disabilities, and people with caregivers.

But don’t all gender restrooms make people/women more vulnerable to harm?
There’s no evidence that single-gender restrooms are safer; research shows that gender inclusive policies do not lead to more incidents of harm. For Stanford, there have been no reported incidents of harm and we have additional security barriers to ensure privacy and safety. However, the harm that is done and is backed by research shows that for trans or non-binary folks, fear of harassment and harm in gendered restrooms has severe impact.

Is there a difference between unisex, gender-neutral, and all gender restrooms?
There is no difference between unisex, gender-neutral, and all-gender restrooms. Historically, we have used the terms “unisex” and “gender-neutral,” but this caused confusion since people thought the restrooms were only for people who were transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming. Now, we generally use the term “all-gender” to be clear that anyone of any gender identity can use all-gender restrooms.

Okay so are all Stanford restrooms going to be converted?
Nope, the majority of the restrooms to be converted are already made for one person to use at a time. Some multi-occupancy restrooms have been or will be converted.

Can people be told to leave restrooms if they look like they don't belong?
People should be able to choose what restroom they feel comfortable using—telling people that they can’t use an all-gender restroom (or other restrooms) goes directly against Stanford’s Nondiscrimination Policy which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, or gender expression.

Have more questions? https://equity.stanford.edu/transgender-support