

Reach Ranges & Knee Clearances

Accessibility | Solutions

Reach range and knee clearances can get a little tricky where they have an obstruction such as a sink or cook top. Both the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) at 308.2.2 says *“Where a high forward reach is over an obstruction, the clear floor space shall extend beneath the element for a distance not less than the required reach depth over the obstruction.”* Basically, whatever your farthest reach range is, your knee and toe clearance increases in depth until they are at least the same depth as the reach range.



For example: with a typical bathroom lavatory, faucet controls are usually no more than 17” back from the face of the counter. A typical sink detail with 8” deep of upper knee clearance and 17” of toe clearance is acceptable. The faucet is within reach range.

However, for a typical break room sink or lab sink with a faucet 20” from the face of the counter, the 8” upper knee clearance must increase to 11” and the toe clearance can’t be less than 20” in order to make the reach range work. What if there is a disposal switch on the back wall? With a 25” deep counter, the upper knee clearance will be 16” with the toe clearance extending to it’s maximum of 25” in depth.

For further discussion see “How Tall Can My Counter Be?”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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