

Designing accessible public barbecue facilities

Accessible public barbecues are crucial for inclusivity and equality in community spaces. Everyone, including those with mobility impairments, should be able to use these facilities comfortably and independently.



This document is a guide only. Specific design considerations should be discussed with qualified professionals, referencing the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and Australian Standards AS1428.1 and AS1428.2.

LOCATION AND ACCESS DESIGN

When designing accessible park facilities, create clear pathways with easy-to-navigate, obstruction-free access to barbecues, picnic tables, and other facilities. Ensure that pathways and ramps have appropriate gradients. The design must also provide adequate circulation and passing space for all users, particularly those with mobility aids.

The accessible side of your cabinet must be oriented so wheelchair users can easily approach the recessed space and that the barbecue controls face the seated user.



Christie recommends a 1400 mm clear approach to the accessible face and a minimum circulation clearance of 1200 mm around the outer perimeter if total circulation is required.

Note: Always consider maintenance clearances to ensure cleaners can access the cabinet doors easily and safely.

For further clearances and circulation space details, please refer to AS1428.2 (Sections 6, 7, & 8).

UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR BARBECUE CABINETS

In practice, answering “yes” to the following criteria as stated in the Standards means your barbecue cabinet is genuinely accessible:

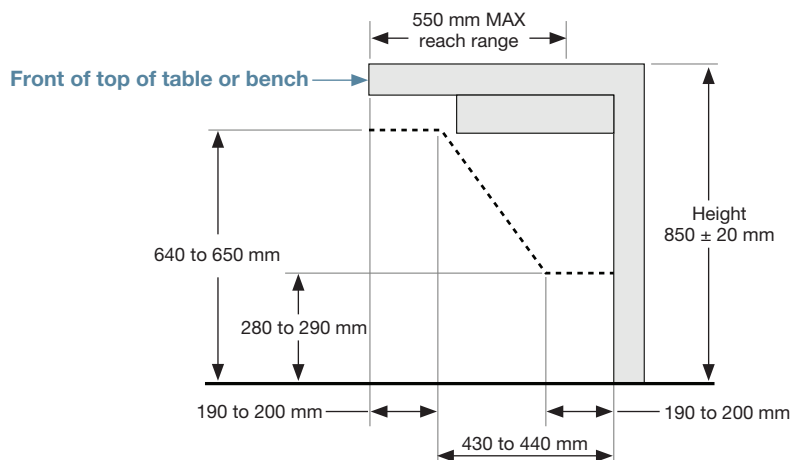
- Is the height from the finished floor to the top of the cabinet 850 ± 20 mm?
- Is there a clearance height beneath the unit from the finished floor of 820 ± 20 mm?
- Is the minimum clearance width between the legs or other fixtures beneath the barbecue 800 mm?
- Is the minimum width of the bench counter 900 mm?
- Are operable parts within 550 mm from the front of the benchtop?
- Are signs, including symbols, numbering and lettering, visible to people seated and standing?

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ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

Australian accessibility guidelines require unobstructed access beneath a bench for wheelchairs. This improves reach to the benchtop for food preparation and cooking, as shown below.

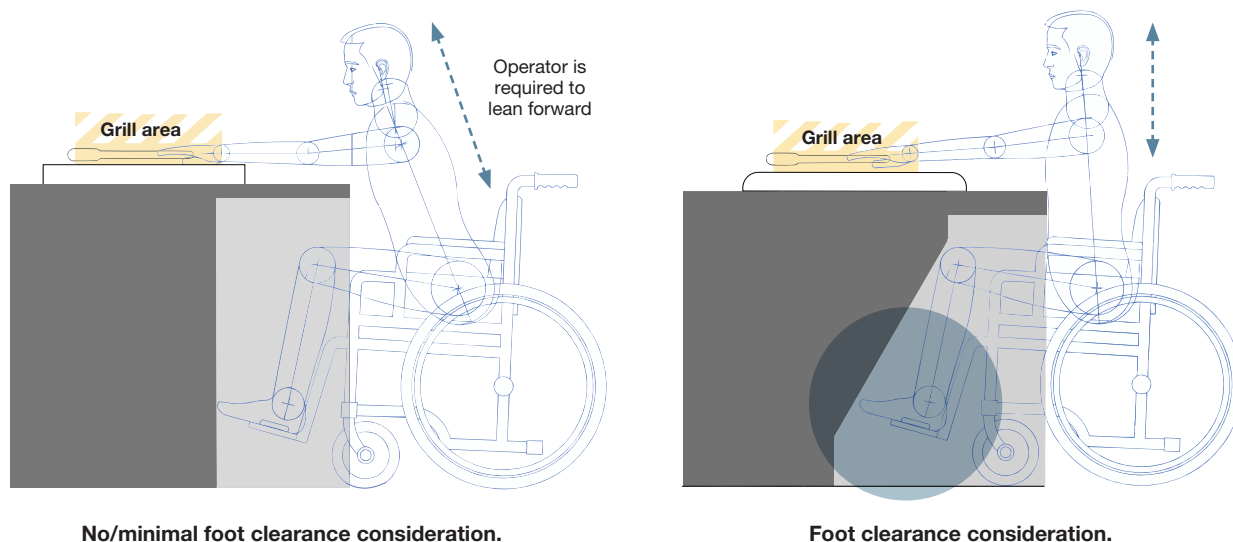
Knee and Foot Clearance Beneath a Table:



Legend: - - - - -
Outer limit of any obstructions beneath table, bench or counter at wheelchair seating spaces.

Cooktop: Positioning the control panel above the bench ensures that the start button, user instructions, and indicator light remain visible and accessible. Appliances without countertop controls force seated users to move back and check the indicator light during cooking. The raised hob also separates the appliance from the benchtop, minimising the risk of burns, especially for users with impaired vision

Cabinet: The cabinet design must allow full access to the cooktop. Consider the foot and knee clearance in your cabinet selection to ensure a seated user has appropriate reach. The graphic below shows how this clearance impacts cooktop reach for seated users.



NOTE: No individual table, counter or worktop height and clearance beneath will suit all users with disabilities. The details referenced are limited to where a single table, counter or worktop (barbecue cabinet) is provided. The details can change if two or more barbecues are provided.

References:

Consulting the relevant Standards is essential when selecting or designing an accessible barbecue cabinet, The Standards below have specific and indirect clauses that were considered in developing our user-friendly A Series and ICON accessible barbecue cabinets:

Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA); AS 1428.1:2009 – Design for access and mobility, Part 1: General requirements for access – New building work (AS 1428.1) AS 1428.2:1992 – Design for Access and Mobility, Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements – Buildings and facilities.