

Use the following questions to think about ways of increasing safety and security in your school. For more information, see *Mitigating Hazards in School Facilities*, <http://www.ncef.org/safeschools/index.cfm>.

Room No _____ Location _____ Date _____

■ Is the restroom located to maximize visual surveillance, such as near administrative areas?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Is the restroom bright, well lit, and easy to supervise? Restrooms are the fourth biggest problem area in schools, primarily because they are difficult to supervise. The most common concerns are vandalism, bullying, fighting, disorderly conduct, and alcohol and drug use.

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Is the restroom well maintained, with no offensive smells and no graffiti? Is everything operable? Are mirrors intact and unbroken? Well maintained restrooms promote orderly behavior by demonstrating respect for and ownership of property. They draw legitimate users, boosting safety through their presence in larger numbers. Poorly maintained restrooms repel legitimate users, including school staff, thereby reducing supervision.

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Do restroom lighting fixtures have protective, vandal-proof covers?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Can restroom entry/exit doors be locked only from the outside and not be readily blocked from the inside?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are stall doors and partitions limited to no more than 5'-6" in height and do they have 12" clearance above the floor for surveillance? Are partitions bolted to the floor, wall, and ceiling? Do all stall doors have operable latches?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are sinks and hand dryers located in publicly exposed or semi-exposed areas to deter vandalism and encourage hand washing?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Do restroom smoke detectors have vandal-resistant features, such as protective cages or tamper alarms?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ If the restroom is intended for use by people engaged in after-school activities, is it conveniently located and able to be used without providing access to the rest of the school?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are restroom fixtures and hardware made of vandal-resistant, readily cleanable materials?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are exposed hot water pipes insulated and protected with an insulating cover, as required by accessibility criteria? Particularly look for under-sink hot water pipes that might come into contact with wheelchair users' legs.

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Does the restroom have a hard ceiling that prevents hiding contraband in above-ceiling spaces?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Does the restroom have windows? California advises against using windows for ventilation in bathrooms because windows can serve as passageways for weapons, people, or contraband.

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are hand dryers, vending equipment, and trash containers heavy duty, recessed, and fire-resistant? Is access to trash containers lockable?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are electrical outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are paper towel, liquid soap, and toilet tissue holders of a see-through design, making it hard to use them as hiding places for contraband? Have unused holders been removed from the walls for similar reasons?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ Are the restroom mirrors shatterproof?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ If it's a single user bathroom with a locking door, is access to and natural surveillance adequately controlled, requiring keys, passes, or other means?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ If it's a group restroom, does it have visually screened, door-less "maze" entryways that allow acoustic surveillance from adjacent areas?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note:

■ If it's a large-event restroom, does it have two means of entry/egress and can they be locked or restricted during normal school operations? Does door hardware permit the restroom doors to be locked in the open position during designated events unless the door is in a fire-rated wall?

Yes No Not applicable Further study

Note: