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# American Restroom Association

America's advocate for the availability of clean, safe, well designed public restrooms

## 2025 Spring Newsletter: In This Issue



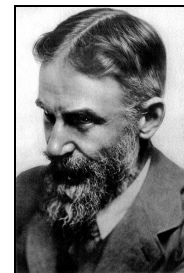
### International Women's Day: Design Matters

A well-designed restroom meets everyone's needs. Have you heard of **MFPTs**?



### How do we determine what goes where in a restroom?

It all starts with plumbing code. Geek out on the basics of code and who writes them.



### History from Across the Pond: Loos in the UK

George Bernard Shaw, unlikely restroom hero? The surprising story you need to know.

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### *Starbucks Bathrooms for Customers Only: Your Thoughts?*

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Starbucks' recent restroom policy limits access to paying customers only, sparking a vital discussion on public restroom availability. **We at the ARA believe access to restrooms is a basic need, impacting everyone**, especially vulnerable populations and people with medical needs or disabilities. Limited access to restrooms affects daily life.

***The Bigger Issue:*** How have you struggled with insufficient access to public restrooms? Should businesses be pressured to keep restrooms open? What role should businesses play? What is the government's responsibility? We want to hear your thoughts. Respond to the **[ARA on Bluesky @americanrestroom](#)**

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The American Restroom Association  
Celebrates International Women's Day  
March 8, 2025



#AccelerateAction #IWD2025  
Support women  
one restroom at a time

## International Women's Day #AccelerateAction

It's International Women's Day, and we at the American Restroom Association are always thinking about how **restroom design really matters**, especially when it comes to menstrual equity. It's not just about having a toilet and a sink. It's about creating spaces that are truly inclusive and supportive.

Think about it: access to menstrual products isn't "nice-to-have," it's essential. When someone doesn't have what they need, it impacts life - from missed school days and classes, to work disruptions, to paying taxes on essentials, and a lot of unnecessary stress.

The ARA is your advocate for **well-designed restrooms** which includes things like **bins in bathrooms** for disposal of menstrual products – especially in single-occupancy, all-gender restrooms (SOAG). It's not just about convenience; **it's about basic public health and keeping our shared spaces clean.**

*Here are just a few of the amazing organizations supporting women in the USA and around the world!*

[PHLUSH](#)

[ISSA Advocacy](#)

[The National Diaper Bank](#)

[Period Law](#)

[Aunt Flow](#)

### **Good Design**

Have you heard of **MFPTs - A Menstrual Friendly Public Toilet?**

Check out the MFPT research project happening at Columbia University in NYC.

[Learn More](#)

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that support everyone. Ensuring the proper disposal of menstrual products is just good design.

Help the ARA do more! **We are committed to safe, clean, accessible public restrooms across the USA.** [Ask a friend to subscribe to our newsletter](#) or [donate today!](#)

## A Primer on Plumbing Code



Have you ever wondered how standards are determined for restroom design? From office buildings to airports, the layout and fixtures are carefully considered to meet the needs of users. A key factor in this process is plumbing code.

**The International Plumbing Code (IPC) and Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) are the primary sets of regulations governing plumbing systems in the United States.**

These codes establish standards for everything from pipe sizing and material to fixture placement and accessibility requirements.

Geek out on plumbing code at these websites:

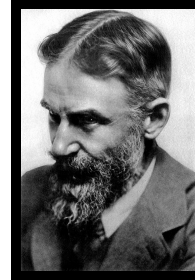
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

[Uniform Plumbing Code](#)

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## History From Across the Pond: Loos in the UK

“There are those that look at things  
the way they are, and ask why? I  
dream of things that never were,  
and ask why not?”  
— George Bernard Shaw



Why not have restrooms for women? Playwright George Bernard Shaw campaigned for 'loos for women' in the late 19th century, encountering resistance rooted in societal decency standards. As a vestryman on St Pancras Council, **he championed the right for women to have public toilets.** He argued that providing an equal number of public lavatories was a matter of **women's rights, challenging the prevailing norms** that overlooked women's physiological needs. [Read the history here.](#)

*It's been 200 years, and we still need public restrooms. A healthy society needs clean, safe, well-designed restrooms for all. The ARA continues to advocate for public restrooms across the United States. Will you support us?*

### ***Support the ARA in 2025***

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restrooms!

The ARA is launching critical new programs in 2025 to drive awareness and change. To make these programs a reality, we need your help. **Your donation directly funds the tools and resources necessary to improve restroom access and quality. Join us in making a difference – [donate now!](#)**

[DONATE](#)

Image of George Bernard Shaw: Unknown author - *New York Times, Current History, Vol 1, Issue 1 From the Beginning to March, 1915 With Index* at the [Project](#)

[Gutenberg](#). [Direct link to image](#).

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