

# factsheet Basins



*Pedestal*



*Semi-recessed*



*Wall mounted*

## Occupational therapy considerations when prescribing hand basins and basins for vanity units:

1. **Size** – what is the basin to be used for? E.g. grooming, continence or colostomy management? This will influence size, shape and depth required.

When stating the size of basin indicate clearly whether measurements are for internal dimensions or external dimensions. Space available will affect basin position in the room and size/shape e.g. corner style, narrow. Consider available setdown space for items on benchtops/basin edges.

2. **Type and height** – will the basin be used by standing or seated users or both? Consider foreseeability (future needs). Will basin be used by children, adults or both? Consider leg clearance required e.g. seated in wheelchair or leg/foot clearance while seated on stool at basin.

A semi-recessed basin is often easier to reach from a seated position but has less available bench space. Hand basins can be either pedestal floor mounted or wall mounted. Clearly state height to top of basin and clearance under basin required.

If client tends to use basin for weightbearing, consider type/suitability of mounting – wall vs. floor (check with HMMS builder). A small hand basin with dual lever taps may provide limited or no space for items such as soap, toothbrush.

3. **Client's hand function** – this will influence type of taps, and required plug e.g. standard or push plug

4. **Client's functional reach** – this will influence type, height and depth of the basin; length, shape and height of spout; position of taps on basin and position/access to items stored on or next to the basin. Does spout on basin need to swivel e.g. to wash hair? Consider fatigue with regard to changes in functional reach at different times of the day and foreseeability (future needs).

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5. **Client's cognitive status** – this will influence type of taps, ability to use plug, risk of overflowing (may require special plug e.g. 'pop up' plug) and temperature control.
6. **Client's vision** – is there adequate colour contrast between the basin, taps and/or vanity unit?
7. **Equipment to be used at basin by client/other users** – e.g. wheelchair, mobile shower commode chair, walking frame – this will influence the height and depth of vanity and footplate/leg clearance. Also consider space for a carer if required, circulation space requirements and thermal safety of exposed pipes.
8. **Type of taps** – refer to NSW HMMS State Council Fact Sheet 13 '*Prescribing Taps*'
9. **Number of holes required for taps/mixer spout** – particularly if utilising existing plumbing. Basins can be ordered with one, two or three tapholes.
10. **Location of waste/water pipes** – pipes will either go into wall or down to floor. This will influence access to the basin i.e. leg clearance and type of basin required e.g. wall mounted vs pedestal. Check if existing basin plumbing can be moved - if not, choices will be more limited.
11. **Relationship with other fixtures** e.g. mirror, shaving cabinet, proximity to general power outlet (GPO) – this will influence position of the basin. Consider the type and position of lighting e.g. impact of glare from mirror.
12. **Storage needs** – e.g. if hand basin only, consider space/setdown for soap/handwash, toothbrush/cup. Will other cupboard/shelf be needed? Also consider hand towel storage.
13. **Aesthetics** – client's perspective/wishes e.g. colour, finish.
14. **Simulate the task with the client** to ensure suitability of hand basin or basin for vanity unit i.e. access and use.

***Consult your local HMMS Builder or Technical Officer regarding types and installation of hand basins and basins for vanity units.***

**NSW HMMS**  
state council



Suite 5, DAISI House  
109 Molesworth Street, LISMORE NSW 2480  
Ph: 02 6622 8386 Fax: 02 6622 8693  
Email: [promo@nswhmms.org](mailto:promo@nswhmms.org) [www.nswhmms.org](http://www.nswhmms.org)

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