



Public Restroom Safety

Personal safety incidents in public restrooms have been around for quite some time. There is no shortage of news stories available to confirm this. Personal safety incidents include assault, peeping toms and camera/video filming. With the inception of transgender restroom access, there have been additional incidents of men dressing up as women to access the women's restroom.

For public restrooms, it is highly important to have both privacy and safety. Door locks in restrooms is a preventive measure from intruders serving both aims of privacy and security. The following are some safety tips:

- Push open the door and look inside the restroom before you enter
- Make sure the door to your stall moves freely; there are no gaps & the door securely locks
- Always accompany your children into a public restroom
- Always glance under the door first to see if the stall is already occupied
- Always push the open stall doors in, this will show anyone hiding in the unoccupied stalls who may be standing/crouching on the toilet seat with no feet visible on the floor
- If you are in possession of pepper spray, have spray in hand ready to use. Remember to always use thumb to activate pepper spray, which will also allow you to use the canister as a defensive weapon, ideally to aim at the clavicle (shoulder) to disable a potential predator
- If there is open space between the restroom stalls, make sure there is nothing impeding on your space in the stall such as someone using their cellphone to videotape you.
- Make sure there are no cameras located inside the restroom or the restroom stall.
- Always look at the ceiling tiles to assure there are not visible holes or damage that would allow someone to view stall activity

- If the purse hook is located high on the back of the stall door, consider keeping your purse on your shoulder instead. You don't want someone reaching over to steal it.
- Always try to walk in pairs, let someone know where you are going, and most importantly – TRUST YOUR INTUITION!

REST STOPS

- Never go into a public rest stop restroom alone.