

This is an ALL-GENDER bathroom! HURRAY!

Why do we have all-gender bathrooms? Female/male sex-segregated bathrooms are not accessible spaces that everyone can use. Many people are subject to harassment, intimidation, criminalization, and violence on an every day basis. Transgender, genderqueer, and/or gender non-conforming people are particularly affected by bathroom segregation because of the visible gender differences that may not correlate with cultural gender norms. Even in cities, towns, and non-profits that are generally considered “liberal” places where it is “easier” to be gender non-conforming, many people are still harassed in bathrooms. Many non-transgender and gender conforming people also experience difficulty and inconvenience in sex-segregated bathrooms as well. Parents with differently-gendered children are not able to accompany them in gender-segregated bathrooms (a mother with her son or a father with his daughter). People with disabilities with differently gendered attendants or family members are not able to bring them into gender-specific, multi-stall bathrooms.

Who is allowed to use an all-gender bathroom? Everyone! Gender-neutral bathrooms create spaces that are accessible to all people! YAY!

Do all-gender bathrooms make people less safe? No. The current gender-specific situation is not safe for many transgender and non-transgender people. The reality is that gender-specific bathrooms do not prevent sexual assault, and if anything, provides an illusion of safety that is not true. Multiple person all-gender bathrooms could actually provide more safety, if carefully constructed, since they can be more public spaces allowing for community accountability for safety. Places with multiple person all-gender bathrooms report no complaints, no harassment, and no violence.

Don't men make bathrooms messy? Everyone has the ability to be clean or messy regardless of what gender or sex they are. In fact, the general trend is that all-gender bathrooms are cleaner than gender specific bathrooms, perhaps because people are more conscious of their cleanliness in shared spaces.

Will using all-gender bathrooms make people uncomfortable? It is true that for people who are used to using gender specific bathrooms, using all-gender bathrooms may feel uncomfortable. Often times, social change that increases access for an excluded group and eliminated discrimination requires a reform of social practices that can make people who have not been negatively affected by the existing arrangements uneasy. However, discomfort or modesty, when compared with the inability to engage in basic necessary biological functions at work, school, and in public spaces, cannot be prioritized. As we make changes to increase access and reduce discrimination, we must all commit to adjusting to those changes. Personal preference never overrides discrimination.

***Brought to you by your friends next door at the
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