



FLÜSH GUARD®
ANTI-OVERFLOW TOILETS

**OVERFLOW PROTECTION
SPECIALLY DESIGNED
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Creating Safer, More Accessible Bathrooms.
Peace of Mind

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Toilet overflows are a significant—and often overlooked —threat to safe, accessible living. For individuals with disabilities, this risk is amplified by barriers in physical mobility, sensory awareness, and cognitive processing. FLUSH GUARD® was developed first and foremost to address the needs of this population. As a patented anti-overflow system (Canadian Patent No. 2,620,564; U.S. Patent No. 7,757,312), it delivers passive protection, requiring no sensors, electronics, or user intervention.

This white paper explores the urgent need for overflow prevention technology, the data supporting it, and the growing role of universal design in protecting all people —starting with those most vulnerable.

DESIGNED FOR ACCESSIBILITY FIRST

More than 1 in 4 adults in the United States (28.7%) live with a disability, according to 2022 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data. That's over 70 million people facing increased barriers in home and public spaces. These include:

- Mobility impairments (12.2%)
- Cognitive disabilities (13.9%)
- Hearing and vision impairments (11.7% combined)
- Difficulties with self-care or independent living (11.3%)

FLUSH GUARD® directly addresses this need by:

- Preventing overflow for people who may not hear or see that a toilet is clogged
- Reducing risk for users who may not understand that a blocked toilet will spill if flushed again
- Supporting independence by offering passive protection without altering standard use

ADA-ADAPTED PRODUCT FEATURES

FLUSH GUARD® toilets are specially designed to meet the needs of individuals with physical, cognitive, and sensory impairments, enhancing accessibility, safety, and ease of use.

In addition to its core overflow-prevention technology, FLUSH GUARD® includes:

- PLUS HEIGHT® models – 17" tall to meet ADA requirements for easier sitting and standing
- Oversized flush levers – designed for users with limited dexterity or grip strength
- No sensors or apps – ensuring full accessibility with zero learning curve

These design elements make FLUSH GUARD® a true ADA-adapted innovation, not just ADA-compliant.

HOW IT WORKS: PASSIVE OVERFLOW PROTECTION

FLUSH GUARD® uses a secondary trapway to divert rising water directly to the main sewer drain in the event of a clog. Three anti-overflow holes deliver excess water to the secondary trapway before the bowl overflows, even after multiple flushes.

There are no sensors to fail, no batteries to replace, and no software to update. The system is silent, invisible, and maintenance-free.

THE HIDDEN COST OF OVERFLOWS

Toilet overflows aren't just unsanitary—they're expensive.

- \$3,000+ average cost of residential overflow-related water damage
- Mold growth, subfloor warping, and insurance claims add even more hidden cost
- In commercial, healthcare, or hospitality settings, a single incident can cause operational shutdowns and liability exposure

FLUSH GUARD® prevents these incidents—protecting people and property alike.

OVERFLOW RISKS ARE ALSO PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS

CDC data shows adults with disabilities are:

- 33% more likely to be obese
- 2x as likely to smoke
- 3x more likely to have heart disease
- 2x more likely to have diabetes

These conditions increase vulnerability in the event of unsanitary bathroom incidents, especially during public health emergencies. Long COVID also disproportionately affects people with disabilities (10.8% vs. 6.6%), adding to the need for better home safety solutions.

Overflows don't just cause damage—they create health hazards. For people already facing systemic healthcare inequities and reduced mobility, bathroom safety is not optional.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND MARKET READINESS

FLUSH GUARD® is engineered to meet the latest plumbing and safety standards:

- Compatible with UPC and CSA requirements
- Meets ADA height and usability standards
- Compatible with most standard rough-ins and infrastructure

Further testing is underway with IAPMO and commercial specifiers for institutional approval.

BROAD APPEAL THROUGH UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Although designed for accessibility, FLUSH GUARD® offers real benefits for:

- Seniors aging in place
- Families with young children
- Users with temporary impairments (post-surgery, injury)
- Hospitality and institutional settings

Good accessibility is good design—for people from all various communities.

REAL-WORLD USE & RECOGNITION

FLUSH GUARD® is already making a difference:



- KBIS 2024/DesignBites Innovation Showcase: Winner, Brand with the Biggest Bite
- MCEE 2025: Winner, Plumbing Fixtures & Faucets category
- UQAM (Montréal): Pilot project now outfitting campus housing with FLUSH GUARD® toilets

FLUSH GUARD® is being recognized for its functional design and social impact by various communities, including those who are disabled.

WHY ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS

For those who are interested in installing this product, FLUSH GUARD® allows you to:

- Install with ease thanks to standard rough-in compatibility
- Protect your home or facility from costly water damage
- Provide ADA-adapted features without altering standard toilet use
- Increase accessibility and peace of mind for all users

As the CDC reminds us: “Disability is not a health outcome. It’s part of how people experience life.” FLUSH GUARD® is designed to support that life.

THE BOTTOM LINE: PEACE OF MIND.

Toilet overflows disproportionately harm people with disabilities. FLUSH GUARD® is the first flush solution designed with their needs in mind—and it benefits everyone. It’s time to stop thinking of bathroom safety as optional, and start seeing it as essential.

SOURCES

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**TO REQUEST A DEMO,
DOWNLOAD THE SPEC SHEETS,
OR SPEAK WITH A PRODUCT EXPERT:**

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