

PUBLIC WASHROOMS IN GASTOWN AND THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE (DTES)



As part of ongoing work to add clean, safer, and accessible public washroom facilities around the city, two new public washrooms in Gastown and the Downtown Eastside are being installed this fall.

By providing these accessible facilities the City aims to:

- enhance local and visitor experience
- support community gatherings, events, and public life
- reduce pressure on local businesses and other public washroom facilities
- help keep our streets and laneways clean

These accessible facilities will provide essential amenities for everyone, helping to maintain public health, dignity and cleanliness.

What type of public washrooms will be installed?

Portland Loos are being installed in these locations. Portland Loos are a style of public washroom that has been installed in other areas of the city, including in Coopers Park and CRAB Park and across North America. Key features of these public washrooms are:

- **Inclusivity** - They are accessible, gender-neutral, and private
- **Safety and security** - While offering privacy, slats at the top and bottom of the facility, ensure users can be seen and heard in case of a medical emergency. Placement in high-traffic locations and integrated LED lighting provide ample visibility and brightness to enhance safety.
- **Durability** - Constructed from powder-coated, marine grade stainless steel, they are damage-resistant, made to sustain all weather conditions and will hold up to intense use for years to come. The materials are also graffiti-resistant and easy to clean.

Where will the new public washrooms be located?

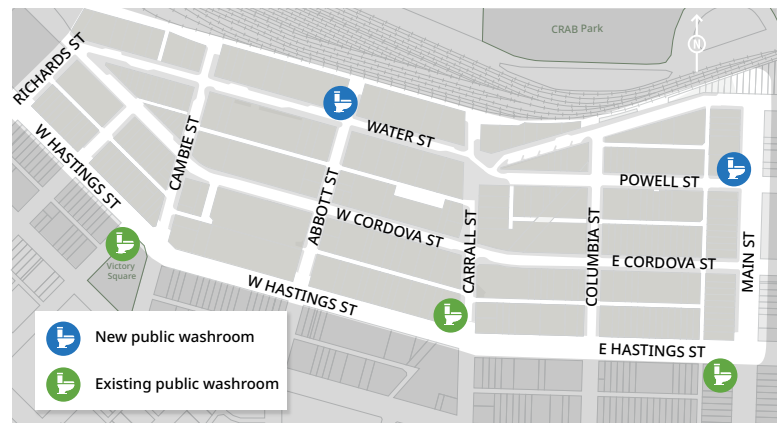
The City will install washrooms in two priority locations in the Downtown Eastside and Gastown area this fall. The City aims to have both locations open to the public by the end of the year (2025).

• **Powell Street at Main Street**

This facility will replace the existing automated public toilet that has been closed for over two years. This replacement will be more durable and wheelchair accessible.

• **Abbott Street at Water Street**

Located halfway between the Steam Clock and Maple Tree Square, this will provide a public washroom in one of the busiest areas of the city. The City heard a strong need for a public washroom in this area, from Gastown's businesses, residents, and visitors.



The City continues to review [washroom access](#) across the city.

How the sites were selected

The key criteria considered when selecting the locations for the public washrooms include:

- Sufficient sidewalk space for installation and ongoing maintenance, and access to utility connections including water, electrical, and sewer.
- Busy locations with high demand for public washrooms while balancing privacy and safety considerations.

When will the new public washrooms open to the public?

Installation will begin this fall. The City aims to have both locations open to the public by the end of the year (2025).

Ongoing management and monitoring

As part of the initial management approach the public washrooms will be cleaned three times a day and open 24/7.

Future adjustments may be made as part of ongoing monitoring and community feedback.

Questions?

Contact us at public.loo@vancouver.ca