

Now of course, the little details may escape your attention at first (such as the half-height urinal intended for all those coworkers under 5 feet tall, the extra-spacious handicapped stall whose toilet often leaves normal peoples' toes not touching the ground, and the creepy deodorizer unit mounted on the wall that maliciously waits until utter silence has fallen to let loose with a ratchet-clank noise not unlike that of Robocop cocking a twelve-gauge shotgun, if said shotgun subsequently shot a spritz of overpoweringly fragrant deodorizing molecules out of an atomizing nozzle). The first time in a new place, it's normal to fail to observe these things until it's too late – just take note of as many of these as you can and prepare yourself properly for future visits (drawing a diagram such as I have above is optional, unless your short-term memory is as bad as mine!)

Some suggested things to consider (besides the obvious cleanliness check):

Stalls (for both men and women)

- 1. How many "shared walls" you will have with your temporary "neighbors"
- 2. Height/size of toilets (including any abnormal ones) 3.
 - Typical TP availability (and direction of installed rolls, if you're particularly anal about such things)

Downtown Chicago Pu...

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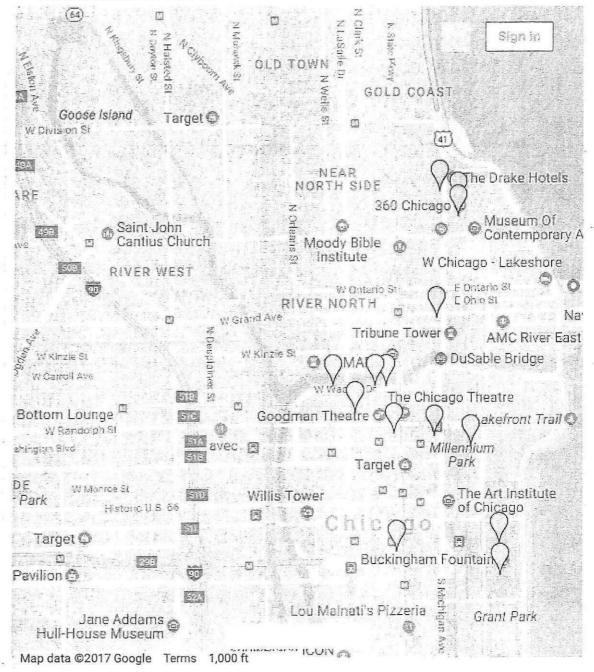
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Downtown Chicago Public Restroom ...

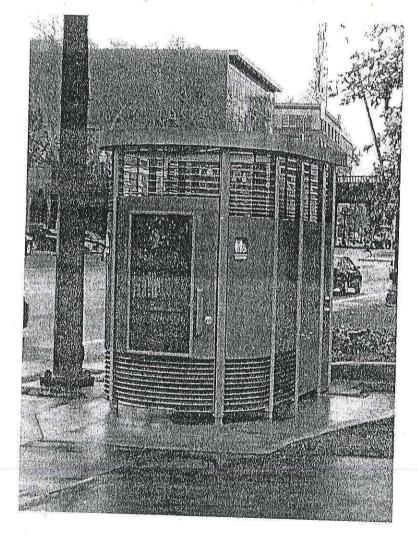
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 $http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/writers/steven_elbow/madison-mulls-public-restrooms-for-downtown-visitors-homeless-revelers/article_ffdb16f0-7f84-5fe1-bebf-79e658e823a9.html$

Madison mulls \$300,000 public restrooms for downtown visitors, homeless, revelers

STEVEN ELBOW | The Capital Times | selbow@madison.com May 6, 2014



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Recognizing the unavoidable truth behind the saying, "If you gotta go, you gotta go," Madison alders are gearing up to take action.

That's right. If you gotta go, the city wants to make sure you go in an appropriate spot.

City Council proceedings on Tuesday will include a resolution to direct city staffers to find an appropriate location for a round-the-clock public potty. Meanwhile, city officials will mull their options — laid out in a report last week — for a facility that best meets the needs.

Ald. Larry Palm, who had originally inserted the funds for the restroom in the budget, plans on introducing another resolution as well: one to form and ad hoc Downtown Public Restroom Committee tasked with reviewing the city's options. The committee would be made up of business representatives -- who have long suffered fallout from a lack of facililities in the form of soiled doorways -- a member of Capitol Neighborhoods, a downtown property owner and First United Methodist Church, a homeless service provider.

"I think the need for the public restroom is great," Palm said. "We have visitors, residents and everyone else who has, you know, personal needs that need to be taken care of when they're visiting the downtown. It's an amenity that will only heighten the friendliness of State Street and downtown."

But who would have thought shopping for a potty would be so complicated — and expensive?

Palm had originally earmarked \$500,000 for the facility, but the council subsequently scaled it back to \$300,000. The money will be used for planning and construction of a downtown loo that operates 24/7, a way to address the problem of people with no place