

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Chapter 32 of Title 22 DCR**

3234 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

3234.1 Each facility shall be designed, constructed, located, equipped, and maintained to provide a functional, healthful, safe, comfortable, and supportive environment for each resident, employee and the visiting public.

3234.2 Each facility shall comply with applicable provisions of the BOCA National Building Code; the BOCA International Plumbing Code; the BOCA International Mechanical Code; the NFPA National Elevator Code and other applicable federal and District of Columbia laws, as provided in this chapter. Any other provision of this chapter related to environmental requirements shall not apply to a facility that is licensed on the effective date of these rules and provides evidence that compliance would require major renovation.

3234.3 The physical plant shall provide maximum environmental support for the goals of each service that is offered and shall be responsive to the needs of each resident, employee, and the visiting public.

3234.4 The provision of space and the way in which the facility is equipped, furnished, and maintained shall provide a home-like setting for each resident while providing the staff a pleasant and functional working environment.

3234.5 Utilization of decoration, color, and furnishings shall be designed in order to minimize the institutional character of the facility.

3234.6 The limited mobility of each resident shall be considered in designating uses and proximity relationships for various rooms in the facility.

3234.7 The facility shall provide one (1) or more rooms designated for resident social, recreational, and dining activities which shall be:

- (a) Easily accessible from each resident's bedroom;
- (b) Well ventilated with designated smoking areas identified;
- (c) Adequately furnished; and
- (d) Have sufficient space to accommodate all activities.

3234.8 The facility and its lighting system shall be designed, equipped and maintained to avoid high brightness, highly reflective surfaces and glare.

3234.9 Lighting levels throughout the facility shall conform to the minimum lighting level, as set forth in 3234.9, provided that the facility shall provide any additional lighting level as may be needed by residents with visual impairments and as may be needed for special tasks.

3234.10 The following minimum lighting levels shall be used throughout the facility:

MINIMUM LIGHTING LEVELS (FOOT-CANDLES ON THE TASK)

(AREA/ACTIVITY)	(FOOT CANDLES)
Barber/Beauty area	50
Corridors:	20
Nursing areas - day	10
Nursing areas - night	50
Dietary	15
Elevators	50
Examination room	50
Employee Lounge	20

Employee Locker Room	30
Linens:	30
Sorting soiled linens	10
Central (clean) linen supply	15
Linens rooms/closets	20
Janitor closet	30
Lobby:	50
General	50
Receptionist	50
Administrative spaces:	30
General office	30
Medical records	50