

# ADA COMPLIANCE

## WHAT IS THE ADA?

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a wide-ranging civil rights law that ensures individuals with disabilities are able to access and use public places and services. The ADA mandates various standards for public places, buildings, and services, including drinking water fountains and water coolers.

## WHAT ARE THE ADA REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER COOLERS?

Under the ADA, a drinking water cooler must comply with specific regulations as outlined in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design\*, including:

- The controls must be on the front of the unit and be within 15 inches (380 mm) and 48 inches (1,220 mm) of the floor for an individual in a wheelchair to approach the water cooler either from the front (forward approach) or from the side (parallel approach).
- The floor space in front of the water cooler must be clear by at least 30 inches by 48 inches (760 mm by 1,220 mm) to allow for a forward or parallel approach.

## ARE ALL WATER COOLERS ADA-COMPLIANT?

No, not all water coolers are ADA-compliant. ADA requirements follow a strict protocol of regulations for water cooler compliance.

## ARE PWT UNITS ADA-COMPLIANT?

Yes, Pure Water Technology floor-standing water coolers are ADA-compliant as long as they are installed with the proper open space in front of the cooler.

## WHAT ABOUT PWT COUNTERTOP UNITS?

Yes, Wellsys floor-standing water coolers are ADA-compliant as long as they are installed with the proper space in front of the cooler. PWT countertop machines are compliant as long as the counter it sits on does not exceed the standard height of 18" tall.



## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about ADA compliance for water coolers, please see Section 6 of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

For answers surrounding specific questions, please call the toll-free ADA Information Line at: 800-514-0301 (Voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY)

\*If an organization has an alternative system to provide individuals with disabilities access to drinking water, then an ADA-compliant water cooler is not required. However, if an individual with a disability requests an ADA-compliant water cooler, then the organization is obligated to provide one.