

Press Release
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IKEA Caters for All with Clos-o-Mat

Leading home retailer IKEA is continuing its ground-breaking tradition by becoming the first interiors store in the UK to go beyond the call of duty in toilet provision.

The group's Edinburgh outlet has had a Clos-o-Mat Palma 'wash and dry' toilet installed in its 'Changing Places' facility. As a result, anyone with a disability can enjoy the store, relaxed in the knowledge it has the most inclusive, appropriate toilet facilities of any superstore in the UK.

The Clos-o-Mat, exclusively manufactured in the UK, by Total Hygiene, looks like a conventional toilet, but features integral douching and drying, simply activated by pressure on the flush pad. As a result, it enables anyone with a disability to go to the toilet with little – or no – help, enhancing their independence and dignity.



To optimise inclusivity, IKEA has had the Clos-o-Mat installed in place of a traditional WC in its innovative 'Changing Places' accessible toilet, on the ground floor. 'Bigger and better' than conventional accessible (Document M) toilets, the Changing Places facility is large enough to accommodate a wheelchair and up to two carers, and features 'Changing Places' standard fixtures of overhead hoist, peninsula toilet, basin and height adjustable changing bench.

Elizabeth Stanton, of IKEA Edinburgh, explained: "At the IKEA Group, we believe that taking responsibility for people is a prerequisite for doing good business. We currently have 42 people with a disability on work experience at IKEA Edinburgh and we are very proud to say that 20 have gained employment at the store. The decision to install a Clos-o-Mat in our 'Changing Places' toilet was entirely our own, in our desire to create something to benefit our co-workers as well as our customers. As a result, we have an accessible toilet that is truly as inclusive as possible, and, we believe, the only one to be so extensively equipped in a superstore in the UK."

Adds Robin Tuffley, Total Hygiene marketing manager: "There are over 12 million people registered disabled in the UK, so a huge proportion of our population, who cannot always use conventional accessible toilets. On average, we go to the toilet eight times a day, so having appropriate facilities makes a huge difference to one's ability to relax and enjoy day to day life."

The Clos-o-Mat Palma is just part of Total Hygiene's comprehensive package of contemporary-styled bathroom equipment, including the Clos-o-Mat Lima Vita wall-hung toilet, Clos-o-Mat Lima Lifter height adjustable wash and dry toilet, Aerolet toilet lifter, wash basins, shower seats and grab rails. The company is unique in providing comprehensive advice, design, installation, commissioning and



after-sales maintenance, through its team of nationwide engineers. In its 50-year history, Total Hygiene has supplied over 40,000 Clos-o-Mats, installed in locations from people's homes through shopping centres to leisure attractions, and even on a tall ship!

Total Hygiene is also sponsor of the 'Changing Places Changing Lives' campaign, the organisation behind the concept of 'Changing Places' toilets. Since the campaign's inception, 250 Changing Places toilets have been installed around the UK in locations as diverse as airports, shopping centres, colleges and leisure attractions.

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Article supplied by Angela May of AFPR on behalf of:
Total Hygiene Clos-o-Mat
Tel: 0161 969 1199/ freefone 0800 374076
Email: info@clos-o-mat.com