

Grab Bars

Definition: A structure designed to be grasped to provide a user with stability and support when standing, sitting, or otherwise shifting their weight.

Please note: For the purposes of this inspection, grab bars is the term used for handrails located in a bathroom. All other handrails must be inspected using the handrails standard.

Name handle, safety handle, slip handle, railing, shower railing, handrail

Variants:

Most metal, plastic

Common

Materials:

Most handle or bar, hardware

Common

Components:

Location and Inspection of Grab Bars

Abilities or Knowledge Needed:	- Visual acuity for location & inspection
	- Mobility for access to all areas of the property
	- Understanding of item's components

Tools for Location & Inspection	Useful:	none
	Required:	length measuring device

Common Locations:	Unit/Inside:	bathrooms
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How to Locate:	Visual Observation:	Look in all bathrooms, specifically in assisted living facilities and showers.
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Possible Deficiencies:	Deficiency 1:	Grab bar is not secure
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Deficiency 1:

Grab bar is not secure

Rationale:	Maintenance:	Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.
	Health and Safety:	Increases probability that a resident will injure themselves by slipping or be unable to move once in a rested position.
Health and Safety:	Standard:	This is a standard health and safety issued requiring a correction, remedy, or act of abatement within 30 days.
How to Inspect:	Action:	Grab—if grab bar is present—the grab bar is the middle and apply moderate force back and forth.
Record deficiency if:	any movement whatsoever is detected.	