

Wallingford Family YMCA Universal/Family Locker Room FAQ

January 2024

In response to member and community interest, the Wallingford Family YMCA now proudly offers a universal/family locker room, where members seeking convenience and privacy can feel safe, comfortable and welcome. With the current state of our aging locker rooms, it was time for a refresh by creating one large locker room to help maximize space while also creating a universal environment for all members to jointly use. The Universal/Family locker room, with its completely private changing rooms, showers, and toilets, can be used by all members. These spaces are inclusive of all families, members with disabilities and any who wish for privacy for any reason.

The locker room, the first of its kind in the Greater Wallingford Community, has many unique features including:

- 76 lockers
- 10 individual changing rooms, including 4 handicap accessible
- 5 private toilets, including 4 accessible
- 7 private showers, including 4 accessible
- 2 showers available for quick rinse to/from the pool
- Four shared sinks with motion-activated faucets
- Ceramic tile flooring
- Energy-efficient LED lighting

What does "universal" mean?

The universal locker room, with its completely private changing rooms, showers, and toilets, can be used universally by all members. These spaces are inclusive of members with disabilities, members of all genders and ages, and anyone who wants additional privacy.

Why was it built?

This locker room was designed to support adults and caregivers accompanying youth and for our members with special needs.

We had heard that some members felt uncomfortable only having a traditional choice of locker rooms with communal/open showers (mens/boys). It was determined that a number of members, caregivers and the community who would benefit from this change, and thus the new universal/family locker room will create a convenient, safe space to use lockers and access the facility.

What is the protocol for using the universal locker space? Are there private changing areas and/or showering areas? For example, can one undress in the main space?

Members are asked to refrain from changing in the common areas, instead using the private changing rooms to disrobe/change.

There is to be no one ever unclothed in the common areas of the Universal/Family Locker room.

Do I have to use the Universal/Family Locker Room?

No, our Men and Women's locker rooms are available for individuals who are 18 and older.

How will the Universal/Family Locker Room be monitored?

YMCA Managers on Duty will periodically check the Universal/Family Locker room whenever on duty evenings and weekends. YMCA Managers will do the same throughout the day.