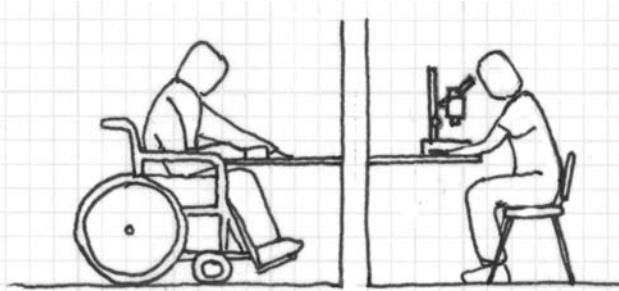


# Accessible Laboratory

Beyond ADA - Guidelines for Universal Access

## Countertops

- Low Countertops – microscope table and tall equipment
- Adjustable height countertops for people at all levels

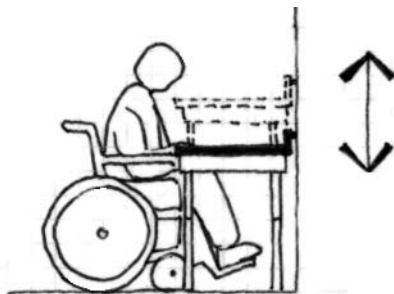


In crowded laboratories, available countertop space becomes valuable. Laboratory planners are often reluctant to include 30" desks to accommodate wheelchairs, because they take away space from 36" standard lab countertops. Contrary to this belief, we have found that lower countertops are helpful to able-bodied occupants as well.



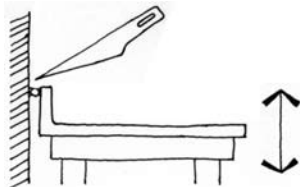
Lower height countertops also ergonomically accommodate microscope experiments, and any heavy or tall pieces of equipment. Microscopes can be viewed with ease and comfort on a lowered table surface. Overlarge equipment is conveniently operated and maintained when accessible to the operator.

Adjustable tables can be used to provide comfort and utility to all occupants disabled and otherwise.



Where lowered countertops are discouraged use adjustable countertops or tables. It is best to select mechanically adjusting systems, such that the surface can be utilized without a visit from building maintenance. This way the counters may be shared between able bodied and disabled occupants.

An adjustable top can be fixed at a higher height where a lab is private or educational. Where an installer would normally bond such a top with an epoxy bonding compound, we use silicone seal so the top can be easily moved and made ready for a physically challenged employee, or student.



We have found that by sealing the backsplash of an adjustable table with silicon instead of epoxy, the waterproof seal may be cut easily, and replaced. This reduces damage to the building aesthetic, and again does not require building maintenance to be involved.