



Tips on Vision Loss

Facts on Vision Loss:

- Many people imagine blindness as complete darkness. But that's not entirely true.
- The term "blindness" covers a broad spectrum of visual disability, from when your sight is impaired enough to interfere with daily activities like reading, cooking or driving, up to total blindness.

Each person's experience of blindness is unique. Blindness has many causes, and each affects eyesight differently.

Legal Blindness:

- is a level of blindness that has been defined by law.
- Someone is legally blind when: visual acuity is 20/200 (or 6/60) or less in both eyes after correction, and/or a visual field of 20 degrees or narrower.

Print and Digital Tips:

- A minimum of 12 points (Arial equivalent), preferable 14-16 points for printed materials.
- Accessible formats: formats are an alternative to standard print and are accessible to people with disabilities. May include large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, and Braille.
- Avoid small font sizes – at a minimum of 16 points for large print information and notices, and still bigger for signs, depending upon viewing distance.
- Screen reader software: Software programs that allow users to read the text displayed on the computer screen with a speech synthesizer. Often used by people with vision loss or have a learning disability.

Mobility Aids:

- Mobility Assistive Device: A cane, walker, or similar aid or a Guide Dog.

Braille:

- Braille is a system of raised dots that people who are blind can read with their fingers. Braille can be produced in hard copy or electronic formats and can be used to express not only text but also equations, musical notations and more.

Website:

- Post images of your building (rooms, entrance, reception, customer area, key facilities and spaces) and your service (e.g. menu).
- Include a text alternative to describe each picture. Check that all the images on your website have ALT text.
- Give a clear text description or add a sentence to explain what the link is about. For example, [click here for details about our upcoming events](#).
- Use symbols and pictograms, especially for common features, like exits and washrooms.

"With Thanks to the A-16 Accessibility Committee"