

**\*2.4-2.2.13 Decorative Water Features****2.4-2.3 Surfaces****2.4-2.3.1 General**

Light reflectance values (LRV) of all surfaces shall comply with ANSI/IES RP-28: *Recommended Practices*

**APPENDIX (continued)**

—Signs should differentiate between those spaces used by residents/visitors and those used by staff.

**k. Interior wayfinding (sign placement)**

—Signs providing directions should be placed at major decision points, including major intersections, major destinations, and changes in buildings and/or specific care areas.

—If there are no major decision points, reassurance signs should be placed approximately every 250 feet (76 meters).

**l. Wayfinding to serve residents with dementia**

—Major characteristics of persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia are lack of attention span and an inability to orient themselves in the physical environment. To address this, the physical environment should provide discernible landmarks and wayfinding cues and information to aid in navigation from point to point. Sensory cuing used in other health, care, and support resident areas should also be used in areas for persons with dementia.

—Consideration should be given to provision of the following wayfinding elements in dementia and mental and cognitive health units:

- Landmarks: Design elements can provide clear reference points in the environment (e.g., a large three-dimensional object, outdoor view, large picture, or other wall-mounted artifact).
- Signs: When appropriate, large characters and redundant word/picture combinations should be used on signs.

—Residents with dementia require color to be associated with a symbol to be recognizable. They will not automatically associate color alone with a specific meaning.

—Color may be used to cue out spaces. For example, mechanical doors and door frames that match the finish of the surrounding walls are less likely to draw a resident's attention to the mechanical room.

**A2.4-2.2.13 Decorative water features**

a. The design of indoor water features should meet the following requirements:

- Human contact with the water should be limited and/or water disinfection systems should be applied.
- Materials used to fabricate the water feature should be resistant to chemical corrosion.

*for Lighting and the Visual Environment for Senior Living.*

**\*2.4-2.3.2 Flooring and Wall Bases**

**\*2.4-2.3.2.1** Flooring surfaces shall meet the needs of residents, participants, or outpatients and be cleanable and wear-resistant for the location.

—Water features should be designed and constructed to minimize water droplet production.

—Exhaust ventilation should be provided directly above the water feature.

—Surfaces that mitigate the risk of slipping should be used and maintained around a water feature.

b. Aquariums should be enclosed to prevent resident or visitor contact with the water. Aquariums are not subject to exhaust ventilation recommendations.

**A2.4-2.3.2 Wall bases.** Wall bases in resident areas (resident rooms, corridors, dining and activity rooms) and public bathrooms should match the color/value of the walls and provide a strong contrast to the floor to distinguish the vertical and horizontal planes.

**A2.4-2.3.2.1 Flooring**

a. See appendix section A2.4-2.1.2.2 (1) (Environmental factors and falls) for information about the relationship between flooring and falls.

b. Flooring materials should have a medium color/value; use of flooring in dark colors/values should be avoided. The base molding should match the walls in color/value.

c. Strongly patterned flooring materials should be avoided as they can be confusing to residents with impaired vision.

d. Moving an elevated resident around and through a space using portable lifting equipment without powered wheels may require more exertion by staff than using ceiling-mounted equipment.

—The exertion required by staff may increase with the use of carpet; however, different types and brands of carpet may have significantly different levels of resistance to wheeled devices.

—Installation of a mock-up is recommended to test the action of wheeled equipment and devices used in a facility over proposed flooring materials.

—Carpet should not be automatically discounted as inappropriate due to this challenge as it has major advantages over hard-surface flooring in terms of noise reduction, other acoustic considerations, and residential appearance, all of which are important in creating a comfortable, attractive living environment for residents.