

Direct Access

The Direct Access Tactile Braille Map Board

The Direct Access Tactile Braille Map Board is an inclusive new wayfinding device developed by the award-winning team at Direct Access. The board features tactile, pictorial and Braille information as well as QR codes which allows users access to audio description and sign language content.



Who is the Tactile Map Board made for?

The Tactile Braille Map Board is a way finder designed to accommodate the access needs of various types of disabled people who may otherwise struggle to navigate public spaces, with a particular emphasis on individuals who are Blind or Deaf. The Tactile Map Board also accommodates sight-impaired, elderly people and children with its apperancy-enhancing, high contrast palette.

The map can also be used by non-disabled people as any other static map.

What makes Tactile Map Boards better than traditional maps?



Instantly Updatable:

Unlike static maps that require manual installation of fresh information, Tactile Map Boards operate with dynamic content updates as and when the owner requires them. This means that any new information the owner provides to Direct Access will be adapted into QR audio-visual content by our team within days in both a Sign Language and audio-described format.



Details thought through:

The Tactile Map Board features detailed tactile and Braille touchpads for each area of the map and key, with pictorial symbols for children, complimented by a tasteful yet attractive colour contrast, and an instantly recognisable layout whilst still following RNIB guidelines.



Colour customisable:

Available in a range of colours to suit your branding whilst still meeting colour contrast guidelines.



Sustainable:

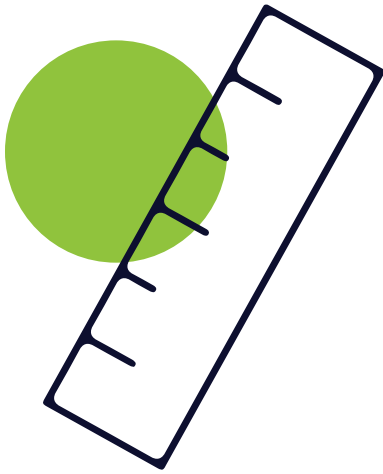
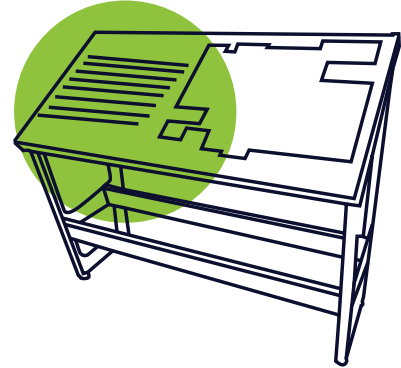
The steel frame of the map can be recycled. At its recommended size, The Tactile Map Board has a clear recess space beneath to accommodate wheelchair users with its lower edge at 700mm above ground level, suitable for both standing and seated users. The angled mount of the map also ensures optimum interaction, facilitating both sight and touch readings.





Where should a Tactile Map Board be placed?

Tactile Map Boards are perfect for use in cinemas, parks, museums, shopping centres, retail parks, public housing, community centres, libraries, art galleries, university campuses, or anywhere open to the general public.



What sizes are available?

The size of the stand for the recommended map size is 1300mm W x 700mm – 1000mm H x 500mm D respectively, with the map itself measuring at 1300mm W x 620mm D x 100mm H.

Maps requiring more detail can be created by merging two tactile map boards together, however as user comfort and accessibility is the primary purpose of the maps creating movement to read information is not recommended, especially for wheelchair users.

How much does a Tactile Map Board weigh?

The weight of a Tactile Map Board can vary depending on the size of the map and its purpose. On average, they weigh 10 kilograms (22lbs). However, for more industrial areas, such as train stations, the map will be specified to be heavier.



How is the Tactile Map Board manufactured?

The map is made from core acrylic and the stand is made of steel (or aluminium depending on weight requirements), both of which are recyclable. The Braille is added using a bead system that locks each bead into the map material.

At minimum, a Direct Access Tactile Braille Map Board will take a few weeks to a couple of months to manufacture and deliver depending on how timely the map artwork is arranged and final design is arranged with the client.

The six-step design process for the Direct Access Tactile Braille Map Board

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Sign Language

1



The access consultants will obtain site plans and discuss the ideal location with the client (or locations for the Map Boards).

2



The site plans and keys will be designed and drawn in a way that can be easily understood by everyone (including those who are vision impaired)

3



The client and Direct Access will discuss the colour palettes to be used for both the metal frame and the Map Board.

4



The writers at Direct Access will compile scripts, film sign language videos and record audio descriptions within the company's own green chroma key studio. The final pieces will then be linked to the dynamic QR codes printed on the map upon completion of the editing process.

6



The Direct Access team will deliver and install the Map Board in the intended location.

5



The metal frame and board will be manufactured.

When designing your Tactile Map Board, we follow all the latest Braille, tactile and raised lettering best practice guidelines.



How is the Tactile Map Board installed / mounted?

A service-based engineer will visit the client's site on an agreed upon date to install your Tactile Map Board at an agreed upon location.



How are the Tactile Braille Map Boards serviced post-installation?

Once you have your Tactile Map Board installed, an annual plan can be arranged which allows Direct Access to update Audio Description and Sign Language content remotely when new information for site visitors is required. This is done via the Map Boards dynamic QR code system which allows our team to install fresh audio-visual content.

If there is a change in the shape of a building, this would require a new, separate map being built with the frame being retained.



How much does a Tactile Map Board cost?

The price of a Tactile Map Board varies depending on several factors, such as the size requested, number of required characters, and the complexity of the site layout.



How many do I need?



The number of Tactile Map Boards required is dependent on how many entrances the location has, in addition to the size of the location in question, and how many floors it has (if the map is produced for a built environment).



As these maps are designed to give people a convenient overview, easing the amount of information a person must commit to memory is vital, so a balance must be struck between these factors.



However, if the location for the map board has several floors, we typically advise clients to order more than one Tactile Map Board.

