

ADA

Compliance

Checklist

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What is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the United States.

Enacted in 1990, the ADA requires public and private entities, including employers, transportation services, and places of public accommodation, to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. This includes ensuring digital accessibility across websites, apps, and online services to ensure equal access for all users. Businesses must comply with ADA standards to avoid legal challenges, promote inclusion, and provide equal opportunities for all. With ongoing legal cases and evolving regulations, compliance remains critical for all organizations.

Key facts about the implications of the ADA for U.S. organizations:

- The ADA applies to all U.S. organizations, including federal, state, local governments, nonprofits, and private businesses that serve the public.
- Government entities must comply with Section 508 (federal agencies) and meet WCAG standards by 2026-2027 for state and local governments.
- Organizations with 15+ employees must ensure digital services (websites, mobile apps, etc.) are accessible to individuals with disabilities, following WCAG 2.1 AA standards or equivalent guidelines.
- Nonprofits must ensure accessibility for digital services if they receive federal funding or serve the public, such as accessible videos or application portals.
- Private businesses must provide accessible services online and in physical spaces.
- Non-compliance can result in lawsuits, legal penalties, and reputational damage.



The Risks of Non-Compliance

Non-compliance with the ADA is more than just a legal issue—it's a critical factor in corporate responsibility and access to services in the U.S. Ensuring digital accessibility is not only about meeting legal obligations; it's about creating an inclusive society where individuals with disabilities can engage fully with your business. Failing to comply can lead to costly lawsuits, reputational damage, and loss of customer trust, making it essential for organizations to prioritize accessibility in all aspects of their services.



Legal Penalties



Regulatory Scrutiny
and Market
Access Limitations



Reputational
Damage



Consumer
and Employee
Dissatisfaction



Competitive
Disadvantage

Website Accessibility Checklist

Making your website accessible doesn't have to be overwhelming. Use this checklist to make sure your site works for everyone, including people with disabilities.

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To help you build an ADA-compliant website, we've created a handy checklist to guide you through the process.

1. Provide accessible multimedia

Complete

Add alt text to images: Provide clear, descriptive text that conveys the image's content. [Check out our guide on writing accessible alt text.](#)

Provide written transcripts for audio content.

Include captions for [video content](#).

Use long descriptions (longdesc attribute) for complex images, diagrams, and charts.

Ensure media players have accessible controls.

3. Maintain sufficient color contrast

Complete

Maintain a minimum [color contrast](#) ratio of 4.5:1 for normal text and 3:1 for large text.

Test color schemes for using a colour contrast checker.

Do not use color as the only way of conveying information.

2. Ensure keyboard accessibility

Complete

Ensure all interactive elements can be accessed and operated using a keyboard.

Provide a clear visual highlight for [keyboard navigation](#), so users can easily see which button, link, or field is selected when using the Tab key.

Add a "Skip to Content" link at the top of the page so users can jump straight to the main content.

4. Design forms for accessibility

Complete

Use clear and descriptive labels for all form fields.

Group related form controls using fieldset and legend elements.

Ensure a logical tab order for form fields.

Provide clear and specific error messages and instructions for correcting errors.

Run a Free Accessibility Check of Your Website's Homepage

Check Your Website

5. Use descriptive language & labels

Complete

Each page should have a unique and descriptive title.

☐

Use headings that describe the content that follows.

☐

Use descriptive text for buttons, indicating their function.

☐

7. Limit the use of moving, flashing, or blinking content

Complete

Avoid content that flashes more than three times per second, this can trigger seizures.

☐

Provide controls to pause, stop, or hide moving content.

☐

9. Provide consistent navigation

Complete

Use a consistent layout and navigation structure throughout the site.

☐

Ensure navigation mechanisms are predictable and intuitive.

☐

Use semantic HTML to structure content in a logical order (e.g., h1 for main title, h2 for headings).

☐

11. Establish feedback mechanisms

Complete

Create channels for users to report accessibility issues.

☐

Regularly review user feedback and make necessary improvements.

☐

6. Limit time sensitive content

Complete

Allow users to extend or remove time limits where applicable.

☐

Provide warnings before time limits expire and give the option to extend.

☐

8. Use ARIA elements

Complete

Use ARIA landmarks to define regions of the page (e.g., navigation, main, footer).

☐

Use ARIA roles, states, and properties to enhance accessibility.

☐

Ensure ARIA elements have accessible names and descriptions.

☐

10. Mobile accessibility

Complete

Ensure the site is responsive and adapts to different screen sizes.

☐

Make sure touch targets (buttons, links) are large enough to be easily tapped.

☐

Test the site with mobile screen readers to ensure compatibility.

☐

Run a Free Accessibility Check of Your Website's Homepage

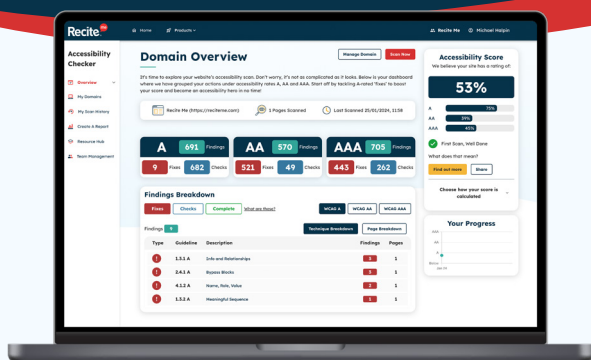
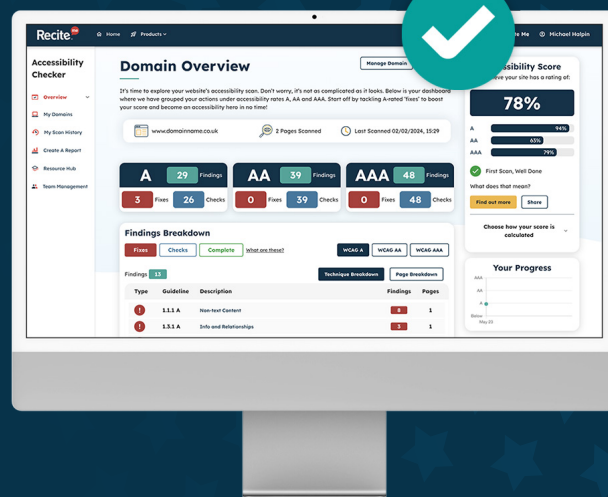
Kickstart your ADA website accessibility compliance journey by requesting a free ADA compliance audit of your website's home page.

[Check Your Website](#)

Let's make your website accessible and compliant

Recite Me's accessibility platform is designed to ensure compliance with accessibility regulations and enhance user experiences. Kick-start your accessibility journey today with a free accessibility consultation.

[Book a Demo](#)



Website Accessibility Checker

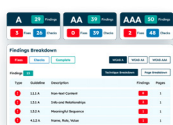
Website accessibility and compliance made simple. The Recite Me Accessibility Checker identifies accessibility code issues and shows you exactly how to fix them through the power of AI.

[Book a Checker demo](#)



Plan

Identify the scope of your digital landscape to determine which pages and documents need testing for compliance.



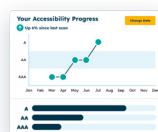
Fix

Utilize AI-powered insights to prioritize and guide you on fixing issues for the most significant improvements in accessibility.



Scan

Conduct a comprehensive scan of your website against WCAG 2.2 success criteria to pinpoint accessibility issues.



Maintain

Implement programmatic scanning to ensure ongoing compliance and that new content remains accessible to all users.

Avoid the consequences of ADA non-compliance before the fast approaching deadline. Start your journey to compliance with a free ADA Audit of your website's homepage.

[Get a Free ADA Audit](#)





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Believing in Accessibility for All