

Handicap Ramps

Is a permit required?

Yes, a building permit is required for ramps. The Building Official requires a review of the plans. The following information for construction of residential ramps are recommendations. Residential ramps may be based on the individuals needs but must meet minimum building codes for construction materials and structural requirements. A site survey showing the location of the ramp is required with application.

Railings, Landings, Etc.

- Maximum rise for any run shall be 30 inches. R405.6
- Minimum clear width of a ramp shall be 36 inches. R405.5
- Landings shall be at least as wide as the ramp run leading to it. R405.7.2
- Landing length shall be a minimum of 60 inches clear. R405.7.3
- Ramp shall have level landing at the top and bottom.
- If ramp changes directions, the landing must be 5 feet by 5 feet. R405.7
- Handrails are required on ramp runs with rise greater than 6 inches. R405.8
- Clear space between a handrail and a wall shall be a minimum of 1 ½ inches. R505.5
- Top of handrail shall be between 34 – 38 inches above ramp surface. R505.4

Residential Exterior Ramps

Design recommendations for 1 & 2 family dwellings

- Design considerations should reflect user needs and site conditions.
- Intermediate landings may be necessary if ramp is of considerable length or if direction of ramp changes.
- Recommended materials for ramp surface – *2x6 board with 10-penny nail head gaps (1/4 inch)*:
 - Treated lumber (exterior use - naturally resistant to decay)
 - Cedar or Redwood (exterior use - naturally resistant to decay)
 - Rough-sawn timbers (provides adequate surface)
 - Composite materials
- Not Recommended material for ramp surface:
 - Plywood (does not provide drainage)
 - Non-slip adhesive strips (trap moisture causing ice strips in freezing conditions)

