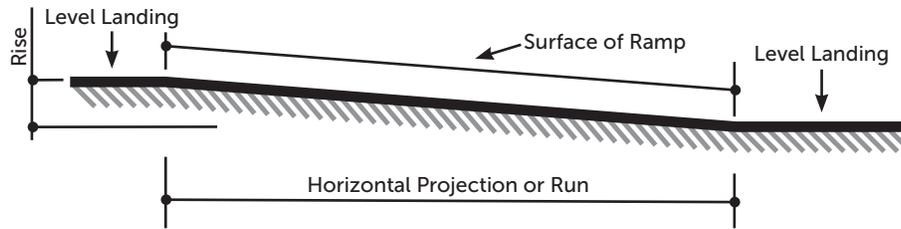


Empower Minds.
Strengthen Bodies.
Inspire Creativity.™

Prior to beginning construction of a ramp, you should check with your city's building code department to determine if there are any specific requirements that will need to be met or if a permit is required.

The placement of the ramp should allow easy access into and out of the home. This is usually the front door but could be a side entry or back door.

Ramp Slope:



The most commonly used slope for ramps is 1:12, which means that for each one inch of height/rise change, the ramp would need to be 12 inches in length (run). For example, if the distance from the ground to the bottom of front door is 3 feet (36 inches of height change), the ramp would need to be 36 feet in length (not including any landing surfaces). Ramps must have a level surface (landing) at both the top and the bottom. A switchback ramp would need to be constructed if there is not enough room for a straight ramp run. The platform at a switchback should be a minimum of 5 feet long and 7 to 9 feet wide depending on the width of the ramp.

Landings:

The elevation of the ramp should not exceed 30 inches before a landing (flat rest area) is installed. The landing should always be at least as wide as the ramp itself and should be a minimum of 5 feet in length. The ramp must have a landing at both the top and bottom.

Width:

The ramp should have a minimum inside clearance (distance inside the two handrails) of 36 inches in order to accommodate a standard wheelchair. Larger width wheelchairs will require a larger ramp width. This width should be measured from the inside of one handrail to the inside of the other. For example, if the handrails stick out from the side rail 3 inches on each side, the side rails would need to be placed 42 inches apart (36 inches + 6 inch depth of rails).

Rails:

Ramps longer than 6 feet or with a rise greater than 6 inches should have handrails on both sides of the ramp. The handrails should be mounted so that the top of the rail is 34 to 38 inches above the ramp surface. The space between the handrail and a wall or any solid surface near the ramp should be at least 1 1/2 inches.

Materials:

Ramps should have a hard, textured surface and should be constructed of wood treated for outdoor use or a synthetic wood product. It is important that the surface does not become slick with weather. If painted, sand or silica should be added to the paint used on ramp surfaces. Additional traction options include the installation of 2-inch strips of non-slip material placed 2 inches apart.

These general ramp construction guidelines are for informational purposes and may not meet the needs of every project. A licensed contractor should be contacted for more detailed information. Additionally, many areas have organizations—such as the Boy Scouts of America, religious groups, and other volunteer groups—that will assist with constructing accessible ramps. Check your local community organizations for availability.