



RESIDENTIAL WHEELCHAIR RAMPS

BUILDING INSPECTIONS DIVISION
217/424-2787

I. Basic Requirements

- A. A building permit application with a site location map on the back is to be filled out. The map should show the location of the ramp in relation to the house, street or streets and any other structures on the property. Ramps can be placed in the rear and side yard setbacks and in the front yard setback if a rear or side yard application is not possible to achieve. See figure #1 for an example site map.
- B. Ramps are to be a minimum of 3 feet inside clear width. The ramp should slope a maximum of 1 inch rise for every 12 inches of run. Landings of 3 feet clear width and 5 feet long are required at the top where a door opens onto the ramp, at the bottom of the ramp, and when the ramp run exceeds 30 feet in length. The top landing can be a porch or deck and the bottom landing can be a driveway, sidewalk or any other flat finished surface. Where the ramp run change's direction, then the landing is to be a

minimum of 5 feet in width and a minimum of 5 or 7 feet in length depending on the angle of the turn in direction. See figure #2 for some typical arrangements.

- C. Handrails are required on both sides of any ramp and should have a height of between 34 to 38 inches above the walking surface. Guardrails are required where any walking surface is 30 or more inches above grade. The rail minimum height shall be 36 inches above the walking surface with vertical members in the guardrail system no more than four inches apart. See figure #3 for an example.

II. Construction requirements

- A. All wood used for construction purposes shall be pressure treated lumber or other approved materials.
- B. Holes for support posts shall be between 7 to 8 inches wide, a minimum depth of 36 inches below grade and at a maximum spacing of 8 feet apart. The holes can be filled entirely to or above grade with concrete and with the post attached on top or a 6 inch thick pad can be poured in the bottom for the support post to bear on and the remainder of the hole back filled with dirt. Support posts shall be of nominal 4 x 4 inch lumber. See figure #4.
- C. Ramp stringers shall be attached to the support posts with ½ inch diameter galvanized lag or thru bolts.
- D. The ramp surface can be made of nominal 2inch thick boards, deck boards or ¾ inch thick plywood.

- E. Handrails should be “T” or “L” shaped or a straight rail can be used but only when vertical supports are placed a maximum of 4 feet on center.

III. Inspections

An inspection shall be called for after the post holes are dug and before any concrete is poured. A final inspection is required after the ramp is completed and before being used.

IV. Permit Fee

A permit fee of generally \$30 is required at the time the building permit application is filed.

V. Contacts

Any questions regarding ramp building permits and construction can be answered by calling 217/424-2787 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

VI. Temporary ramps

1. We will issue permits for temporary ramps with removal date to be no longer than two years from date of issue.
2. These ramps may be supported on concrete deck blocks which are placed on grade as long as the structure is not attached to the house other than at the doorway.

NOTE: This information pamphlet is not intended to contain all the information you may need for your particular project but is intended only as a guideline.