

How To Build A Wheelchair Ramp

The ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) has developed Accessibility Guidelines for wheelchair ramps used for public access.

Rise : A maximum of 1 inch rise for every 12 inches of run. A rise of 1 inch for every 20 inches is ideal.



Width : A minimum clearance of 36 inches between handrails or curbs.

Landings : A minimum level area of 60 x 60 inches for every 30 inches of rise and for every change of direction.

Handrails : Needs to extend 12 inches beyond end points , 34 to 38 inches high on both sides . Continuous and 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches in diameter , round or oval shape.

Surfaces : Slip-resistant and flush with adjacent surfaces at top and bottom.

Many states in the USA follow International Residential Code which cover ramps for private residences. **Often You will need a building permit** to install a wheelchair ramp. For more information you can contact State Building Inspector (see below).

Copy following web addresses to search for :

ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) Accessibility Guidelines
<http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm#4.8>

State Building Inspector
<http://www.access-board.gov/links/statecodes.htm>

Building Permit

- 1. Make a site plan of home and lot which shows the placement of a ramp. Write also height , length and width of a ramp.**
- 2. Indicate slope ratio. Remember the maximum slope of a wheelchair ramp should be 1 inch rise for each 12 inches of run.**
- 3. Make a framing plan including dimensions, decking , joists , posts , footing and handrail information.**

Building Options ;

- Build the wheelchair ramp yourself if you have basic carpentry skills.**
- You can also purchase a prefabricated modular wheelchair ramp which can be an inexpensive and quick solution.**
- Find a contractor to build a wheelchair ramp for you. Check that they are familiar with codes and have experience from building wheelchair ramps.**
- There are also volunteer organizations which help building wheelchair ramps.**

I recommend these helpful sites :

- **Minnesota Ramp Project** have a ramp manual with instructions how to build a wheelchair ramp.
Their web address is <http://www.wheelchairramp.org/>
- www.hometime.com has “ Building and Remodeling for Accessibility “ video available from their store.
- NC State University , Center for Universal Design had a project for wood ramp design. http://www.design.ncsu.edu/cud/pubs_p/docs/rampbooklet296final.pdf

Checklist For Tools!



Mason's line



Tape measure



Work gloves



Dust Mask



Wrenches



Hammer



Line Level



Ratchet and Sockets



Plumb bob



Mattock



3-Pound Sledgehammer



Shovel



Rake



Post hole diggers



Wheelbarrow



Circular saw



Hand saw



Framing square



Combination Square



4-foot level



Electric drill



Speed square



Safety glasses



Saw horses



Wood clamps

If You Pour a Concrete Ramp;



Concrete hoe



Darby



Concrete broom



Concrete edger



Wood float



Cement trowel

Tip !

- **If you live at cold area remember to dig holes for posts (footings) at least 6 inches below the frost line.**

This article was written by www.thecaregiverhelp.com.

