



City of Ann Arbor PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES — CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE RAMPS

Minimum Slope

Handicap accessible ramps must maintain a slope of 1:12. This means twelve inches of run for every one inch of rise. No run can be longer than 30' without a landing.

Landing Required

A landing must be provided at the top and bottom of each ramp, at every door opening, wherever a ramp changes directions, and at every thirty foot interval in the run of the ramp. The landing within the run of the ramp shall be a minimum 3'x3', but cannot be less than the ramp width. Landings at all other connections must be 5'x5'.

Handrails

Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of all ramps exceeding a height of 30 inches. Handrail height, measured above the finished surface of the ramp slope, should not be less than 34 inches and not more than 38 inches.

The handgrip portion of handrails shall have a circular cross section of 1-1/4" minimum to 2" maximum. Other handrail shapes that provide an equivalent grasping surface are permissible. Handrails must be continuous for the full length of the ramp. Handrail ends shall be returned to a wall or post or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1-1/2" between the wall and the handrail.

Additional Requirements

Foundations must be a minimum of 8-inch piers or 4 inch by 4-inch posts. Post size depends on spacing, load and unbraced length. Foundations / posts must not rest on disturbed soils. Footings must be 42 below finished grade. All wood materials must be preservative treated or naturally durable lumber. "Preservative treated lumber" must bear the quality mark of an improved inspection agency. Only double dipped galvanized nails, fasteners and hardware should be used.

Drawings Required for Building Permit

- SITE PLAN – This should show the location of the ramp on the lot and the distance from all property lines.
- RAMP PLAN – A plan drawn preferably at 1/4 scale (1/4" equals a foot). This plan should show all framing sizes and spacing, location and depth of footings and other structural supports.
- ELEVATION – Include an elevation if the ramp is 30 inches or more above finish grade.

Inspection Requirements

FOOTING – Before postholes.

FRAMING – Before installing the decking (walking surface).

FINAL – After completion of all work.