Is a Permit Required?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Railings, Landings, Etc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The maximum rise for any run shall be 30 inches.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The minimum clear width of a ramp shall be 36 inches.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The landing shall be at least as wide as the ramp run leading to it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The landing length shall be a minimum of 60 inches clear.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramp shall have level landings at the top and bottom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If ramp changes directions, landing must be 5 ft. by 5 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A handrail is required on a ramp that is over 30 inches in height.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clear space between a handrail and a wall shall be a minimum of 1 ½ inches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of handrail shall be between 34 –38 inches above ramp surface.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
The surface of the ramp way should provide a non-slip surface. Treated lumber or wood of natural resistance to decay such as Cedar or Redwood is recommended for exterior use. Rough-Sawn timbers will provide an adequate surface. 2 X 6 boards with 10-penny nail head gaps (1/4 inch) is recommended. Plywood is not recommended, as it does not provide drainage. Non slip strips of adhesive are not recommended as they trap moisture causing ice strips under freezing conditions.