



How to Determine the Proper Length for a Wheelchair Ramp

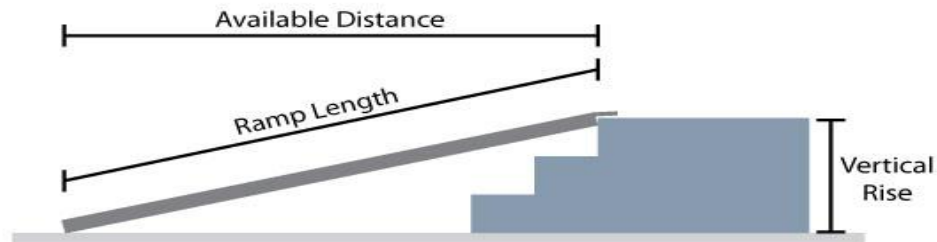
Taking the following steps will provide you with the proper length for a wheelchair ramp to meet your needs:

1. Take these measurements

The total **vertical rise** that you are trying to overcome

The **available distance** without obstruction measuring straight out from the highest point

The total usable width of the area



ADA Requirements:

Knowing the ADA Requirements will help you understand the figures that the Mobility Ramp Calculator outputs.

Ramp Length Recommendations

The ADA requirements only apply to commercial buildings with PERMANENT ramps.

The following guidelines are general recommendations for residential.

Residential Unoccupied Use:

For residential use when nobody is sitting in the wheelchair or scooter while it climbs the ramp, 3:12 slope is often recommended, which means that every 3" of vertical rise requires at least 1' (12") of ramp length (14.5 degrees of incline).

Example: A 24" rise requires a minimum ramp length of 8' (96") (24 divided by 3).

Residential Occupied Use:

For residential use when somebody is sitting in the wheelchair or scooter while it climbs the ramp, a 2:12 slope is often recommended, which means that every 2" of vertical rise requires at least 1' (12") of ramp length (9.5 degrees of incline).

Example: A 24" rise requires a minimum ramp length of 12' (144") (24 divided by 2).

Commercial Occupied Use:

For commercial use when somebody is sitting in the wheelchair or scooter while it climbs the ramp, ADA recommends a 1:12 slope, which means that every 1" of vertical rise requires at least 1' (12") of ramp length (5 degrees of incline).

Example: A 24" rise requires a minimum ramp length of 24' (288") (24 divided by 1).

In some cases a shorter ramp is more feasible. In this case a 1:8 slope is recommended, which means that every 1.5" of vertical rise requires at least 1' of ramp.

Example: A 24" rise requires a minimum ramp length of 16' (24 divided by 1.5)