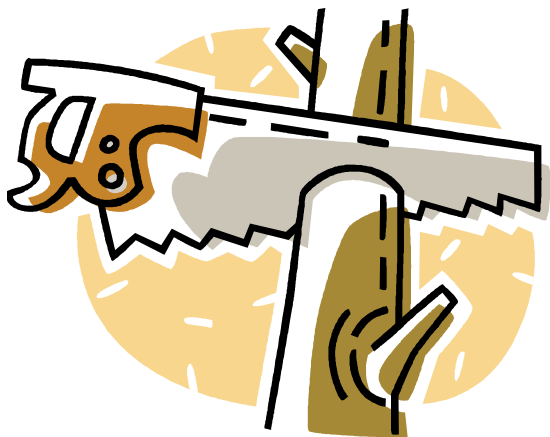
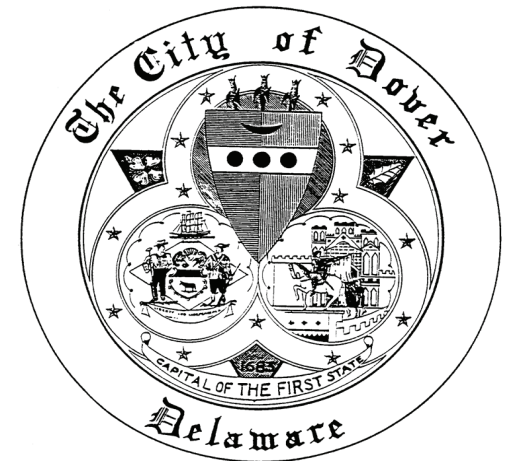

*Contact the City of Dover Department
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Ramp Requirements



City of Dover Planning and Inspections

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When is a ramp not a ramp?

A ramp is not a ramp when it is a sloped walk. When a walking surface has a 5 percent slope (i.e., 1-inch rise to a 20 inch run) or less, it is considered a sloped walk and not a ramp.

Ramp

Walking surfaces on accessible routes with a running slope steeper than 1:20 are ramps and shall comply with all applicable codes.

Ramps are utilized to negotiate changes in elevation, most typically changes less than a story in height. All ramps that are intended to serve as an accessible route or are utilized by the general public for access and means of egress must meet the same technical requirements.

Changes in Level

Look for the elevation change at the end of a ramp or at the change from ramp to a landing. A change in elevation of 1/2 inch at the bottom of a ramp could stop a person utilizing a wheelchair from even getting on the ramp. This would also constitute a tripping hazard for anyone with mobility impairments.

Ramp & Landing Surfaces

The ramp must be constructed of materials consistent with the type of construction, similar to stairways. The surface material must be stable and slip resistant. If the ramp is exposed to adverse weather conditions, the ramp should also be designed to reduce accumulation of water, ice or snow on the ramp surface.

Cross Slope

In addition to the general slope requirements, the cross slope for a ramp is a concern that is often missed. A cross slope of greater than 2 percent (i.e., 1-inch rise to 48-inch run) could pitch a wheelchair used sideways as he or she moves up or down the ramp. The cross slope of ramp runs shall not be steeper than 1:48.

Minimum Width

The width of a ramp is determined by a combination of the anticipated occupant load and the minimum width as required for exit access corridors. In no case may a ramp provide less than 36 inches clearance between handrails, similar to an accessible route. The clear width of a ramp run shall be 36 inches (915 mm) minimum. In addition, a ramp may not reduce in width in the direction of egress travel.

Maximum Width

The maximum rise between landings is 30 inches (760 mm). Many people utilize ramps having stamina limitations as well as mobility impairments. Landings spaced at every 30 feet provide a level space to rest as a long ramp is negotiated.

Adequate Landings

Landings must be located at the top and bottom of each ramp run, points turning and at any doors located along the ramp. This is not intended to prohibit a curved ramp as long as the slope and cross slope criteria can be met. Landings shall have a slope not steeper than 1:48 and shall comply with the same regulations as the Ramp and Landing Surfaces section. All land-

ings must be level at all times. Where the path of travel along the ramp is a straight line, the landing is required to be as wide as the ramp run and a minimum of 60 inches deep. At locations where ramps change direction, a ramp that permits a 60 inch turning circle is required.

If a doorway opens onto a landing, the swing of the doorway cannot reduce the clear width of the landing to less than 42-inches. The maneuvering space for the door may overlap the landing, but not the ramp.

