



Brunswick County Code Administration

75 Government Drive, Building I

Bolivia, N.C. 28422

910-253-2021

Handicap Ramps

A building permit is required for handicap ramps in both commercial and residential projects. The information provided below are recommendations. Ramps must meet minimum building codes for construction materials and structural requirements.

Some Code Compliance Details

- Slope – 1:12 slope is the maximum allowed.
- Rise – The maximum ramp height is 30 inches vertical before a landing is required.
- Width – the minimum clear width must be 36 inches residential, 48 inches commercial, measured between handrails.
- Landings – landings are required at the base and summit of every ramp segment. The minimum width must be the same as the ramp and landings should measure at least 60 inches in length. If the ramp changes directions after the landing, then the landing must measure at least 60 inches square. If the landing is by a doorway then there must be adequate space for a wheelchair when the door is opened and closed per A117.1 FIG. 404.2.3.3. If the door swings out over landing with a forward approach, 18" is required between the handle side and the ramp guard. Side approach, 36". If the door swings into building, reductions allowed to 12" and 24".
- Handrails – handrails are required on both sides of a ramp for commercial use. If the ramp is more than 6 inches high or 72 inches long, a handrail is required and must be at minimum 34" high, 38" maximum above walking surface. For commercial use, exceptions are made if it is a curb ramp, or ramps next to seating in assembly areas. There must be a gap of 1.5 inches between the handrail and a wall or mounting surface. Guards are required if more than 30" above grade on residential projects. In commercial occupancies, after a ramp exceeds 30" vertical, a guard at 42" minimum is required while a handrail between 34"-38" will remain inset below guards.

Recommended Materials

Ramp Surface (listed in order of most to least durable):

1. Concrete	2. Composite Materials
3. Treated Lumber	4. Cedar or Redwood