ROLL-A-RAMP
Where Strength and Flexibility Meet

# 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
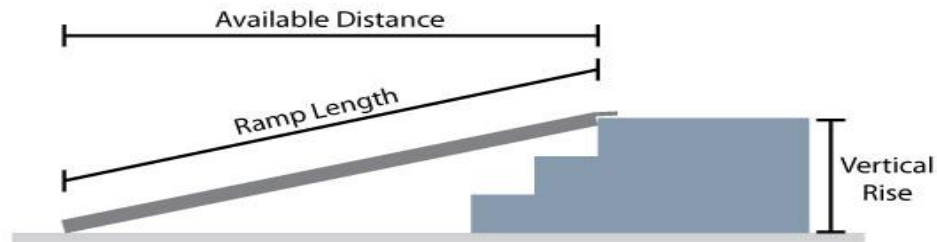
Click Green Calculator to determine correct ramp length

ADA Requirements:

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

Ramp Length Recommendations

The ADA requirements <u>only</u> 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 (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)