



Ramps -- One and Two Family Homes

You must submit plans for an accessible ramp and associated deck before a building permit can be issued. The plans will be examined by a plan examiner to ensure they conform to the State of Wisconsin building code and the Milwaukee building and zoning codes.

Plan evaluation

Here are some of the items the plan examiner looks for when evaluating ramp plans:

- The ramp cannot be too steep. For every 8 feet in length, the ramp can rise at most 1 foot in height.
- The ramp must be at least 3 feet wide, and provide platforms at the top and at all turning areas of at least 3 feet in the direction of travel.
- Handrails must be provided.
- Ramps and decks that rise more than 24" above ground level must be equipped with guardrails as specified in the State of Wisconsin building code.
- Stairs connected to access decks must comply with the building code.

Accessible ramps should be built in the rear or side yards of the house. In cases where this is impossible, there are exceptions to allow for placement in the front yard. Please contact a plan examiner at the Development Center to discuss these options. Call (414) 286-8210.

Submitting plans

Walk-in service is available for the review of ramp and deck plans. You may come to the Development Center, 809 N. Broadway, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through

Friday, except that walk-in service is not available Wednesday afternoons. Because we cannot predict the number of customers who will arrive for walk-in service on a given day, you may need to wait for service.

You need to bring the following materials when you apply for a building permit:

- 1) Two copies of a certified survey of your property OR a scale drawing or site plan showing where the ramp and deck will be located.
- 2) Two sets of plans for the ramp and deck, drawn to scale, that show:
 - The size and height of the ramp and deck
 - The type of construction (beam size and spans, size and spacing of joist, decking material, etc.)
 - Footing size and placement
 - Steps, guardrails, etc.
 - Cost of ramp and deck

Fees are based on the cost of the cost of materials and labor to build the ramp. The fee for a building permit is 1% of the cost with a minimum fee of \$50, plus a \$3 processing fee.

Associated permits

If your project involves installing a new service *door or patio door* to access the new ramp, the ramp permit must include this work.