

A guide to property access

An introduction to access

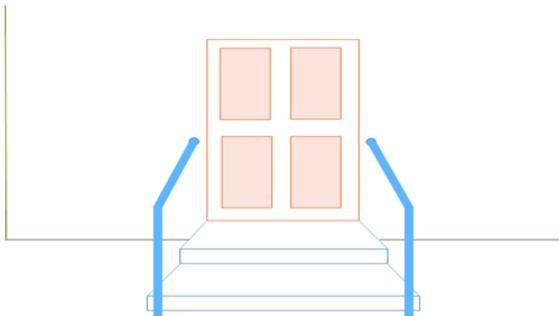
This leaflet is a basic guide to provide you with information regarding different access solutions to support you with getting in and out of your property. It will explain each adaptation type and things to consider.

Graded stepped approaches including hand and grab rails

If you find getting in and out of your property difficult, these are some things you could consider:

- Grab Rails – If it is difficult to step in and out of your property, try adding grab rails either side of the access point. Make sure these rails are set at a good height for you to use safely. When choosing the position be mindful of door handles, locks, doorbells and key safes.
- Half Step – If the step out of the property is too high try adding additional steps. Each step should be the same height and tread depth and they should also be at least the same width as the doorway.
- Handrails – If reaching for a wall fixed grab rail is an issue then a handrail may be safer for you (see below diagram).

If you are using a walking frame to get in and out of your property, the recommended minimum step sizes would need to be different. Each step should be at a suitable height to be able to lift the walking aid up and down each step without being at risk (this may require multiple steps).



This diagram is for illustration purposes only and may be different to individual needs

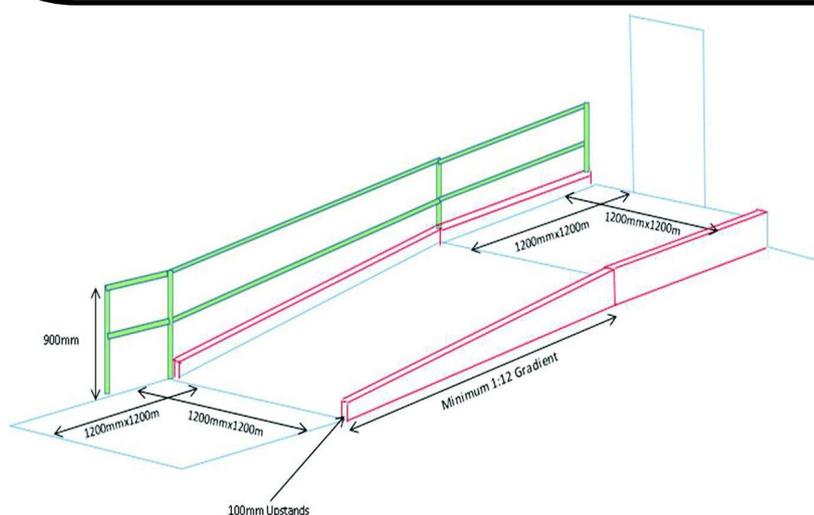
Ramping solutions for permanent wheelchair users

- Handrails should always be installed on both sides at a height of 900mm to the top of the rail and extend horizontally past the ramp for 300mm.
- Edge protection: To prevent the wheels of a wheelchair falling off the side of the ramp, a 100mm upstand is required. In some cases a mid-rail is sufficient to provide this protection.
- An outwards swinging door may mean that a larger top platform is required.
- The type of walking aid or wheelchair you use will affect the type and size of adaptation needed.

- Please take into account if there are any drain covers, electric/gas meters as modular ramps may be preferable. A channel drain with grid may be required across entrance doorways.
- Consider if the door set needs to be changed for a low level wheelchair accessible door frame. Also consider differences in floor levels internally as threshold ramps may be needed.
- The ramp should be slip resistant and of a lightly dimpled/roughened surface to aid grip.
- If the ramp is longer than 5m then resting platforms will need to be added that are 1200mm x 1200mm minimum and the ramp should have a minimum of 1:12 gradient.

Materials to consider

- Wood – Ensure it is weather protected and slip resistant. Wood will deteriorate over time and is not recommended for substantial long-term use.
- Metal – Modular ramping can be used if there are drainage covers to consider or if you wish for the ramp to be removed easily at a later date.
- Brick Paving / Concrete.



An example of a ramping solution for permanent wheelchair users

More Information

Are you entitled to VAT relief? Find out more at: www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief

Please note this leaflet is a guide and not an exhaustive list of recommendations which will depend on your unique circumstances. If you require an Occupational Therapy assessment please contact Lincolnshire County Council's Customer Service Centre on 01522 782155.

The Council is committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring all personal information is kept confidential and safe. For more details see our general and service specific privacy notices at:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/privacy>