

BUILDING CODE

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Sussex County

DELAWARE
sussexcountyde.gov

ANDY WRIGHT
CHIEF OF BUILDING CODE

Residential Ramp Requirements

- Maximum slope:** Ramps shall have a maximum slope of one unit vertical in twelve units horizontal.
Exception: Where it is technically infeasible to comply because of site constraints, ramps may have a maximum slope of one unit vertical in eight unit horizontal.
- Landings:** A minimum 3-foot by 3-foot landing shall be provided,
1. At the top and bottom of ramps,
 2. Where doors open onto ramps,
 3. Where ramps change direction.
- Handrails:** Handrails shall be provided on at least one side of all ramps exceeding a slope of one unit vertical in twelve units horizontal.
- Handrail height, measured above the finished surface of the ramp slope, shall be not less than 34 inches and not more than 38 inches.
- Handrail grip size on ramps shall comply with attached illustrations.
- Handrails where required on ramps shall be continuous for the full length of the ramp. Handrails ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1.5 inches between the wall and the handrail.
- Guards:** Guardrails shall be provided on open sides of ramps with a total rise of more than 30 inches above grade.
- Guardrails shall be a minimum 36 inches high, measured vertically from the floor surface to the top of the rail.
- Required guardrails shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which do not allow passage of a sphere 4 inch or more in diameter.

