



The Ability Center

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Installing a Ramp On Your Home

Many people with disabilities or caretakers need to modify their homes to make them more accessible. For example, many people with disabilities need to install a ramp or lift on their house in order to get in and out their door. This fact sheet lays out the process for ensuring that you are in compliance with local building laws as well as your rights to install a ramp.



What is the process for installing a home modification?

Under the Ohio Residential Building Code, installing a ramp or lift on the exterior of your house is an "Alteration" that must meet the standards of our Ohio Residential Building Code and be approved by the local Department of Building Inspection.

Before building a ramp or installing a lift outside your home, you must have a drawing made of your plans for the ramp or lift and submit two copies of the

drawing and an application for a permit to your local Department of Building Inspection.

Often, the application can be submitted either online or in-person at the Department of Building Inspection. When the Department of Building Inspection receives your application, it will review your drawing for compliance with the Ohio Residential Building Code. If it complies, they will let you know that they approved your plans.



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What must be in the drawing of my ramp or lift?

As part of your application, you must submit a drawing of what your ramp or lift will look like to show the Department of Building Inspection that it meets the standards of the Ohio Residential Building Code.

What happens after my application is approved?

When the Department of Building Inspection approves your application, you can then have your ramp or lift built in accordance with the standards of the Ohio Residential Building Code. When you are finished, you need to request that your local Department of Building Inspection come inspect and approve the final ramp or lift. Once you request an inspection, representatives from the Department of Building Inspection will come out to your house, inspect, and approve your ramp.

What if the drawing of my ramp is not approved?

If your application is not approved, you can change your drawing to ensure that it complies with the Ohio Residential Building Code and re-submit it for approval.

If you cannot build a ramp in accordance with the standards of the Ohio Residential Building Code because of the layout of your house or property, you may be able to request a reasonable accommodation of whatever rule is being violated. If you are a person with a disability, or building a ramp for a person with a disability, you are protected by the Fair Housing Amendments Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

These Acts require local Departments of Building Inspection to create reasonable exceptions to rules where necessary to modify your home for accessibility.

Is there any process for appealing a denial?

If you receive a denial of your application, and think it is wrongful, you can also appeal your denial to your local Plan Commission.

If you are in the City of Toledo, and you have a disability, you can also fill out an application for a Reasonable Accommodation to get approval for your ramp.

If you have questions about the standards needed to build your ramp, or if you need to request a reasonable accommodation, contact the
Toledo Division of Building Inspection at 419-245-1220