

Portable Ramps in Older Buildings

AMSI DRAFT CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD PRB1
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AMERICAN SUPPORT STANDARDS INSTITUTE

Draft Content for Accessibility Standard: Portable Ramps in Older Buildings

Introduction

Ensuring accessibility in older buildings is a critical step toward fostering inclusion for all individuals, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). In many cases, these buildings are not covered by mandatory accessibility laws, leaving individuals with mobility challenges at a disadvantage. Portable ramps serve as an immediate and cost-effective solution for bridging this gap, enabling more inclusive and accessible environments.

This draft content outlines guidelines on using portable ramps, including foldable and threshold ramps, to enhance access to older buildings. It provides practical recommendations for building owners and community leaders, emphasizing the importance of readiness and inclusion. By adopting this content as a resource, communities can work together to ensure accessibility is not an afterthought but a core principle of their inclusion efforts.

This draft is part of AMSI's ongoing effort to promote inclusive support standards. We invite feedback and collaboration to refine and implement these practices for broader impact.

Draft Content for Accessibility Standard: Portable Ramps in Older Buildings

Section 1: Types of Portable Ramps

1. Folding Portable Ramps

- **Description and Features:** Compact, lightweight, and easily transportable.
- **Ideal Use Cases:** Suitable for buildings with multiple steps or higher thresholds.
- **Safety Considerations:** Ensure ramps are securely positioned to prevent slipping.

2. Threshold Ramps

- **Description and Features:** Designed for low elevation differences, such as a single step.
- **Ideal Use Cases:** Best for entrances with slight elevations or thresholds.
- **Safety Considerations:** Verify that ramps are stable and meet weight capacity requirements.

Section 2: Installation Guidelines

- Proper placement and securement of ramps to ensure user safety.
- Recommendations tailored to different building types and configurations.
- Considerations for indoor vs. outdoor use, including weather-resistant materials.

Section 3: Safety and Maintenance

- Regular inspection protocols to identify wear and tear.
- Cleaning and maintenance tips to prolong ramp lifespan.
- Safety warnings, including weight limits and proper usage instructions.

Section 4: Best Practices for Use

- Educating users on the correct setup and operation of ramps.
- Ensuring clear signage and communication about accessibility options.
- Case studies or examples of successful implementations in communities.

Section 5: Legal and Regulatory Considerations

- Overview of relevant laws and regulations, such as the ADA.
- How this draft content complements existing requirements and fills gaps.

Section 6: Recommendations for Building Owners and Retailers

- Steps to implement the draft content effectively.
 - Highlighting the benefits of adopting these guidelines, including enhanced customer satisfaction.
 - Community impact and fostering inclusion for individuals with mobility challenges.
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Conclusion

Portable ramps provide a simple yet powerful solution to enhance accessibility in older buildings. By adopting these draft guidelines, building owners and community leaders can make significant strides toward creating inclusive environments for all. AMSI invites stakeholders to review this draft content, share their feedback, and collaborate on refining this resource to ensure accessibility becomes a priority everywhere.

Together, let's make accessibility a reality.