



A guide to property access

An introduction to access

- Graded stepped approaches including hand and grab rails
- Ramping solutions
- Materials to consider
- Choosing a contractor

This leaflet will hopefully provide you with valuable information regarding different access adaptations to support you with getting in and out of your property. It will explain each adaptation type and when these should be considered, taking into account your current ability, future needs and equipment/mobility aids being used.

Please use this as a basic guide. It is not an exhaustive list of recommendations and will depend on your unique circumstances. If you require further support an Occupational Therapy Assessment can be requested via Nottinghamshire County Council's Customer Service Centre on: **0300 500 80 80**.

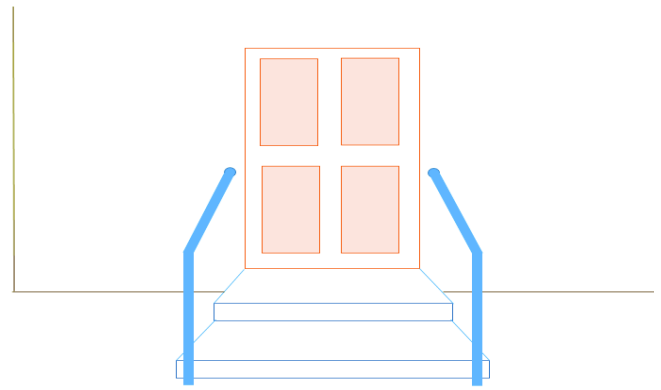
Graded stepped approaches including hand and grab rails

If you find getting in and out of your property difficult, here are some minor adaptations 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, door bells 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 have a minimal tread depth

of 300mm, they should also be the same width as the doorway (minimal).

- Handrails – If reaching for a grab rail is an issue then a handrail may be more beneficial to you (see diagram below). An approximate height for this rail is 900mm.



This diagram is for illustration purposes only and may be different to what you need depending on the access you plan to adapt.

If you are using a walking frame to get in and out of your property, the recommended minimum step sizes are different.

- Each step should be 800mm x 800mm minimum depending on the person and equipment being used.
- Each step should be at a suitable height for the individual to be able to lift the walking aid up and down each step without being at risk (this may require multiple steps).
- Handrails will increase safety for the user and the measurements are the same as previously advised.

Ramping solutions for permanent wheelchair users (see page 3 for diagram)

- 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.
- Please take into account if there are any drain covers, electric/gas meters as modular ramping may be preferable.
- Please consider drainage. 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 any changes in floor levels internally as threshold ramps may be required.
- The ramp should be slip resistant and of a lightly roughened surface to aid grip. A dimpled surface is preferable.
- If the ramp is longer than 5m then resting platforms will need to be added that are 1200mm x 1200mm minimum.
- 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 a couple of years 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.

Other things to consider

The type of walking aid or wheelchair you use will affect the type of adaptation needed so if you have any concerns please contact your GP for a walking aid or wheelchair assessment.

Choosing a contractor

Nottinghamshire County Council works in partnership with Checkatrade to provide an approved trader scheme to help Nottinghamshire consumers choose a trader they can trust and rely upon. Please visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/approvedtraderscheme or www.checkatrade.com for more information.

Are you entitled to VAT relief?

Find out more at: www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief

Remember if in doubt...

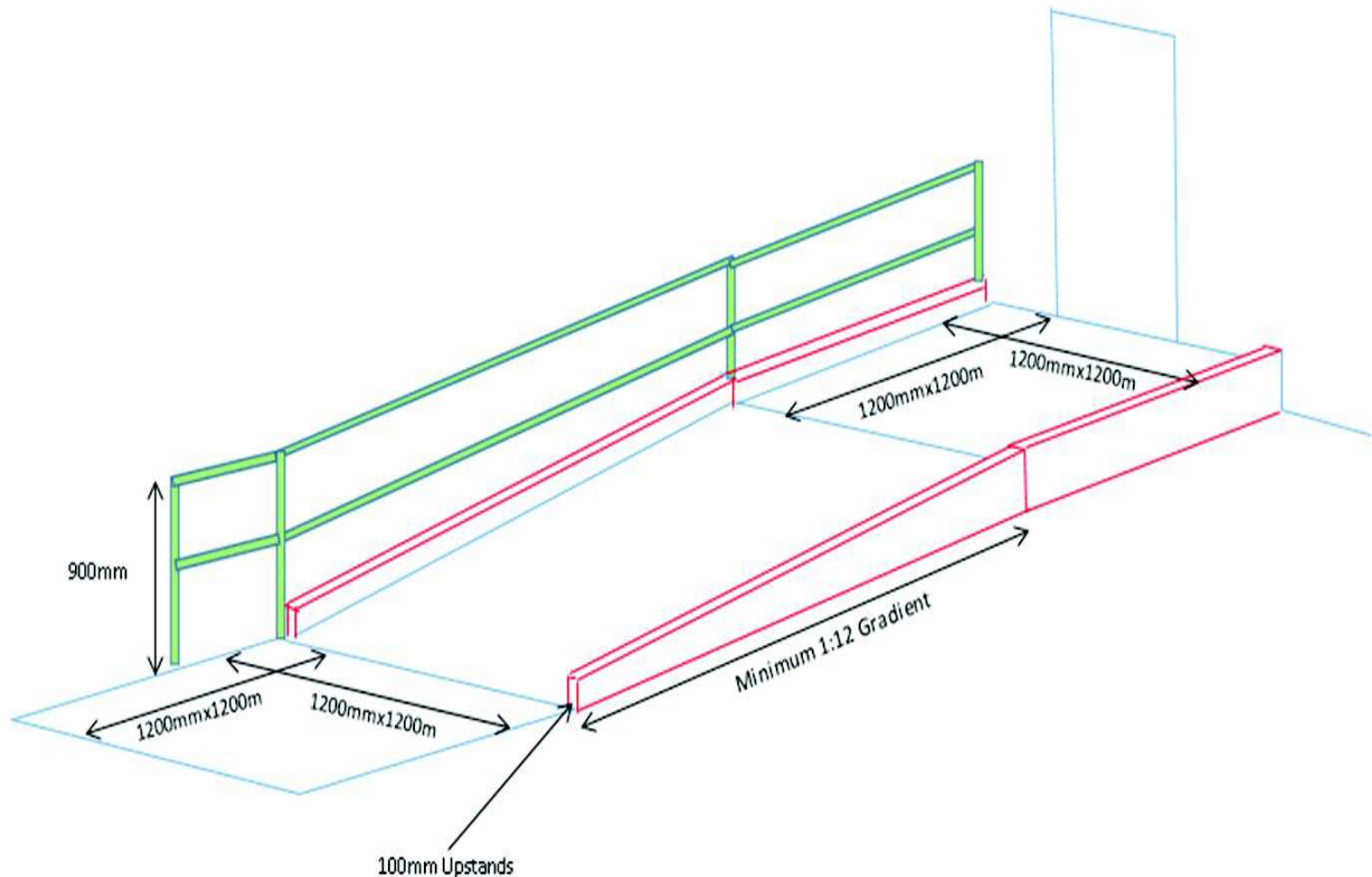
If you require further support an Occupational Therapy Assessment can be requested via Nottinghamshire County Council's Customer Service Centre on: **0300 500 80 80**.

An example of a ramping solution for permanent wheelchair users

Ramping should only be recommended for wheelchair users. It is not advised that you use a walking frame of any kind on a ramp due to the risk of falls

An example of a ramping solution for permanent wheelchair users

Ramping should only be recommended for wheelchair users. It is not advised that you use a walking frame of any kind on a ramp due to the risk of falls.



This diagram is for illustration purposes only. It highlights the minimum gradient requirements for wheelchair user access under current building regulations.

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.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/privacy>