



WHAT KIND OF RAMP SHOULD I BUY?

What about cost?

Steel is always the lowest in cost. Wood can be the lowest if the labor is donated or provided by a family member. Wood is the highest in cost, if done by a contractor.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Lowest or Highest	Lowest	Highest	Medium

What about maintenance?

Steel will rust, like porch rails and picket fences. Some touch up is occasionally required. Wood needs to be regularly treated with a wood sealer.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Worst	Medium	Best	Best

What about safety?

Wood rots. Wood, concrete and aluminum are all solid surfaces and allow moisture to accumulate and freeze creating a dangerous ice film. Steel has a gripping texture, making it non-skid. Steel also has an open, pattern ramp surface allowing moisture to pass through, eliminating the danger of ice film.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Worst	Best	Worst	Worst

What about rentals?

45% of ramps should be rented when they are not needed permanently. Rentals are convenient for weddings, graduation or family gatherings, with no minimum time or amount of ramp necessary.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
No	Yes	No	Maybe

What about durability?

Wood rots. Steel and concrete last for ages. Aluminum has 1/3 the strength of steel and is 3x's softer. The little nonskid grooving on an aluminum ramp surface wears down quickly, becoming smooth and slippery in wet weather. Aluminum is fine for aluminum siding and down spouts.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Worst	Best	Best	Medium

What about getting proper ramp design?

Carpenters and family members have limited knowledge of what is a safe and ADA compliant ramps. Steel ramps include free evaluation by the ramp manufacturer's expert, who is based in your community. Aluminum ramps are not measured and installed by the manufacturing personnel.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
No	Yes	No	No

What about appearance?

Depending on the property, wood can match an existing deck, steel can look like wrought iron; concrete can match a walkway. Aluminum is shiny and commercial looking — not suitable for residential applications.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Yes	Yes	Yes	No

What about moving and changing my ramp after it is purchased?

If you can move, you can take all or part of your steel and aluminum ramp with you, add to it or shorten it as necessary. If your needs (equipment or caregiver) change, the steel or aluminum ramp can be corrected to the new situation. Very important. If you find the wood or concrete ramp is too steep after you buy it, no correction is possible.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
No	Yes	No	Yes

What about the possible resale value of the ramp?

There is a market for used steel and aluminum ramps when you no longer need them.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
No	Yes	No	Yes

What about availability?

Steel and aluminum are delivered from pre-manufactured stock. You can get these ramps in days. Wood or concrete depend on contractor's responsiveness.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Best or Worst	Best	Worst	Maybe

What about excavation of the property?

Concrete frost footings are required for wood. As frost heaves, concrete (or some settling) will damage and misalign these rigid structures. Steel and Aluminum ramps are easily realigned as they are designed with adjustable support structures. Steel ramp adjustments are done free for the life of the original ramp installation.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Yes	No	Yes	No

What about possible devaluation of the property?

Upon resale, ramps will bring down the value of the home. Only 1 out of 200 people use a wheelchair. There are significant costs to digging up and disposing of wood and concrete ramps, plus footings.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Worst	Best	Worst	Best

What about building permits?

Wood and concrete are permanent modifications to the home, requiring permits. Steel and aluminum modular ramps are classified as reusable, durable, medical equipment (DME) not requiring permits.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Yes	No	Yes	No

What about taxable revaluation of the property after the ramp is installed?

The building permit process includes reassessment of the property after the permit is issued.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
Yes	No	Yes	No

What about portability?

Aluminum and steel ramps have handles for portability. Steel and aluminum ramps sections are about the same weight. Due to the strength and stiffness of steel, thinner structures are possible. Aluminum is bulkier and has more braces due to its lower material strength. The ramp modules end up about the same weight.

WOOD	STEEL	CONCRETE	ALUMINUM
No	Yes	No	Yes

QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-649-5215