

# Wisconsin Government Accountability Board – Elections Division 2009 Polling Place Accessibility Survey Appendix B: Definitions and Diagrams

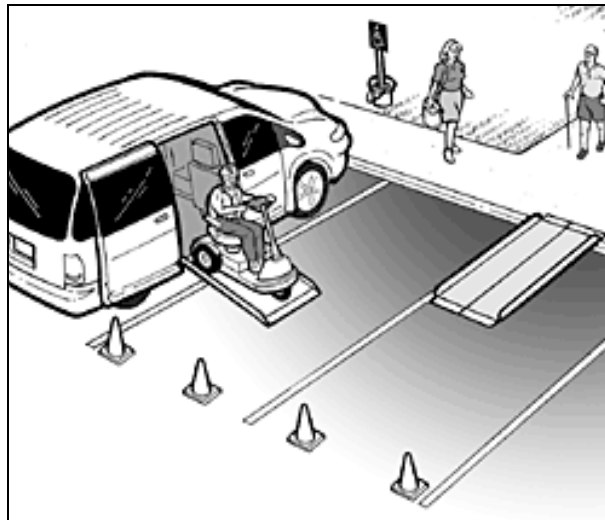
## **Access Aisle**

An accessible pedestrian space between elements, such as parking spaces, that provides clearance appropriate for the use of the elements.

## **Accessible Parking Space**

A parking space that complies with ADA guidelines. Van-accessible spaces must be eight feet wide with an eight foot access aisle, and must have a sign indicating they are van-accessible. Universal spaces must be 16 feet wide, and are equivalent to van-accessible spaces, provided they have the proper signage. All other accessible spaces must be at least eight feet wide with a five foot access aisle. On-street spaces do not need to meet specific width requirements.

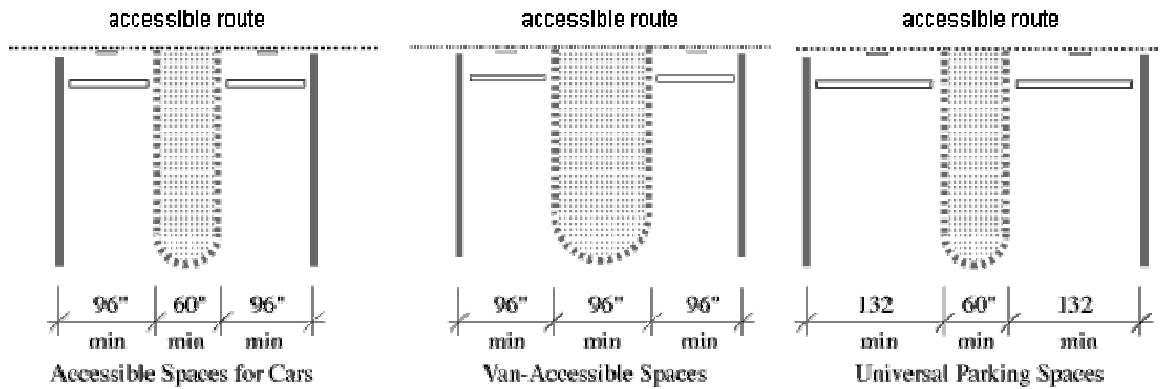
**Figure 1: Accessible Space and Access Aisle Quick-Fix**



Three standard parking spaces are converted to a van-accessible space with an access aisle using traffic cones. A temporary ramp is installed over the curb to allow the individual to reach the accessible pathway.

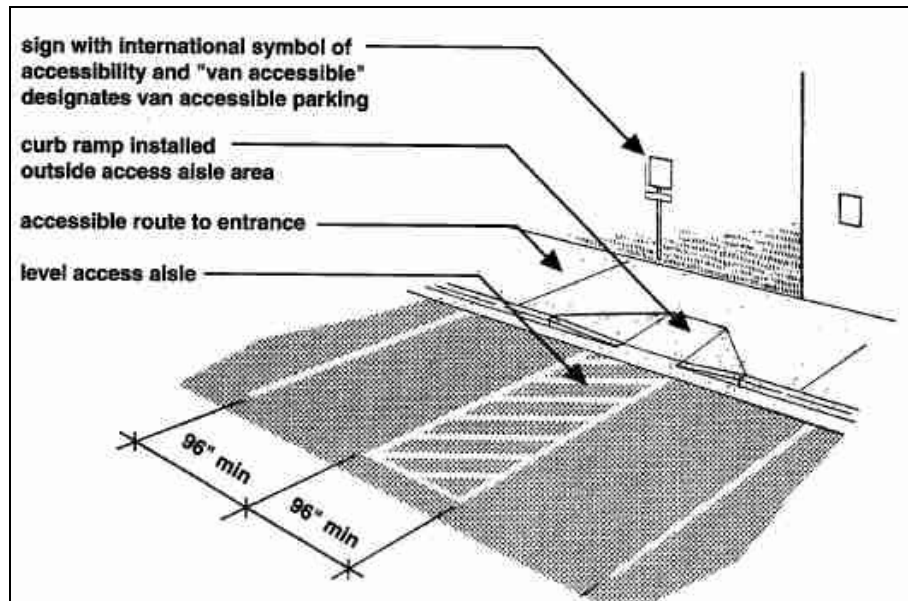
***See also: Signage***

**Figure 2: Accessible Parking Spaces and Access Aisles**



Accessible Parking Spaces Showing Minimum Width of Vehicle Space and Access Aisle

**Figure 3: Accessible Parking Spaces and Access Aisles**

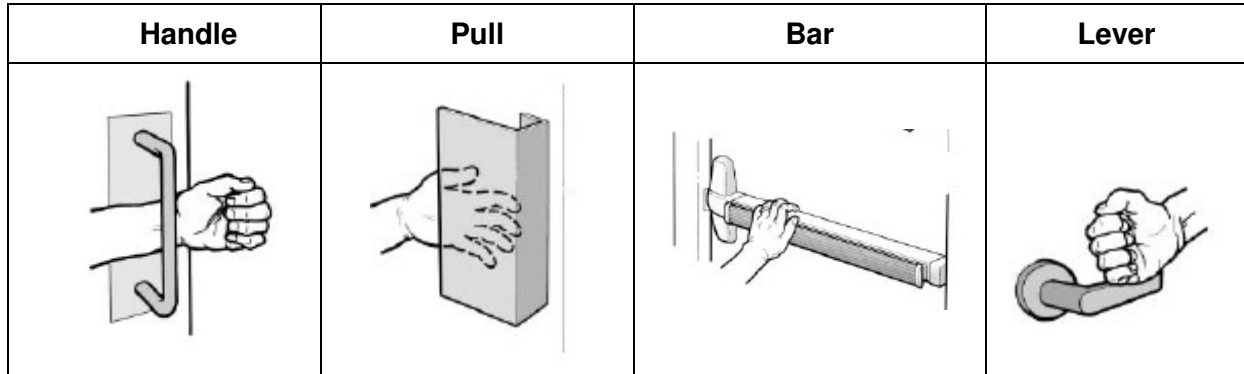


**See also: Signage**

**Accessible Hardware**

A metal handle or other component grasped to open a door that can be used with a closed fist and does not require twisting, bending or pinching of the wrist to operate.

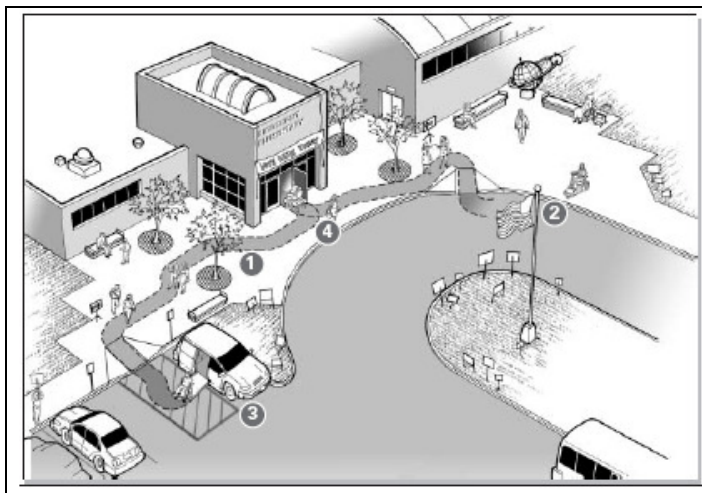
**Figure 4: Examples of Accessible Hardware**



**Accessible Pathway/Route**

A continuous unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces of a building or facility. Interior accessible routes may include corridors, floors, ramps, elevators, lifts, and clear floor space at fixtures. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access aisles, curb ramps, crosswalks at vehicular ways, walks, ramps, and lifts.

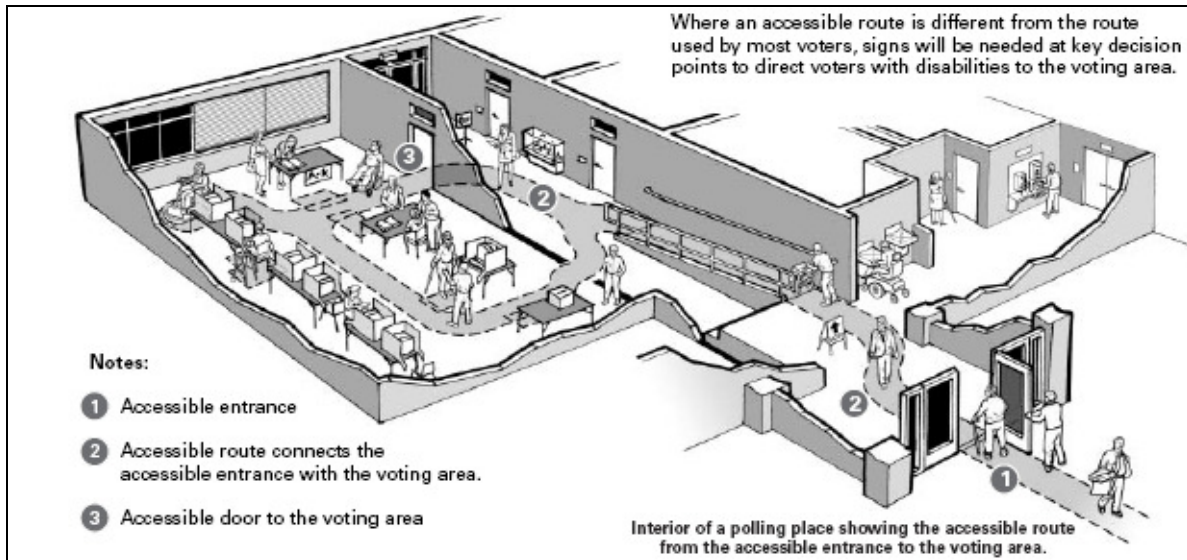
**Figure 5: Exterior Accessible Pathway/Route**



**Notes:**

- ① Accessible route.
- ② Accessible drop-off area.
- ③ Accessible parking with van-accessible parking space.
- ④ Accessible entrance to polling place.

**Figure 6: Interior Accessible Pathway/Route**



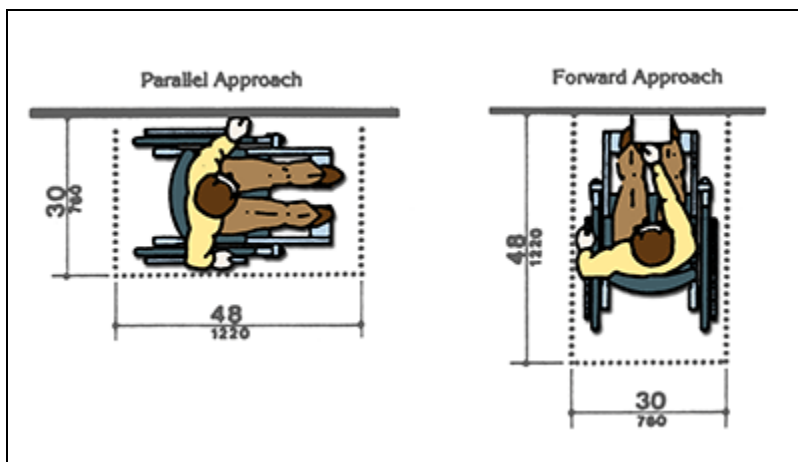
**Adaptability**

The ability of certain building spaces and elements to be added or altered so as to accommodate the needs of individuals with or without disabilities, or to accommodate the needs of persons with different types or degrees of disability.

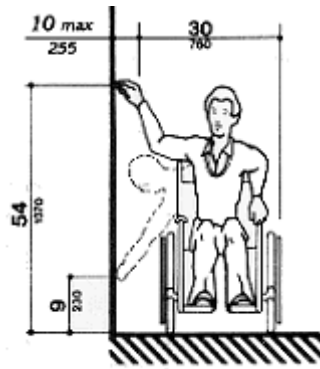
**Approach**

A way or means of reaching something. A parallel/side approach means the person is beside an object and will reach from the side of the body for access. A forward approach means the person is perpendicular to the object and will reach in front of the body for access.

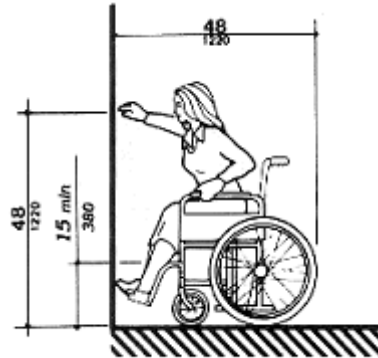
**Figure 7: Parallel and Front/Forward Approach**



**Figure 8: Parallel/Side and Forward Reach Limits**



**Parallel Reach Max 54"**



**Forward Reach Max 48"**

**Automatic Door**

A door equipped with a power-operated mechanism and controls that open and close the door automatically upon receipt of a momentary actuating signal. The switch that begins the automatic cycle may be a photoelectric device, floor mat, or manual switch (see power-assisted door).

**Beveled:** Inclined at an angle less than 90 degrees.

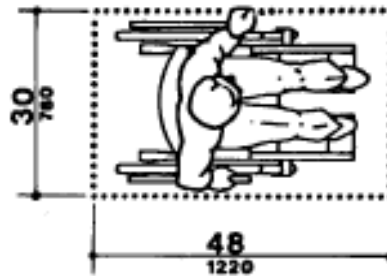
**Carpet Pile:** See pile.

**Clear:** Unobstructed.

**Clear Floor Space**

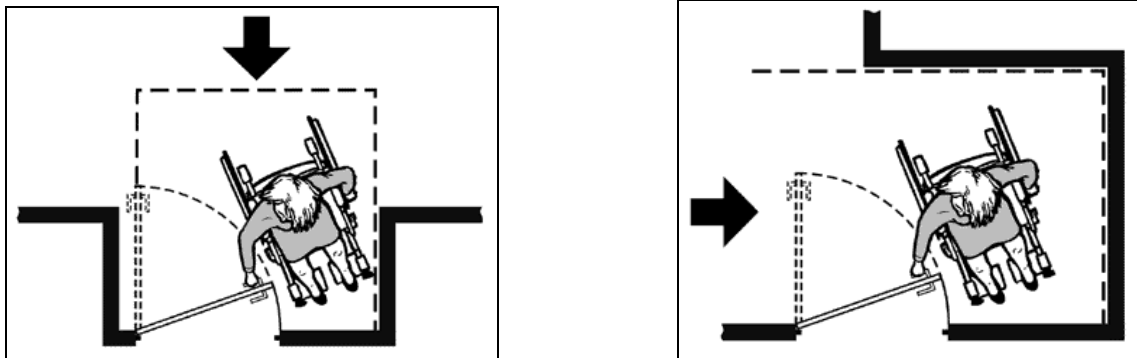
The minimum unobstructed floor or ground space required to accommodate a single, stationary wheelchair and occupant. Clear floor space on the latch side of the door (pull side) allows a person using a wheelchair to pull the door open and then enter. The size of the clear floor space varies depending on the direction of approach (shown by the arrows) and the door swing, but must be at least 18 inches.

Figure 9: Clear Floor Space



(a)  
Clear Floor Space

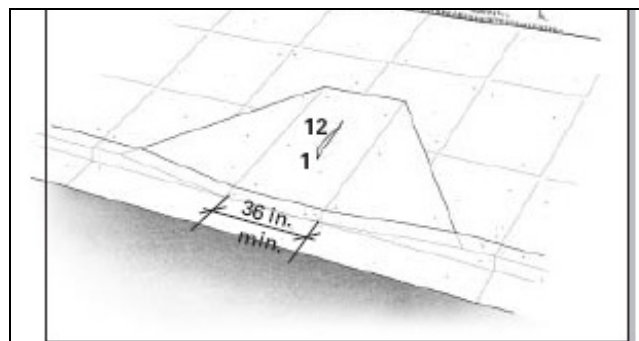
Figure 10: Clear Floor Space on Latch Side of Door



### Curb Cut/Curb Ramp

A short ramp cutting through a curb or built up to it.

Figure 11: Curb Ramp/Curb Cut

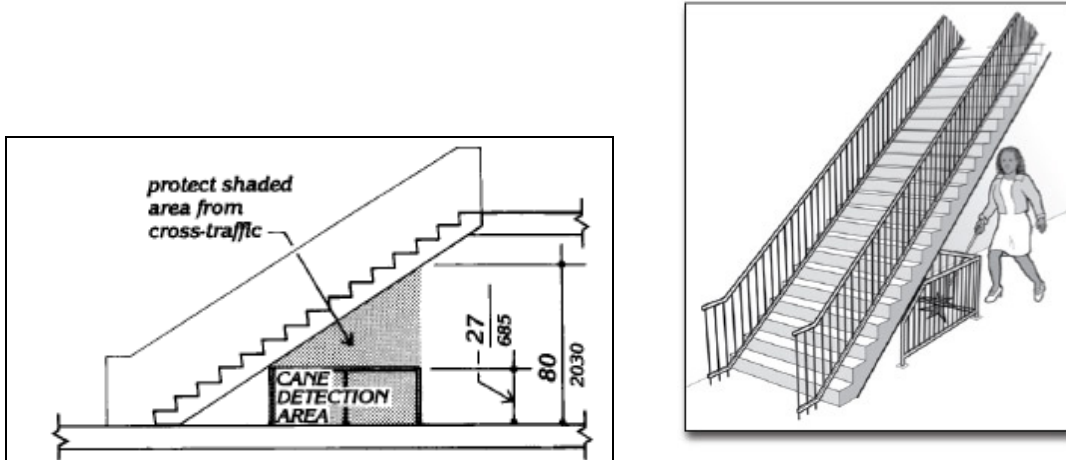


Curb ramp showing minimum 36 inch width for ramp section and 1:12 slope on ramp section.

### Detectable Warning or Barrier

A standardized surface feature built in or applied to walking surfaces or other elements to warn visually impaired people of hazards on a circulation path.

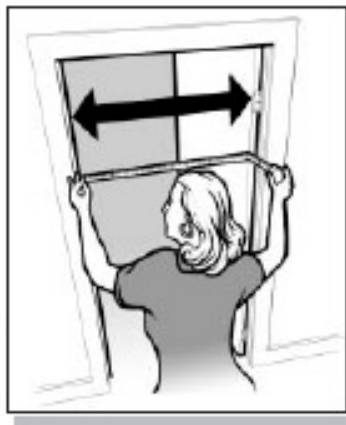
Figure 12: Detectable Warning or Barrier



### Door Opening

The clear open width of the door, as measured from the frame to the face of the door when the door is open to 90 degrees.

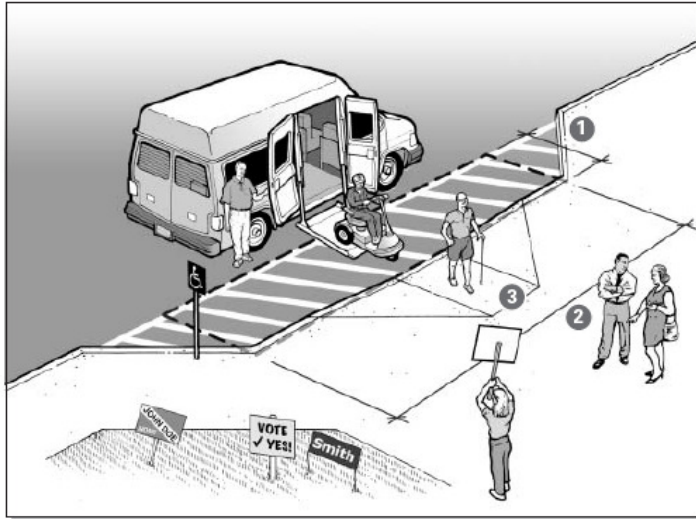
Figure 13: Measuring a Clear Door Opening



## Drop-off Zone

A designated, accessible area, connected to the accessible route, where people may safely drop off and pick up passengers.

Figure 14: Drop-off Zone



### Notes:

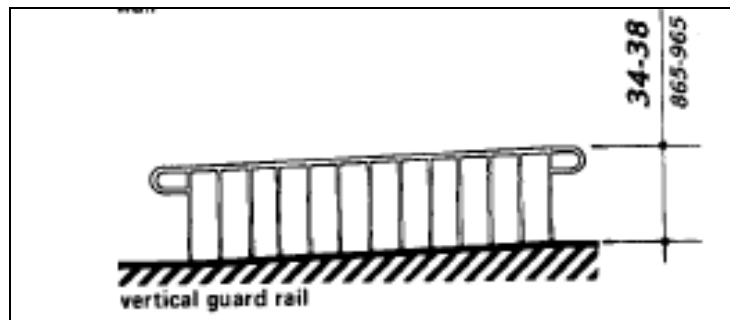
- 1 Access aisle depth is at least 5 feet.
- 2 Access aisle length is at least 20 feet.
- 3 Curb ramp connects access aisle to the accessible route to the accessible entrance of the polling place.

The access aisle may be at the street level or at sidewalk level. If it is at the sidewalk level, a curb ramp is provided between the street and the sidewalk. If the access aisle is at the street level, the curb ramp is provided between the access aisle and the sidewalk (as shown).

## Edge Protection

A protective barrier at the bottom of a ramp that prevents someone from slipping off. Ramps with a height greater than six inches must have handrails and edge protection.

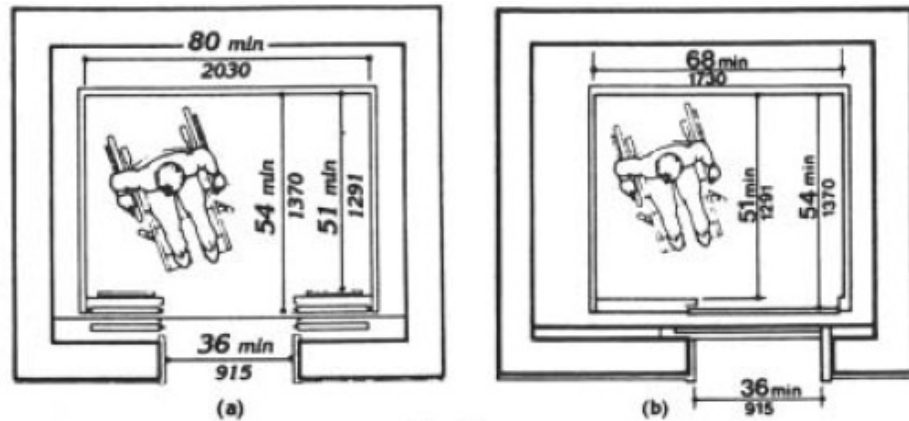
Figure 15: Example of a Ramp with Edge Protection





## Elevators:

Figure 16: Dimensions of Elevator Cars



## Entrance

Any access point to a building or portion of a building or facility used for the purpose of entering. An entrance includes the approach walk, the vertical access leading to the entrance platform, the entrance platform itself, vestibules if provided, the entry door(s) or gate(s) and the hardware of the entry door(s) or gate(s).

## Firm, Stable and Slip Resistant

Parking and pathway surfaces generally consist of concrete or asphalt; however, tile, stone, and brick are also common. Most common parking and pathway materials are firm, stable, and slip resistant when dry. Gravel, dirt and sand are generally not considered firm, stable and slip resistant when the definitions below are applied.

- **Firmness** is the degree to which a surface resists deformation by indentation when a person walks or wheels across it. A firm surface does not compress significantly under the forces exerted as a person walks or wheels on it.
- **Stability** is the degree to which a surface remains unchanged by applied force, so when the force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A stable surface is not be significantly altered by a person walking or maneuvering a wheelchair on it.
- **Slip resistance** is based on the frictional force necessary to permit a person to ambulate without slipping. A slip resistant surface does not allow a shoe heel, a wheelchair tire, or a crutch tip to slip when ambulating on the surface.

**Force**

The amount of physical exertion required to push or pull an object.

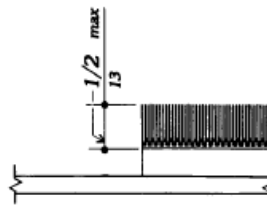
**Handrail**

A narrow rail to be grasped by a hand for support. Refer to Figure 15 on page 8.

**Pile**

The cut or uncut loops of yarn forming a fabric, i.e. the pile of a rug.

**Figure 17: Carpet Pile**



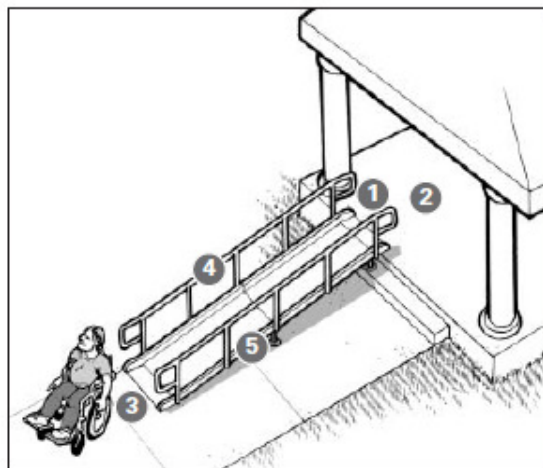
**Power-Assisted Door**

A door used for human passage with a mechanism that helps to open the door, or relieves the opening resistance of a door, upon the activation of a switch or a continued force applied to the door itself.

**Ramp**

A walking surface which has a running slope greater than 1:20 (5%).

**Figure 18: Ramp**



**Notes:**

- 1 At least 36 inches between handrails
- 2 Top landing part of walk
- 3 Bottom landing part of walk
- 4 Handrail height 34 to 38 inches
- 5 Edge protection

**Accessible Ramp Features**

## Signage

Displayed verbal, symbolic, tactile and pictorial information.

**Figure 19: Accessible Signage**



## Slope: Ratios

The slope ratio represents one inch of vertical rise for every X inches of horizontal distance (or run). For example a slope of 1:12 = one inch of rise for every 12 horizontal inches of distance (run).

The most common slope ratios in the accessibility survey are:

Slope Ratio	Degrees	Percent	Common Use
1:12	4.76	8.33	Ramps, Curb Cuts
1:20	2.86	5	Sidewalks
1:50	1.15	2	Parking, Drop-off zones
1:2	26.6	50	Thresholds

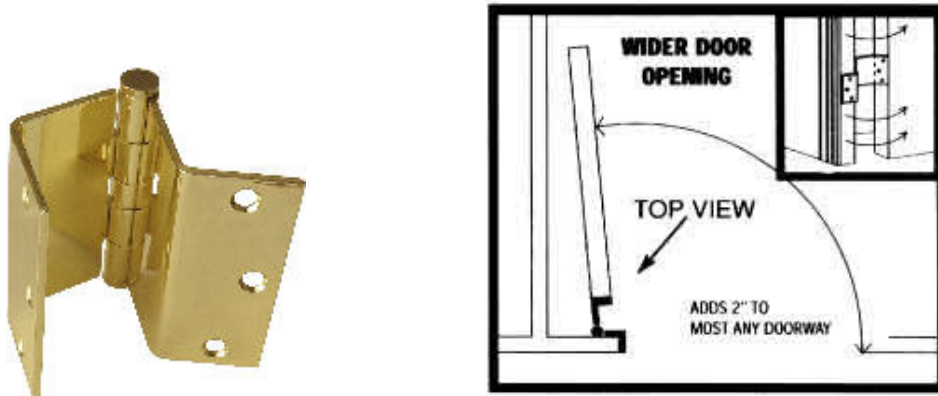
**Figure 20: Slope**



**Swing Clear or Offset Hinge**

A type of hinge that is used when a door is needed to swing completely clear of the opening. This may be an alternative to widening a doorway.

**Figure 21: Swing Clear or Offset Hinge**



**Symbol of Accessibility**

The universal symbol used to identify accessible elements.

**Figure 22: Symbol of Accessibility**



**Threshold:** The piece of wood, stone or metal at the doorsill.

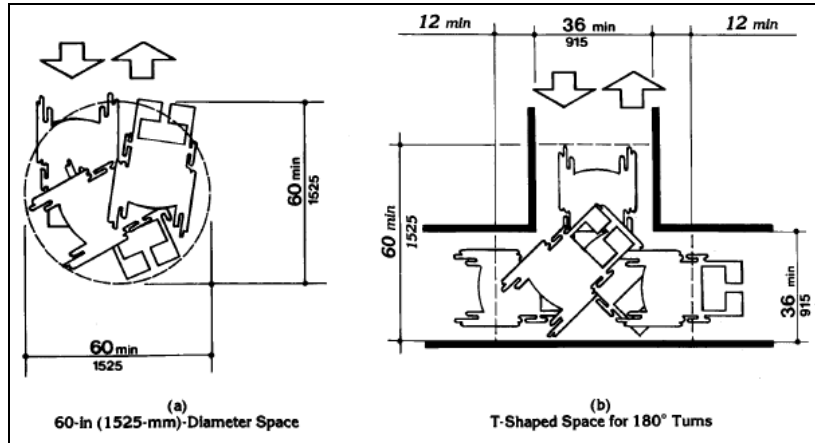
**Figure 23: Example of Threshold with Ramp**



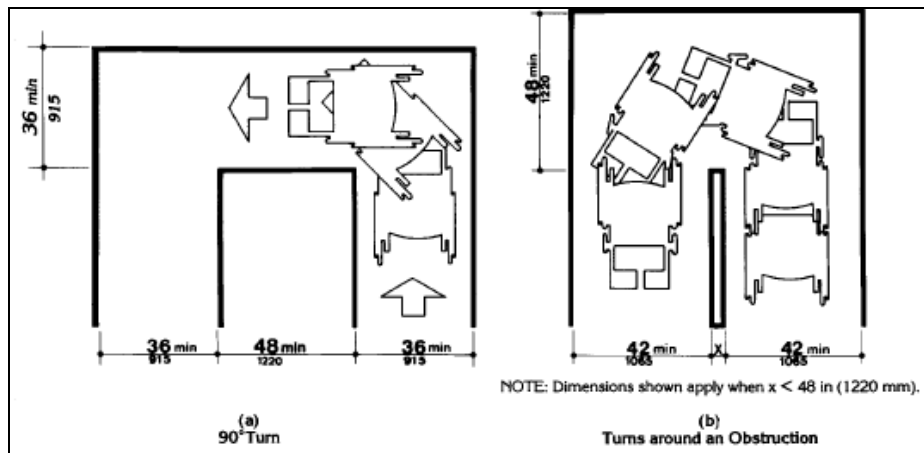
## Turning Radius

The amount of space required for a wheelchair to maneuver a turn in a circle, a T-shaped space, or around an object.

**Figure 24: Wheelchair Turning Radius for a Circle or T-Shaped Space**



**Figure 25: Dimensions for Wheelchair Maneuvering Around an Obstruction**



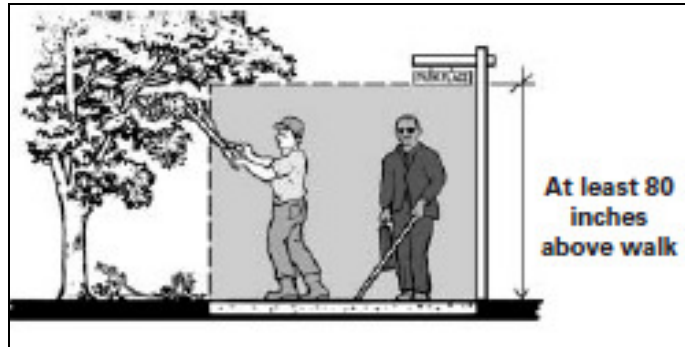
## Vehicular Route

A route intended for vehicular traffic, such as a street, driveway, or parking lot.

**Vertical clearance**

The distance between the top of a vehicle or person and any object overhanging the path of travel.

**Figure 26: Vertical Clearance**



**Vestibule/Alcove**

A small entrance hall or antechamber between two doors of a building.

**Figure 27: Vestibule or Alcove**

