



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **February 8, 2007**
Subject: **Ramp width**
References: **2003 International Residential Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section R311.6 (Ramps) of the International Residential Code.

Question: Is there any required minimum width for residential ramps?

Answer: The IRC does not set a minimum width requirement for ramps, but does require ramp landings to be a minimum of 36 inches by 36 inches; this does not require a minimum ramp width of 36 inches, but that would be most likely the case, if nothing else for aesthetics. Of course, if the ramp is required for handicap accessibility, then the requirements of ANSI A117.1 would be in effect, along with FHA and other requirements from local, state, or federal government. It should be noted, however, that the final interpretation is the legal responsibility of the local code official and as such it is recommended that they be contacted.

NCC Stance: Ramp width shall comply with the minimum width for stairways found in section R311.5.1.

Code Updates: With the adoption of the 2015 IRC, this section has been relocated to Section R311.8. No additional information pertinent to this code question has been added, and the NCC stance is not changed.

George O. Haggerty
Code Official

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION