**Adult Family Home (AFH) Information Sheet**

Grab Bars, Handrails, and Ramps

**Review** [**Chapter 388-76 WAC**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=388-76&full=true) **for current licensing requirements**

**The adult family home must install grab bars and handrails in accordance with WAC** [**388-76-10730**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=388-76&full=true#388-76-10730)**.**

* At a minimum, grab bars must be installed and securely fastened according to residential building code standards in:
  + Bathing facilities such as tubs and showers; and
  + Each side of any toilet used by residents.
* At a minimum, handrails must be installed and securely fastened according to residential building code standards at:
  + Any step or steps available for resident use; and
  + Any ramp available for resident use.

**Ramps must be installed in accordance with WACs** [**388-76-10865**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=388-76&full=true#388-76-10865) **and** [**51-51-0330**](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=51-51-0330)**.**

* A ramp must be a maximum slope of one unit vertical in twelve units horizontal. In other words, every foot of drop requires a ramp 12 feet long.
* Hand rails must be installed on both sides.
* A minimum 3’ x 3’ landing must be provided:
  + At the top and bottom of the ramp;
  + Where doors open onto the ramp; and
  + Where the ramp changes direction.

**Handrails must meet the requirements of WAC** [**51-51-0330**](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=51-51-0330)**.**

* Handrails not lower than 34 inches and not higher than 38 inches must be easy to grip and provided on both sides of the ramp;
* Handrails must be built to prevent a resident in a wheelchair from rolling under the rail; and
* Handrails must be continuous for the full length of the ramp.

**For further information about installing grab bars, handrails, and ramps, contact your local building official.** The [Washington Association of Building Officials website](https://www.wabo.org/find-your-bo) has a tool to help you locate your local building official.

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