



Ice, snow and walking and on ramps

Ease and safety of walking on any surface is largely determined by a number of factors and individuals walking on the same surface may experience significantly different conditions. People in running shoes, hiking boots, shoes with leather soles or high heels may experience different walking conditions on the same surface and those experiences may change with surface conditions.

Aluminum ramps are prone to ice and freezing in cold temperatures (example: highway signs the say “bridge freezes before road surface”). The easiest way to deal with this is to remove any ice, snow or water that is present. If temperatures are low it may be helpful to put some calcium chloride (Ice melt) on the walking surface. Rock salt will also melt the ice/snow but may discolor the ramp and cause long term corrosion. For this reason it is not recommended.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which applies to public access sites has set some guidelines for many aspects of pathways, ramps, slopes, curbs, stairs etc. While the ADA laws do not apply to private residences many jurisdictions have adopted ADA guidelines as a useful guidance because of the underlying engineering expertise.

The ADA set a standard for coefficient of Friction (COF) of 0.5 for flat surfaces and 0.8 for inclined surfaces. The walking surface for Access4U ramps and platforms has been tested by an independent testing laboratory with results showing COF of friction of 1.00 Dry (meeting the ADA standard) and 0.6 Wet (The ADA standard does not specify a “wet” standard for COF). Most architects and designers generally look for a “wet” COF of 0.6 as guideline.