



A TREE-O OF REASONS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T BUILD WOOD RAMPS

AND WHY ALUMINUM IS THE BEST SOLUTION



WOODEN IT BE NICE?!

ALUMINUM RAMPS ALLOW YOU TO
VIRTUALLY BUILD IT AND FORGET IT

**Over 31% of U.S. Schools
Have Portable Classrooms that
Require Access via a Ramp**

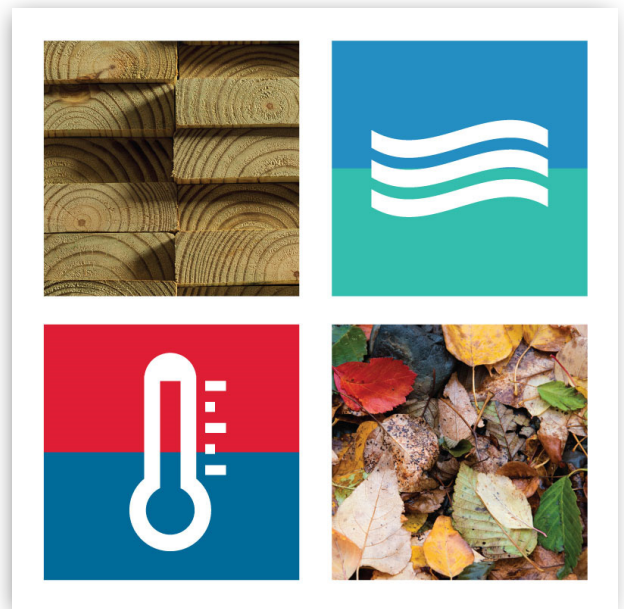
[\[source\]](#)



ADA guidelines state that all classrooms must be wheelchair accessible. With over sixty thousand schools in the U.S. utilizing a ramp for one or more of their portable classrooms, it's no surprise that districts are looking for a better alternative to wood ramps. [\[source\]](#) While ramps typically come in either wood or aluminum form, there is a clear divide when it comes to the amount of maintenance and upkeep each type needs. And with so many schools utilizing ramps, it only makes sense to use a ramp that you can virtually forget about after installation.

Wood Rot versus Corrosion-Resistant Aluminum

Wood can rot and deteriorate for a number of reasons. From sun and rain to pesky termites, wood breaks down over time. Wood needs 4 things to decay: water, oxygen, food (organic debris) and favorable temperature (40°F – 105°F). This leads to sanding or the replacement of planks. And unless you have a maintenance staff that is equipped to deal with woodwork, you will need to call in a contractor each time your ramp needs some attention. Many other aspects of the ramp can breakdown as well. The concrete footings can settle and crack causing your whole ramp to shift. The grip tape used to keep the wood from being too slippery can peel off and wear down causing huge hazards as well. A technical report in the *Forest Products Journal* (November-December 1998) indicated that the average pressure-treated deck only lasts 9 years. Aluminum ramps are made of high quality material that is corrosion-resistant and is immediately ready for years of maintenance-free use.



GETTING SENTI-METAL ABOUT THE COST?

QUICK AND CUSTOMIZABLE INSTALLATION GIVES ALUMINUM RAMPS THE UPPER HAND.

Initial and Long-term Costs Are Things You Should Consider

Although the initial investment of building a wood ramp is typically lower than aluminum, the cost doesn't stop there. Many people do not think of the supplementary costs building a wood structure includes.

The tools needed to build a wooden ramp alone are both extensive and costly. From digging and creating concrete footings to cutting the wood, the tools needed can quickly add up. There are also the additional costs of a contractor. Because wooden ramps must be anchored into the ground, permits must be acquired and utility providers need to be contacted.

However, an aluminum ramp only takes a few tools to piece together and relies on its own base for stability as opposed to being buried in the ground.



Wood Ramp Costs Grow Like Weeds



WOOD WHEELCHAIR RAMPS

CAN VARY IN COST FROM \$947 TO WELL OVER \$4,000



BIGGER CITIES

CAN EXPECT TO PAY DOUBLE FOR LABOR COSTS AND 10-20% MORE FOR MATERIALS



CARPENTER RATES, MASON OR HANDYMAN WORK

RUN BETWEEN \$60 AND \$90/HOUR



PERMITS FOR WOOD RAMP CONSTRUCTION

COST \$30-120

[source]



Money Doesn't Grow on Trees and that's Not the Only Problem

Although money is a factor in deciding whether a wood or aluminum ramp is best, there is another cost associated with accessibility access; time.

Durable and lightweight aluminum ramps can be installed in just a few hours, typically. The EZ-ACCESS aluminum ramp system has fully independent and adjustable legs that allow for easy setup. Furthermore, the ramps can be reconfigured, relocated, and molded to fit virtually any layout. Wood ramps must be individually designed by a contractor, building materials must be bought, measured, and cut, and concrete footings must be poured and left to dry. All of this can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.



WOOD -VS- ALUMINUM



COMPLETION TIME = DAYS

SEVERAL TOOLS REQUIRED

POURED CONCRETE FOOTINGS

COMPLETION TIME = HOURS

MINIMAL TOOLS REQUIRED

NO POURED FOOTINGS

ALL BARK AND A LITTLE BITE

HOW WOOD RAMPS ARE A POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARD AT YOUR SCHOOL

Another Reason to Give Wood the Axe

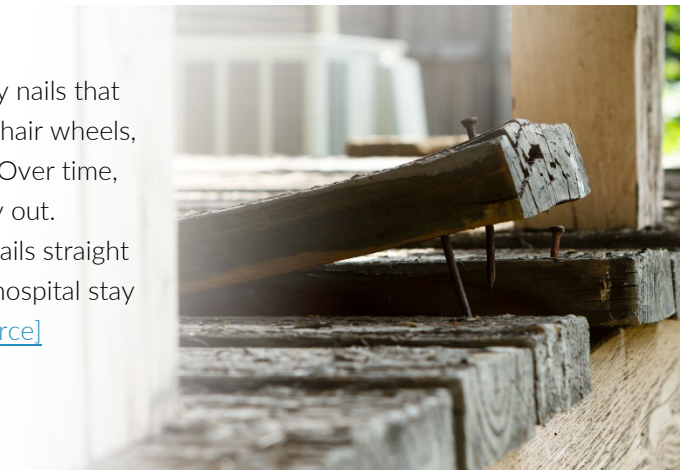
Contrary to what you might think, wood is slick when wet. Whether its snow or rain, wood can become a virtual slip 'n slide when wet. Imagine trying to maneuver a wheelchair down a slippery ramp. One of the most frequently reported injuries come from slips, trips, and falls. In fact, they account for approximately 25% of reported claims per year according to OSHA. [\[source\]](#) Maybe it's time to branch out and try the superior aluminum ramp system from EZ-ACCESS; the TITAN™ Code Compliant Modular Access System. It has permanent, extruded tread that not only reinforces the strength of the structure but also provides a slip-resistant surface.



Something to Pine Over

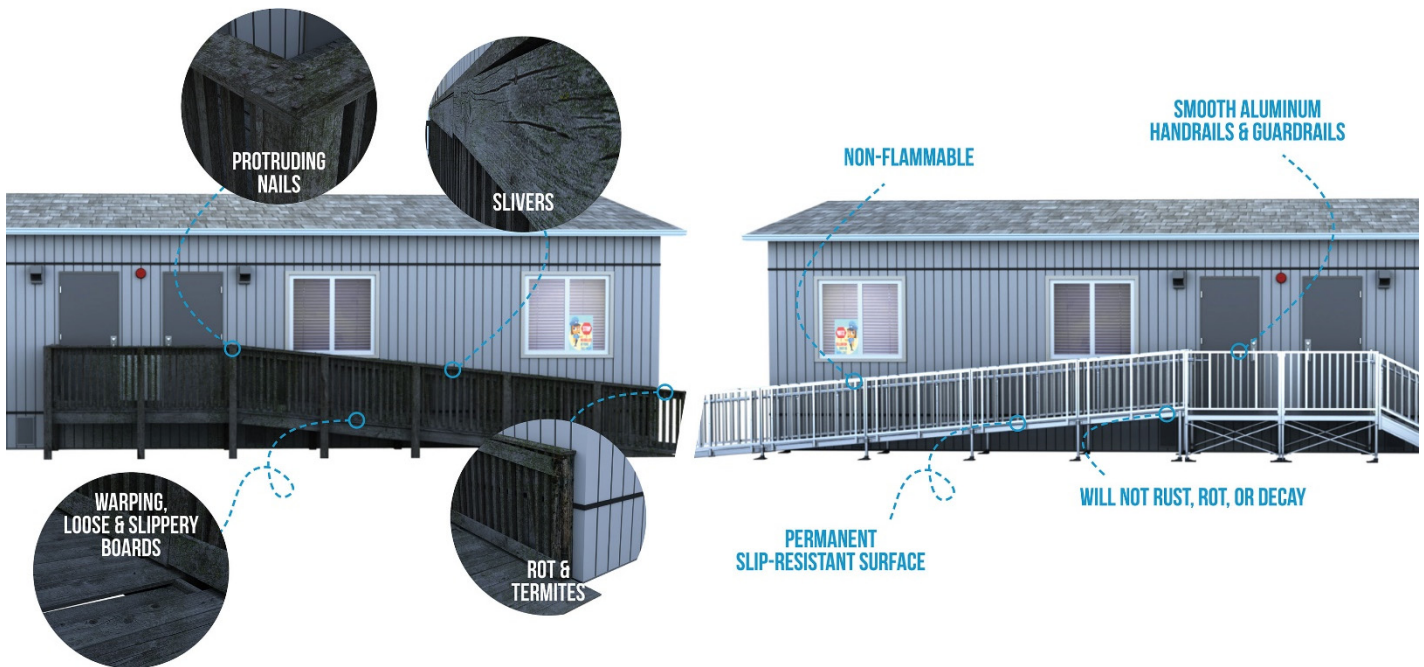
If it's not slipping you're worried about, it's probably those pesky nails that seem to poke out over time. They can snag clothes, ruin wheelchair wheels, and even rust, causing a whole list of problems to lumber over. Over time, nails can lose their grip on the wood and start to work their way out. Anything from humidity to the ground settling can send those nails straight out of the wood and right into your hand or foot. The average hospital stay for treating tetanus from rusty nails is well over \$100,000. [\[source\]](#)

Can you guess what kind of ramp won't leave you with nails protruding everywhere? The TITAN is easy to install and doesn't leave you with nails or edges that can snag and grab.



Safety is the Root of the Issue

Enough beating around the bush, let's talk about one of the biggest safety issues with wood ramps, which is warping. It seems like in no time at all, the wood from the ramp is suddenly misshapen and twisted. Unfortunately, there is little you can do to prevent this from happening. Wood warp across the grain can be from a low of 6 percent to a high of around 12 percent. This means that a flat 6" wide board could move up to 3/4". [\[source\]](#) You have gone from a nice wood ramp to a tripping hazard that is nearly impossible to push a wheelchair over. The way the wood is cut, humidity, ground movement, and poor workmanship can all have an impact on the way the wood bends. Aluminum ramps won't shift and bend with time. They are made of high-quality aluminum that is naturally corrosion-resistant and is immediately ready for years of maintenance-free use.



Another point of strife regarding wood ramps is their potential to fall out of alignment with the ADA's guideline concerning a maximum slope of 1:12. Due to warping and shifting boards, the slope of a wood ramp could become very inconsistent and potentially exceed 1:12. Conversely, aluminum ramps can be set at a continuous 4.8 degree angle, allowing the ramp to maintain the 1:12 slope throughout its lifecycle. [\[source\]](#)





IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO SPRUCE UP YOUR SCHOOL'S ACCESSIBILITY?

WHETHER ITS MAINTENANCE, COST, OR SAFETY, THERE ARE PLENTY OF REASONS WHY AN EZ-ACCESS ALUMINUM RAMP SYSTEM IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOUR SCHOOL.

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[SEND VIA EMAIL](#)

GIVE US A CALL

877-797-9508

EZ-ACCESS is committed to producing quality products that provide ease of access for all individuals. A school's out-of-date wood ramp will hinder a student's abilities to easily and safely access their classrooms. Not to mention the financial strain the dated wood ramps pose to a school's budget. The TITAN Modular Access System is the solution to all of the maintenance, cost, and safety issues that wood ramps have imposed.