

ADA Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal

What is Readily Achievable Barrier Removal?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public accommodations (businesses and non-profit organizations) to provide goods and services to people with disabilities on an equal basis with the rest of the public.

Businesses and non-profit organizations that serve the public are to remove architectural barriers when it is “readily achievable” to do so; in other words, when barrier removal is “easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.”

The decision of what is readily achievable is made considering the size, type, and overall finances of the public accommodation and the nature and cost of the access improvements needed. Barrier removal that is difficult now may be readily achievable in the future as finances change.

This checklist is intended to assist public accommodations as the first step in a planning process for readily achievable barrier removal.

Public accommodations’ ADA obligations for barrier removal can be found in the Department of Justice’s ADA Title III regulations 28 CFR Part 36.304.

Priorities for Barrier Removal

The ADA Title III regulations recommend four priorities for barrier removal. The purpose of these priorities is to facilitate business planning. The priorities are not mandatory.

How to Use this Checklist

Get Organized - One person can conduct a survey, but it’s easier with two people. One person can take measurements and the other person can fill out the checklist and take photos.

Obtain Floor Plans - A floor plan or sketch helps the surveyors get oriented and know how many elements, such as drinking fountains and entrances, there are and where they are. If plans are not available, sketch the layout of interior and exterior spaces.

Make Copies of the Checklist -

Determine how many copies of each section of the checklist you need. For example, most facilities have more than one toilet room.

Gather Tools -

- Checklist
- Clipboard makes it easier to write on the checklist
- Tape measure
- Electronic or carpenter’s level - 24 inches
- Door pressure gauge or fish scale for measuring door-opening force
- Digital camera
- Bag to hold these items