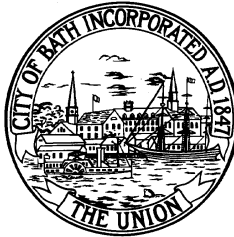


**CITY OF BATH, MAINE**

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**BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY  
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

There are a host of regulations involving requirements for making buildings and services accessible to people with disabilities. This will hopefully help you understand the various levels of regulation. There are three levels of regulation involving accessibility requirements, local, State, and Federal.

**Local** Municipalities may or may not have a local building code. If they do, it likely contains requirements that certain buildings be built to specifications that make them accessible to people with disabilities. Typically facilities populated with people with disabilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, etc. are required by a building code to be accessible. Check with the codes enforcement officer in the town in which you're building to find out the local requirements for your project.

**State** Maine law requires new public buildings and portions of certain types of multi-family residential buildings (public or private) to be accessible. Certain renovations can also trigger accessibility requirements. The triggering mechanisms involve the number of dwelling units, whether a building has an elevator, dollar values, funding mechanisms, and other features. For information on Maine requirements, contact the State Department of Human Services at 624-5300 or the State Fire Marshal's Office at 624-8744.

**Federal** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is federal civil rights legislation guaranteeing equal access to buildings, goods, and services to people with disabilities. New buildings are required to meet accessibility standards, and existing buildings must meet requirements based on the physical characteristics of the building, the occupancy, and the cost of becoming accessible. For ADA information, call the ADA InfoCenter at 874-6535 or the State Fire Marshal's Office at 624-8744.