



## Open Air Dining Disability Access Considerations

With many restaurants being allowed to open with limited capacity, many cities are allowing restaurants to use the parking spaces and sidewalks in front of their restaurants for open air dining. In doing so, it is important that the requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act law be kept in mind.

Some important items to note:

- Where accessible parking spaces exist, they must be maintained available for use of individuals with disabilities.
- If an individual is required to step up or down a curb to reach the dining area, at a minimum, a temporary, secure ramp should be provided for a wheelchair user or other to reach the dining area and the interior of the restaurant. This ramp should be maintained in place while the restaurant is open. The ramp should have a running slope of not more than 1:12, and a cross slope of not more than 1:48. Handrails are not required if the ramp is crossing a curb, but there should be edge protection to prevent a wheelchair from slipping off the ramp. The clear width of the ramp should be 48" minimum.
- Where dining areas occur, at least 5% of each type of seating must be provided for accessible use. This includes 5% inside the restaurant; as well as; 5% outside the restaurant, but no less than one for each area. This seating should also be dispersed. The height of the dining surface of the table should be between 28"-34" high above the finish floor or ground. Clear space under the table should be 27" high minimum and extend a minimum of 19" from the face of the table.
- Ensure that an accessible route of 36" wide minimum is maintained throughout the public areas of the restaurant, both inside and out. Some locations may require 44" wide minimum if the aisle is accessed from two sides. And, if it is part of the sidewalk in front of the restaurant, it must be 48" wide minimum.

- Where an accessible route occurs from the public sidewalk, it too must be maintained available for use at all times.
- If the sidewalk in front of the restaurant is used by other tenant businesses, access must be maintained for all tenant spaces. The seating areas should not be closed off preventing access to other tenants.

The above is not intended to include all requirements. For additional information please contact an architect or CASp for requirements specific to your business.