



Information Sheet 12
**INTERNAL STAIRS, RAMPS
AND HANDRAILS**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF
DEVON**

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Stairs and ramps should be designed for ease of use and safety for all building users. Guidance is broadly similar to that for external steps and ramps.

Internal stairs:

- Follow guidance in 'External Steps' and Figure 15; except that hazard warnings are not required at the top and bottom landings (although tactile warnings may be incorporated into handrails and colour contrast should be provided). Different frictional characteristics of surfaces can be a trip hazard and should be avoided.
- Flights should contain not more than 12 risers between landings or, in exceptional circumstances, up to 16 risers in small buildings where space is very restricted.
- The rise of steps should be between 150 – 170mm, except in existing buildings with space constraints, where a higher rise may be acceptable.
- Spiral stairs and tapered treads are not recommended.
- Open risers should not be used; avoid single steps.

Ramps:

- Follow guidance in 'External Ramps and Figures 13 & 14.
- Where the change in level is more than 300mm, two or more clearly signposted steps should be provided in addition to the ramp; where the change in level is not more than 300mm, a ramp should be provided instead of a single step.

Handrails:

- Follow guidance in 'Handrails'.
- The height of handrails should be 900 – 1000mm above the pitch line and 900 – 1100mm at landings.

