



EMBANKMENT SLIDES

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT
SLIDE FOR YOUR PROJECT



HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT SLIDE FOR YOUR PROJECT



1



DETERMINE ADA ACCESS

At least one of your Ground Level slides must be on an accessible route to satisfy the ADA requirement for one of each type. For the slide exit area, this would be wheelchair accessible resilient playground surfacing. ADA access to the top of the slide is not required to be resilient surfacing. While an ADA transfer platform is not required either at the top or bottom of the slide, installing one would greatly facilitate a child leaving their wheelchair and using the slide.

Another consideration is if the adjacent slope, to the slide, will be used as an Accessible Route. This slope does not clearly fall into the category of either ground level or elevated accessible route, but is generally considered a ground-level accessible route. As such, it must be 60" wide, but may narrow to 36" around features. Grass, logs, steps and handholds, when placed on an adjacent slope, are all generally considered ground level play. They can be used on the adjacent slope without requiring impact attenuating surfacing or use zones. Step forms, hop rocks or half rubber balls are generally considered to require use-zones and impact attenuating surfacing. Since there is some ambiguity around ASTM and ADA standards on the slope itself, it may be worth consulting a local expert in these fields.

[Click here for more ADA information on our website.](#)

2

CHOOSE HEIGHT & WIDTH

HEIGHT

Slide height should be straight forward, except you may want a slide 12" taller than your hill, for ADA access. Your hill will need to be at or near 30°.

WIDTH

- For 2-5 years old, use single width or slides 4' or less
- For 5-12, there are a variety of width options. The wide slides may be divided for single users.
- For 3-12, 5' and 6' divided slides may be used, in addition to single wide slides.

[Click here for more Height & Width information on our website.](#)

3

CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

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➤ CHOOSE THE SLIDE TEXTURE

This only effects the side rail portion of the slide. Single wide slides may have Smooth, Bark or Rock texture. Wider slides are available with smooth sides.

➤ CHOOSE FROM FOUR STANDARD CONCRETE COLORS

Custom colors are available. Note that the slide beds are polished, and the sides/entrance platform are lightly etched, which effects standard concrete pigment colors.

➤ CHOOSE FROM SIX STANDARD SIT-DOWN BAR COLORS

➤ CHOOSE A WINGED SLIDE if you are using natural landscaping around the slide. This insures that your 21” clear area adjacent to the slide remains free of obstructions. Wings may be smooth or rock texture.

[Click here to learn more about options on our website.](#)

4

SIMPLE SET BASE, OR SITE POURED FOOTINGS

The simple set base in nearly foolproof to install. Set on compacted rock base, at the proper elevation. That’s it. In some cases, additional concrete footing may be necessary, such as for particularly unstable soil.

If site poured footings are used, they will need to be designed for the soil conditions found at the site, and may need to be engineered. Site poured footings will be needed at the base of the slide, and possibly at the top of the slide. The slope itself can be compacted base rock or concrete. Site poured footings may be preferred on very tall slides, or on slopes which can not be excavated to accept the simple set base.

[Click here to learn more about Simple Set Base our website.](#)

5

HILL ACCESSORIES

Is there a planned path between the top and bottom of the slide? This should be close enough for the kids to use, but not in the 21” Clear Area adjacent to the slide. Are there other play opportunities for children as they navigate between the upper and lower parts of the hill?

[Click here to learn more about Hill Accessories our website.](#)