

# STEEL vs. ALUMINUM

There are many important factors to consider when choosing the right ramp system for you. The PATHWAY® 3G Modular Access System provides complete home accessibility to fit your needs and is made of high strength aluminum, offering advantages that other ramps can't match. Aluminum ramps can overcome many of the issues you may experience with steel ramps.

You will want to be mindful of elements such as where you live, how much maintenance you are willing to do, and the aesthetics of your home. Some key points to consider when comparing steel and aluminum ramps are:

**X** Steel

**✓** Aluminum

## Maintenance:

- Steel ramps can corrode if not properly rust-proofed and maintained.
- They require regular repair, refinishing, and cleaning in order to maintain their appearance and not deteriorate. If you're not in the position to do this sort of maintenance, you will need to hire someone to take care of it.

## Limitations:

- Safety becomes an issue when rust starts to take place, compromising the structure of the ramp. Factory-applied paint may slow the rusting process, but any scratch or nick will expose the metal to the elements and the rusting process will begin.
- In many areas of the country near the coast or where humidity is high, rusting is accelerated.
- In areas where snow is a factor, the salt used on streets and sidewalks will attack steel products.
- Can become very slippery in wet weather conditions. Must apply supplemental gripping surface such as textured powder coating to prevent slips.
- Expected life span is lower, especially if rust and corrosion sets in. This usually entails purchasing a whole new ramp system.
- Steel ramps have a lower weight capacity per pound of material.

## Advantages:

- Aluminum ramps will not rust or deteriorate in the outdoor elements.
- A special metallic blend protects the ramp system from the elements.
- Optional powder coating provides additional protection and offers the ability for the ramp to match the aesthetics of your home.
- Can be installed during any season and will not be compromised by weather conditions.
- Safe, durable, dependable, and long-lasting solution.
- Can be easily modified, expanded, or reconfigured as your needs change. The ramp system can be transported in the event of a house relocation.
- Solid surface aluminum ramps have an extruded tread for great traction; expanded metal aluminum ramps and platforms have diamond shaped openings to allow the pass through of small debris and offer superior traction; and solid surface aluminum platforms have an extruded, knurled surface for multidirectional traction.

## Maintenance:

- Low maintenance, simply needing an occasional sweep or spray washing for cleanliness.



**EZ-ACCESS®**