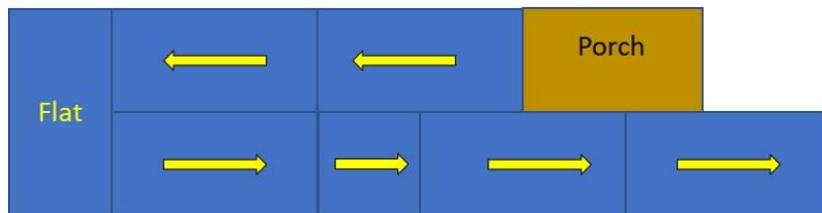


Building Basics

There are a few things to be considered when building switchback (or U-turn ramps) to make sure everything fits and material is used efficiently. The use of 48 ½" wide modules also require a change to the way many of us were taught using 48" wide modules. As discussed at the conference, some TRP teams build 5'x8' or 5'x10' modules for the U-turn in order to meet local regulations and/or to align with the ADA guideline of a 5' flat area in the direction of travel on the ramp. Since most teams use a standard 48 ½"x8' module, this article will focus on that option.

Switchback Ramp Design

Switchback ramps are frequently needed to provide the necessary length in tight spaces and/or deal with sloping ground.



A standard module can be used for the flat, but will need some additional length to provide room for uprights down the center of the "U" and if the sloping modules are actually 48 ½" wide we have to accommodate that additional width. This is easily done by adding 48 ½" long 2x6 pieces on each end of the flat module which are shifted up to match the thickness of the plywood as shown below:

2"x6"x48-½" installed ¾" above module on both ends to match plywood thickness

