



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The Borough follows **ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) & PROWAG (Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines)** with respect to sidewalk maintenance. Any future updates to either standard will be incorporated.

Guidelines include (but are not limited to):

- **Joints** shall not be more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide.

- **Changes in level:**

a. Between sidewalk slabs $\frac{1}{4}$ inch – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch

Grinding is permitted, provided the resulting bevel has a slope no steeper than 1:2 (50%). Grinding is appropriate for trip hazards up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ", ensuring the surface remains stable, firm, and slip resistant after the repair.

b. Between sidewalk slabs greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch,

The sidewalk segment must be replaced *or* transitioned with an ADA compliant ramp.

- **Cracks:**

a. Vertical change between $\frac{1}{4}$ inch – $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch

A trip hazard exists and may be beveled via grinding.

b. Vertical change greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Cracks or gaps that result in loose, crumbling, or uneven surfaces, or unstable surfaces are hazardous and must be replaced.

- **Obstructions:**

Utility poles, trees, etc. should not reduce the required clear width of a sidewalk (i.e., 48 inches wide).

If root grinding is proposed as part of repair, the Borough tree expert must inspect and approve said grinding prior.



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REPAIR METHODS PERMITTED

Grinding - Suitable for vertical changes between $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The beveled slope must not exceed 1:2, and the surface must remain stable, firm, and slip resistant after the repair.

Resetting (Concrete leveling) - Foam injection or adding suitable material under the slab to lift sunken slabs for a level finish.

Patching/Filling - For cracks up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, flexible concrete caulk or similar material to seal gaps and prevent further deterioration, provided the surface remains stable and even.

Replacement - Required when cracks exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in width/depth, cause vertical changes over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or result in an unstable surface that cannot be repaired through grinding.

Tree Accommodations

- A crescent shaped sidewalk may be used to accommodate any trees which are desired to remain, provided the remaining sidewalk remains 48" connected to surrounding slabs.
- Tree roots may be ground with approval by the Borough Tree Expert.