



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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The Town of Cobourg is working to create more accessibility in the Town by highlighting some of the key features of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). There are five (5) standards under the AODA and this information will focus on the Built Environment Standard.

The Built Environment Standard under the AODA outlines requirements for public spaces and coincide with the requirements in the Ontario Building Code.

When creating spaces in your business front, implement barrier-free design principles.

Barrier-free means design for those with physical or other disabilities by providing alternative means of access. For example, if steps are required to enter a building, there should be an alternative to enter through ramps or elevators for those with mobility problems. It is sometimes called universal design.

Barrier-free design requirements apply to all buildings that are not exempt, and include any exterior aspects to the property, such as parking lots and sidewalks.

Access to the building from the exterior and any pathways or movement that is required in the interior of the building shall be a barrier-free path of travel.

Barrier-Free Entrances are required for every new building or renovated building in Ontario, with some exceptions.

The Ontario Building Code outlines acceptable door construction including minimum width, what is required for the door opening (such as the push buttons), and that there must be a barrier-free path of travel through the doorway and into the building.

Some best practices for a barrier-free entrance include:

- Create an accessible route into the doorway.
- Ensure that people of all abilities are able to access your storefront.
- Have signage at appropriate levels – remember: eye level may be different for people.
- Have one entrance for everyone.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact our Accessibility Coordinator:

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