

BOROUGH OF SWARTHMORE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF
SIDEWALK AND CURB

Construction Specifications

1. All new and replacement sidewalks and curbs (with the exception noted in 7 below) shall be of concrete which conforms to the PennDOT specifications for Class A concrete.
2. Sidewalks in general shall be 4 feet wide, except that in areas of existing sidewalk any new or replacement sidewalk must be laid to line up with the blocks or sections on both ends to which they abut or connect.
3. Sidewalks shall be 4" thick, except at driveways, which shall be 6" thick. Driveway crossings shall be reinforced with welded wire mesh. Base shall be compacted by rolling or tamping to a firm, even surface.
4. Sidewalks shall be constructed in separate slabs, 24 feet in length, except for closures. Slabs shall be separated by transverse expansion joints, 1/4" in thickness for the full depth of the concrete. Expansion joints shall also be placed where any part of the sidewalk abuts a curb, building, wall, or other permanent structure. Slabs between expansion joints shall be divided into blocks 4 feet in length by scoring transversely. Where slabs are more than 4 feet in width, they shall be scored longitudinally in the center. Sidewalks shall be finished to a plane surface and given a broomed or burlap surface.
5. No sidewalk shall be removed without the approval of Borough Council.
6. Any repairs made to existing wheelchair access curb cuts between the street and sidewalk must comply with Construction Standard RC-67 as set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
7. All new or replacement curbing shall be 6" on the top face, 8" on the base, and 18" deep. The street face shall slope 2" from the top of the curb to the bottom and the back shall be vertical. Granite curbing shall be permitted provided that specifications are met.
8. Generally, a grass planting strip must be maintained between the curb and sidewalk. The only exception shall be in those areas where such a planting strip does not exist at the time of adoption of these regulations.
9. Materials other than those permitted by these regulations may be used in the construction of new or full replacement sidewalks with the approval of Borough Council on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Maintenance Specifications

1. Sidewalks shall be even and free of any misalignment measuring 1/2" or more. "Ramping" between misaligned slabs shall be permitted only if the height from the bottom to the top of the ramp does not exceed 1". Ramp slope must meet ADA specifications. "Ramping" may not be used at places other than between slabs and in no case may be used on slate.
2. Sidewalk slabs which are broken, dished, missing, severely cracked or disintegrated shall be replaced. Patching will be permitted only if needed repairs are minor and in no case may be used on slate. The requirement to replace rather than repair an existing section of sidewalk shall be made at the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer.
3. Sidewalks which have become excessively slippery shall be replaced.
4. If a residential property has a sidewalk composed entirely of a material not permitted by these regulations, repairs may be made with the same material, provided that the repairs comprise whole sections of replacement materials.

Adopted by Borough Council
April 11, 1994