



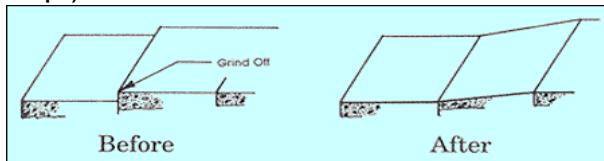
# County of Ventura Sidewalk Repair Standards

The Ventura County Public Works Agency, Department of Transportation, is working with property owners in unincorporated Ventura County to keep sidewalks safe for the public. In compliance with local and state codes, sidewalks must remain in a condition that is not dangerous to persons using the sidewalk and will not interfere with the public convenience in the use of the sidewalk. Further, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) contains guidelines for sidewalks that have been incorporated within the County's sidewalk standards.

In October 2014 and August 2015 the County Board of Supervisors provided direction for sidewalk repair standards to be followed within the unincorporated areas of the County of Ventura. That direction is incorporated within this document.

## Vertical displacement of Sidewalk

- 0" to 1/2": The displacement may remain; no repairs are required.
- 1/2" to 1": The displacement must be removed, either by ramping one side or by replacing one of the slabs. Ramping may be accomplished by grinding or by lateral sawcutting, with a 12:1 ratio. (Hence, grinding off a 1" step would create a 12" wide ramp.)



In this example, involving grinding, the displacement must be 1" or less.

If the cause of the heaving of the sidewalk is ongoing, such as due to an existing tree, grinding is only a temporary repair. A long-term repair can only be completed if the roots beneath the slab are trimmed or removed to halt the heaving. If present, roots beneath the slab shall be removed to a minimum depth of 12".

- Greater than 1": The displacement must be eliminated by sidewalk replacement; grinding is not allowed, because of decreased slab thickness and strength. If present, roots beneath the slab shall be removed to a minimum depth of 12".

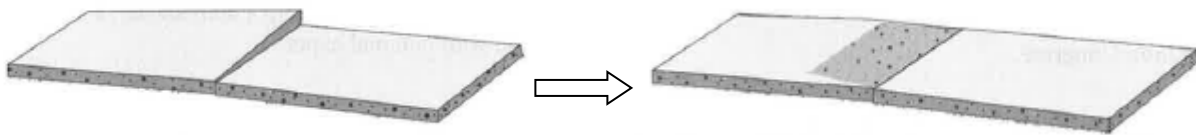
## Horizontal Displacement and Warping of Sidewalk

- Gaps or cracks in the sidewalk less than 1/2" wide need no repairs. Where there are gaps or cracks greater than 1/2" wide, the slab must be replaced.
- If the sidewalk has been uplifted or has settled so that it becomes sloped or warped, the following guidance applies (based on ADA standards):
  - Longitudinal slope shall not exceed 8.3% (12:1 ratio).
  - The cross slope may not exceed 2% (1/4" per foot).

- The rate of change of grade shall not exceed 13%, whether at a dip or a ridge. That is, the total difference of the slopes on each side shall not be more than 13%.
- Where there is compound warping, judgment must be exercised regarding safety for pedestrians and wheelchairs. In such cases, County staff shall decide if replacement is required.

#### Angled displacement of Sidewalk

- Where there is an uneven displacement so that the height of displacement varies across the width of the sidewalk, the guidance given above still applies. Where the displacement is over 1/2", but is not more than 1", it may be ground or replaced. If part of the displacement is greater than 1", but is not more than one fourth of the sidewalk width, it may also be ground, provided that at least 32" of width will have 1/2" or less of displacement.
- In cases with angled displacement and warping, County staff shall make the final decision whether grinding or replacement is required.



Example: Grinding of a sidewalk with angled displacement.

#### Sidewalk Construction Standards:

- The slab shall be a minimum of 4" thick, made of concrete class 470-C-2000 (2000 psi) or stronger. At driveways, the sidewalk shall be 6" thick.
- The sidewalk width shall match the existing sidewalk in the area, with score marks no further than 5 feet apart. The surface finish shall match the existing sidewalk in the area. If there is no local sidewalk to match, the width shall be 5 feet and the surface shall receive a light broom finish.
- Sidewalk workmanship shall comply with Section 303-5 of the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (SSPWC or Green Book), except as modified here.
- Reinforcing steel is not required in sidewalks.
- Base aggregate or sand is not required beneath sidewalks, but the native earth must be compacted to 95% relative density before the concrete is placed.

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Director, Transportation Dept.

9/11/2015

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Date