

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**SERVICE USERS ADVICE NOTE No10**

**GALVANISED RAILS**

Galvanised rails are considered when:

* A user is able to walk but is unsafe on steps
* Where a user needs to be independent in gaining access to/egress from their property.
* Where a user has sufficient grip to use a rail.
* Where more than one step is involved and therefore a grab rail is insufficient.





Rails both sides may be necessary in some circumstances

Eg when a person with weakness on one side needs support during both entry and exit of the property.

**Position**

* Identify the access location.
* Identify the most appropriate side for the rail.
* Rails should be continuous and not broken
* Rails of any length should have uprights every metre.

**Location of Fixings**

* Rails are usually fixed into the wall and/or the ground
* Both ends must be secure.
* Wall fixings – the brick work, plaster or pointing should be in a good enough condition to obtain a secure fixing for the flange.
* Ground fixings – should be concreted into the existing surface for stability.

**Measurements**

Galvanised rail measurements vary according to each individual’s circumstances and environment.

* The height should be to suit the user. As an approximate guide the rail should be level with wrist joint when standing with their arms by their side.
* Choose the internal diameter of the galvanised rail required to ensure a comfortable grip.
* The galvanised rail should extend horizontally beyond the bottom and top step(s) – if possible by 300mm
* If used in conjunction with an existing rail, the new rail should be the same height.
* Parallel rails should be sufficiently close to allow both hands to be used on the rails simultaneously.

This advice note is designed to assist service users/carers who are planning installation of galvanised rails. Additional information may be found at

Disabled Living Foundation,

380-384 Harrow Road,

London

W9 2HU

0845 130 9177 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon-Fri

email helpline@dlf.org.uk

Ricability

Unit G03

The Wenlock Business Centre

50 – 52 Wharf Road

London

N1 7EU

Telephone: 020 742 72460

Textphone: 020 7427 2469

Fax: 020 7427 2468

[www.ricability.org.uk](http://www.ricability.org.uk) [www.product-reviews.org.uk](http://www.product-reviews.org.uk)