



Skateparks by Rampage are unique skating environments custom designed and manufactured to suit the community's needs and it's skater's desires. Our skateparks can be found in municipalities, military bases, private organizations, and backyards throughout the country and around the world. Our skatepark equipment has been proven to stand the tests of both skaters and time.

## **MATERIALS FACT SHEET**

At Rampage, we regard every park as a personal accomplishment.

We are very proud of our engineering and the quality of our construction. Our project team approach is unique in the industry. Project teams are made up of designers, fabricators and assemblers who will follow a skatepark project from design through installation. All of our skateparks are installed by our in-house personnel, not subcontracted to general playground installation crews.



*Rampage has been designing, engineering, and constructing skatepark equipment since 1995. We design a full line of skatepark equipment that will withstand the tests of time and use.*

Rampage offers a twenty-year warranty on all equipment and structures. The useful life of our equipment will reach through generations of skaters. Our skatepark equipment has been proven to withstand the tests of time and use.

To learn more, please see the sections below...

## Materials

The selection of materials for the construction of skatepark equipment will determine the safety, durability and the maintenance requirements for your skatepark. The following information is intended to outline the benefits and liabilities of materials and methods for constructing skatepark equipment.

Traditionally, skatepark ramp builders and designers have had a home remodeler's mindset regarding the construction of skatepark equipment. Most ramp companies produce wood based ramps, some with modified skating surfaces of steel, masonite or Skatelite. Wood is easily milled and fabricated. However, these structures are by far not permanent park equipment. As wood playscapes built in the past ten years are being replaced with steel and plastic, skateparks are suffering a similar fate, Wood, especially plywood, will not last when exposed to weather and use.

Rampage equipment is constructed with an all steel frame, with a steel or Skatelite Pro skating surface. These structures are permanent playground equipment with a likeness to those timeless pipe and chain swing sets found throughout the country.

*There are three basic materials used to construct skatepark ramps. These are described below.*

## **Concrete**

Concrete technology is a very specific science. When constructing with concrete, factors such as subsoil drainage, suitability of subsoil, compaction of soil, slab substrate, steel reinforcement, form quality and the concrete and its finishing must be addressed.

All concrete is not equal. Each and every application must be engineered. Most ready-mix concrete companies will compile a "concrete mix design" to meet your specific needs. The basic elements of the design should include the following:

- cementitious factor
- cement lbs. per yard
- aggregate size and lbs. per yard
- polyheed, darex and other additives
- slump
- sand lbs. per yard
- water gallons per yard
- water/cement Ratio
- air content entrapped

Last but not least, the quality of the skating surface is in the hands of the mason and his trowel. Etched and broom finishes are not suitable skating surfaces. Concrete should be periodically inspected for cracking, spalling and surface damage.

*Concrete is a great material for skateparks, but these facts should be kept in mind.*

## **Steel**

Ramps and Park equipment constructed entirely of steel are relatively indestructible. Steel fabricated ramps can be moved around a site with the exception of larger welded in place structures, such as vertramps and halfpipes.

Sound abatement is necessary and will change the noise of skaters from a dropped metal garbage pail to the roll of a timpani drum. Steel thickness for a ramp surface should be 11 gauge [1/8"] when no substrate is present. The use of thinner steel will cause the starting transition to curl at ground contact resulting in a skating hazard.

Surface preparations, primers and coatings durable enough to withstand exterior and skating punishment are available. The color and texture of applied surfaces will help control heat and grab.

*Overall, steel ramp construction is great and will last through generations of skaters with a low maintenance requirement.*

## **Wood**

Wood framed ramps are by far the most common in the industry. Wood is relatively easy to mill and assemble. Like other products wood also has limitations with the type of lumber used and the methods of fabrication. All lumber used for exterior structures should be wolmanized or pressure treated preferably SYP with a .40 retention factor. Fasteners should be galvanized or stainless steel screws or nuts and bolts.

Ramp surfaces of plywood, treated or untreated, are problematic. Plywood is made of thin layers of wood glued together. When this laminate is bent, the concave aspect is compressed, jamming the outer layer - causing buckling and de-lamination and rendering it unsafe for use as a skating surface.

Many failing plywood ramp surfaces are resurfaced with steel or a phenolic fiber laminate. Masonite is not suitable for exterior use due to the water absorption properties of the product.

Fastening ramp surfaces to wood based structures is usually done with countersunk bugle head galvanized screws, also known as deck screws. These screws have a high twist and a narrow shank that can snap off at the head or work their way out exposing the screw head above the ramp surface. These conditions must be corrected immediately.

*Wood is adequate, but is by far not a permanent ramp structure.*

## **Rampage - Quality and Value**

Rampage will work closely with you to determine the best design and construction approach for your skatepark project. The materials to be used, size of the project, and skatepark features are all items we will consider when creating a project plan. Our extensive experience with construction techniques and materials will allow us to create a safe, high-quality skatepark that meets your unique needs, expectations, and budget. We offer a twenty-year warranty on all equipment and structures.



## **Contact Information**

We would like to hear from you. For information, inquiries, estimates, or consultation, please contact us using the following information:

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***Thank you for your interest in Rampage Skatepark Equipment.***