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Hiring a professional to complete your access audit by Steven Mifsud

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Access audits or a DDA survey are, designed to ensure that your building is up to code and give your company a strong perspective of what works and what doesn't in your building - when it comes to building access.

It's easy to see why they're important

There are three key reasons why access audits are important - it's critical to understand each of these to get a full perspective of the best way to proceed when considering what to do about your building. The most important thing to remember though is that professional support is one of the most critical things you can do to ensure that this works.

1) DDA surveys undertaken by professionals are complete and legally acceptable - DDA surveys that are completed by professionals cover everything, and often uncover issues that you might not have otherwise considered. It's important in these cases to understand that there's various levels of access audit and DDA survey - depending on what you need will make a massive difference to whether you need to complete a renovation or not.

2) DDA surveys are actually sometimes money and timesavers - it's important to understand that if you undertake a DDA survey that indicates there's work needed, that you actually look at the work that's required and ensure that it's done. But often when self-assessing whether there should be work done, businesses may overestimate and create more work for themselves, not less. Or they might hit on the right reason, but not know about an acceptable, low cost solution that could be used. All of these reasons can create issues for companies and businesses that could be avoided with the use of a professional.

3) DDA surveys completed by professionals are complete - it might sound like one of the oddest reasons to hire someone to do your DDA survey, but if you hire a professional to complete your DDA survey, it will actually be complete and finished. This is often a vital aspect of working with surveys of all kinds - if you do it yourself, it's possible you might miss something. It's also important to ensure that you know what you're doing with your site because it's important to look at what your site actually needs, versus what people expect you to need. For example, a building with front access with no ramp doesn't need to add another ramp at the back, unless that's the only access to the back of the building.

You can also use your access audit or DDA survey to decide if you need to address anything else, such as other health and safety issues that might be highlighted. DDA surveys are useful on many levels - most of which actually save money for businesses.

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A a DDA survey is designed to give businesses a clear picture of how to make their building

compatible with all kinds of people - and how to support disabilities on a consistent level.

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