

# Speed Hump vs. Speed Bump Dimensions

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What is the height & width of a speed bump needed to limit speed to 15 mph?

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To reduce vehicle speeds to **15 mph**, you need a **speed hump**, not a speed bump. The terms are often used interchangeably, but they refer to different types of traffic-calming devices with distinct dimensions and purposes. [↗](#)

A speed hump is the appropriate choice for a public roadway with a desired speed of 15 mph. It has a more gradual, rounded profile compared to a speed bump, allowing for a smoother, less jarring ride at the target speed. [↗](#)

## Speed Hump Dimensions for 15 mph 🚗👉

- **Height:** A typical speed hump is **3 to 4 inches** high. A height of 3.5 inches is often considered an all-purpose height for this speed range. [↗](#)
- **Width (Length):** The width, or more accurately, the length in the direction of travel, is typically **12 to 14 feet**. This gradual slope is what allows vehicles to travel over it smoothly at the designated speed. [↗](#)
- **Placement:** Speed humps are often used in residential areas, school zones, or other locations where a modest speed reduction is needed. [↗](#)

## Speed Bump vs. Speed Hump 🚧

The key difference lies in their design and function:

- **Speed Bumps** are much shorter and more abrupt. They are typically **3 to 6 inches** high and only **1 to 3 feet** long. Because of their sharp profile, they are designed to force vehicles to slow down significantly to **5-10 mph**. They are generally found in private areas like parking lots, driveways where low speeds are

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- **Speed Humps** are longer and have a more gentle slope. This design is less jarring to vehicles and is suitable for public roads where the goal is to slow traffic to a reasonable speed, not bring it to a near halt.

How many speed humps are needed on a roadway 1500 ft long to keep speeds under 15 mph

 Google Search [▼](#)

For a **1500-foot** roadway, you would need between **3 to 4 speed humps** to effectively keep vehicle speeds below 15 mph.

The key to keeping speeds consistently low on a long road is proper spacing. A single speed hump slows a car down for only a short distance, with speeds gradually increasing as the vehicle gets further away. [↗](#)

## Recommended Spacing

To maintain a low speed over a long distance, a series of speed humps is used. The recommended spacing for speed humps to keep speeds around 15-20 mph is typically between **350 and 500 feet**. [↗](#)

- Using a **500-foot spacing**, you would need **3 humps** ( $1500 \text{ ft} / 500 \text{ ft} = 3$ ).
- Using a **350-foot spacing**, you would need approximately **4 humps** ( $1500 \text{ ft} / 350 \text{ ft} \approx 4.3$ ). [Save this chat](#)

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This spacing ensures that drivers are constantly reminded to slow down as they approach the next hump, preventing them from accelerating to high speeds in between.

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