



THE HOMEOWNER GUIDES / RAILINGS

HOW TO PLAN DECK RAILINGS.

THE FRAME AROUND YOUR VIEW.



Railings keep people safe and set the look of a deck. They are also the part you see most from inside the house, so style and sight lines matter as much as strength.

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01 / THE WAY YOU LIVE

SAFETY FIRST. THEN THE VIEW.

A railing has a safety job first. After that, decide what you want to see and how it should feel.

■ SAFETY	Height, spacing and strength have to meet local requirements. We confirm them for your project.
■ THE VIEW	Thin balusters, cable or glass keep the view open from inside and out.
■ STYLE	Railings tie the deck to the house trim, windows and doors.

02 / OPTIONS

COMPARE RAILING TYPES.

Each system has its own look, care and cost. Ask to see a sample section if you can.

OPTION	WHAT IT IS	GOOD TO KNOW
WOOD	Posts, rails and balusters built on site.	Matches wood decks. Needs finishing over time.
METAL BALUSTERS	Black aluminum or steel balusters with wood or composite rails.	Clean, open look with low upkeep.
COMPOSITE OR VINYL	Pre-made systems that match many decking lines.	Consistent finish. Fewer custom shapes.
CABLE	Horizontal stainless cables between posts.	Very open view. Ask about local rules and tension.



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03 / THE SCOPE

WHAT AFFECTS THE SCOPE BESIDES LENGTH.

- **STAIRS AND ANGLES** Stair rails, corners and angled runs take more parts and labor.
- **POST MOUNTING** How posts attach to the deck framing affects strength and cost.
- **EXISTING RAILING** Removal and repairs to the deck edge may be needed.

SETTLE THE RESPONSIBILITIES EARLY.

Property lines, local requirements, permits, utility locating, approvals, removal and restoration should be defined in writing before work begins.

04 / BEFORE WE TALK

A FEW NOTES. A BETTER START.

- ☐ Photos of the deck and any stairs
- ☐ Photos of the current railing
- ☐ Approximate length of railing needed
- ☐ Your preferences for view, upkeep and budget
- ☐ Styles or photos you like

05 / YOUR NEXT STEP

LET'S BUILD IT.

Start with a phone call. Tell us where the property is and what you have in mind, and we will talk through the space, the options and the next steps.

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BASED IN

Janesville, Wisconsin

YOUR NOTES

This guide is for planning. The requirements and responsibilities for your property need to be confirmed separately.

Any sketch is a starting point, not a construction plan, and not to scale.

A phone call or callback request is not a booked appointment or an approved estimate.

Photos are concept imagery, not Ironwood projects.