

# Installing Metal Stair Balusters

## Tools Needed:

1. Reciprocating Saw or Jig Saw
2. Drill and Drill Bit
3. Tape Measure
4. Level
5. Chop Saw or Portable or fixed band Saw
6. Epoxy and Epoxy Gun

## Drilling Installation Holes:

1. Check the size and depth of existing holes if replacing wood balusters.
2. The bottom of the baluster is not tapered. It requires a hole with a depth of  $5/8"$  to  $3/4"$ . (where the baluster meets the stair or knee wall). The width of this hole depends on the size of the baluster's base:
  - a.  $1/2"$  square balusters require a  $3/4"$  hole.
  - b.  $9/16"$  square balusters need a  $7/8"$  hole.
  - c. Holes for round balusters can be cut to baluster width (ex.  $5/8"$  round baluster requires  $5/8"$  hole)
3. The tapered top of the baluster should be inserted into the underside of the handrail. Drill a hole in the handrail hole at least  $1-1/2"$  deep (from the bottom).
4. Test fit one baluster before drilling holes for the remaining balusters.



*Tip: It's important to consider safety regulations and local codes when altering baluster spacing.*

### Cutting Metal Balusters:

1. Measure the distance between the handrail and floor/tread.
2. Cut balusters 1-3/8" to 1-1/2" longer than the measured distance.
3. Use a metal chop saw, band saw, jigsaw, or grinder with a metal cutting blade.
4. Cut each baluster to size for its specific location.

### Testing and Installing Metal Balusters:

1. Slide a cut baluster into the handrail hole, aligning the bottom with the floor/tread hole.
2. Confirm adequate length in the handrail.
3. Slide on metal shoes, if using
4. Apply epoxy or polyurethane adhesive to the top and bottom holes.
5. Insert the baluster, ensuring the shoe is square to the handrail.
6. Allow adequate time for the adhesive to cure.