



FAQS — RAILING

Do I need special tools to install Deckorators railing?

Conventional tools for cutting, drilling, and nailing can be used with Deckorators railing. We recommend using a sharp carbide-tipped saw blade for cutting. For your safety, remember to wear protective clothing and safety glasses. Reference the Railing tab on the Installation Instructions page for railing instructions specific to each product line.

When do you need to install a graspable ADA-compliant secondary handrail on a residential deck?

A graspable ADA-compliant secondary handrail is an important component to consider when planning a deck with stairs. So, whether you're constructing a residential composite deck, lumber deck, or deck made from other decking material, you're typically required to install a graspable secondary handrail on one side of the deck's stair railing when there are four or more stair risers present.

Key Residential Stair Handrail Requirements (IRC - International Residential Code):

- Stairways having four or more risers or rising more than 30" in height (whichever is less) must have at least one grab rail.
- Handrails with a circular cross-section shall have an outside diameter of at least 1¼" and not greater than 2". If the handrail is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4" and not greater than 6¼" with a maximum cross-section dimension of 2¼".
- The grab rail must terminate at the newel post (top and bottom posts).
- Clear space between a handrail and a wall or other surface shall be a minimum of 1½".
- The height of the handrails must be installed 34"–38" from the upper surface of the handrail to the surface of the tread. Graspable secondary handrails are increasingly required by building/deck codes across the country.
- This attractive and highly versatile ADA-compliant handrail is ideal for meeting building codes when required. Made of heavy-gauge aluminum, the system includes five different radius elbows and several styles of returns to meet every possible installation. The railing is available in Textured Black, Textured White, and Weathered Brown to complement a home's exterior.

As always, check your local building code or ask your building inspector to make sure a secondary handrail is installed when required by law.

How do varying weather conditions affect Deckorators railing during installation?

Deckorators performs well in varying weather conditions. During installation, it will contract only slightly in cold weather. It expands in hot weather. We recommend that the material be on the job site 48 hours prior to installation to acclimate. Reference the Railing tab on the Installation Instructions page for spacing guidelines to ensure proper room for expansion and contraction.

Should I use special tools to install the cable railing?

We recommend new chrome-plated tools to protect the fitting from raw steel. Avoid installing with rusty tools, as they leave rust deposits on the surface of the fittings almost immediately. After installation, it's critical to clean the system completely with a stainless cleaner and a soft, clean rag to clear the surface from carbon deposits. For more information, refer to the Cable Railing Installation Instructions.

DECKORATORS FAQs — RAILING

How do I maintain my cable railing?

Use warm water and mild soap when cleaning. Avoid harsh solutions or abrasive cleaning materials, including but not limited to alkaline or acidic cleaners or solutions containing trisodium phosphate, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, fluorides, or similar compounds. Avoid using power-cleaning tools. Clean the fittings and cable after installation and every six months thereafter.

Do Deckorators railings meet building code requirements?

Deckorators Composite Railing, manufactured by UFP Ventures II, Inc., has been evaluated by an independent third-party evaluation report writer known as Intertek to be code-compliant under Intertek's CCRR-0171 and CCRR-0335 Evaluation Reports. See reports for complete details.

Are support blocks necessary when building a Deckorators railing?

Yes. Support blocks add strength to the railing system and provide support to prevent the railing from sagging. Spacing varies by railing system. Reference the Railing section on the Installation Instructions page for railing instructions specific to each product line. If possible, support blocks should be installed so they are aligned beneath a baluster for maximum reinforcement.

How do I maintain my aluminum railing?

We recommend checking and cleaning your aluminum railing once a year in normal environments. In more hazardous environments or if heavy soiling occurs, more regular cleaning may be required. To clean, wash the railing with a solution of warm water and mild detergent and rinse to remove all residues. The railing should be cleaned using a soft cloth or sponge. Test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area prior to applying it to the entire railing system to ensure that no color change or damage will occur.

How do I clean my composite deck or rail?

It's important to keep leaves and other materials that can stain off your deck year-round. Sweep off the deck boards and make sure to clean out the spaces between the boards. We recommend using soap or detergent mixed with water to remove any marks or dirt from your deck boards. Power washers can be used to clean deck boards; however, a fan-tip nozzle on the lowest setting.

Are any of your railings ADA-compliant?

Yes, our secondary handrail is ADA-compliant. This attractive and highly versatile secondary handrail is ideal for meeting building codes when required. Made of heavy-gauge aluminum and durable PVC, the system includes five different radius elbows and several styles of returns to meet every possible installation. The railing is available in Textured Black, Textured White, and Weathered Brown to complement a home's exterior. As always, check your local building code or ask your building inspector to make sure a secondary handrail is installed when required by law.

What glue works well with Deckorators railing?

Glue is a supplemental adhesive and should never replace a fastener, especially in structural applications. Heavy-duty construction adhesive can be used, but we recommend testing on a small portion of your deck before using the adhesive throughout your whole application.

Can Deckorators railing be used for structural applications?

No. While Deckorators railing does provide superior surface integrity and strength, it's not suitable for structural applications.

Will chlorine or other swimming pool chemicals damage Deckorators railing?

While no formal testing has been done, we have not seen or heard of any ill effects from standard pool chemicals.

What is powder-coating?

Powder-coating a dry finishing process using pigment and resin particles that melt into a durable finish. Ours is eco-friendly and super tough.