

Rail Section Installation Guide

The installation of prefabricated iron rail sections is easy and takes less time than building railings using 2x4s and individual balusters (pickets).

After installing the decking, cut the posts to the proper length to obtain the ideal rail height. Allow for the length necessary to notch and attach the posts to the outside perimeter of the deck. Notching posts is recommended for very hard Brazilian lumber like ipe' but composite lumber guidelines forbid the notching of their material. They're simply not sturdy enough to notch.

Cut the rail sections to the required length to fit between the posts by measuring equal distances from the center of each section. This will ensure that the balusters on each end will be the same distance from the support posts.

Choose your rail connectors:

Collar brackets are attractive and cover the ends of the rails nicely but extend beyond the top of the rail. Therefore, it may be easier to use a hidden fastener when you intend to fasten a wood top rail to your railing.

Hidden fasteners slip inside the rails, are sturdy and work nicely on many applications.



Choose your post transitions.

With or without post caps.

Using post caps, you will end your rail and wooden top handrail at the post. A hidden fastener works well on the top rail connection when using a wooden top handrail with either a hidden or collar connector on the bottom.

Without the wooden top handrail, utilizing a rail top accent piece or not, hidden and collar connectors both work well.

Without post caps, you will run your wooden top handrail over the top of the post. The wooden top cap can be screwed directly to the top of a plane iron panel (PIP) but you must utilize a wood top connector (WTC) to attach a wooden top handrail to a rail top accent piece. You cannot screw up through a rail top accent piece into the wooden top handrail. The WTC can also be used to connect a wooden top handrail to a PIP. The WTC is slipped over the top of the rail section and epoxy glue is used to fasten it in place. The wooden top handrail is fastened by running screws up through the pre-drilled holes in each side of the WTC.

Top Rail Accent pieces fit nicely over the top of a 32" high rail section. Either a hidden connector or a large collar connector can be used to fasten the bottom of this accent rail to the post.

Adjustable Connectors are available in both the hidden and collar styles. The vertical adjustable connectors are used for stair rails and the horizontal adjustable connectors are used for railings that meet the post in other than a 90 degree angle.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to brush all metal shavings from deck surface. DO NOT LEAVE THESE ON THE DECK. THEY WILL CAUSE BLACK MARKS.

Wood Top Connector End View

