

Tool Check List

- Marking Pencil
- Hammer

- Tape Measure
- Power Saw

- String Line
- Level
- Gloves

Where to Start

The first step is to decide which style handrail will best fill your needs and enhance the beauty of your deck. Please examine the following three styles carefully before making your decision. Variations of these styles are available – please see your sales representative for details.

Important Information

If you allowed for handrail at the beginning of your deck project, handrail posts will have been extended from the framework. If the handrail is added after the deck has been completed without handrail posts, the handrail posts will need to be attached to the outside of the deck with carriage bolts. **(Figure 1)**

Posts should be located at each end and corner. Posts should not span more than 8', which will require intermediate posts on most decks. Posts should extend 36" past the deck surface. **(Figure 1)**

If using a decorative post top you will need to add the length of the decorative area to your post height from the deck.

Example: Post 36" + Decorative area 6" = 42"

The 2x2's need to be spaced 5½" from the center of one 2x2 to the center of the following 2x2. This will leave a 4" space between the pickets required by most building codes. Attach the 2x2's to the 2x4 rail(s) with #8 casing nails (or screws). Use 4 nails (or screws) per 2x2, 2 at the bottom and 2 at the top in a staggered pattern. **(Figure 1)**

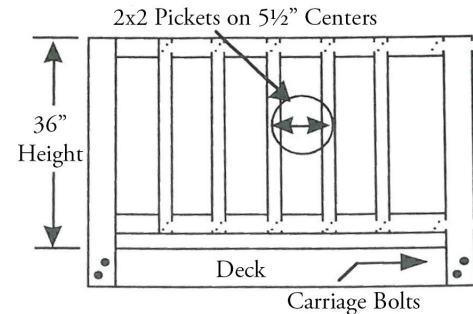


Figure 1

Upper level decks may require the 2x2 pickets to be screwed in rather than nailed

1. 36" - 2x2 Picket Handrail

This style of handrail is the easiest to add after the deck is completed because it requires no posts. The 2x2's are 42" long and picketed at both ends.

To start, place a 2x2 on each corner and end of the deck. Nail 2x2's through the deck skirting with #10 casing nails. The bottom of each 2x2 should be 6" below the deck surface.

Attach a 2x6 cedar rail to the 2x2's at the top of the pickets. **(Figure 2)** For best results, miter the ends of the 2x6 to a 45° degree angle.

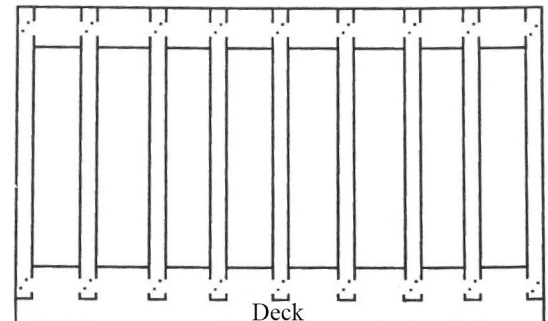


Figure 2

Nail the intermediate pickets up; remember the spacing should be approximately 5½" on center.

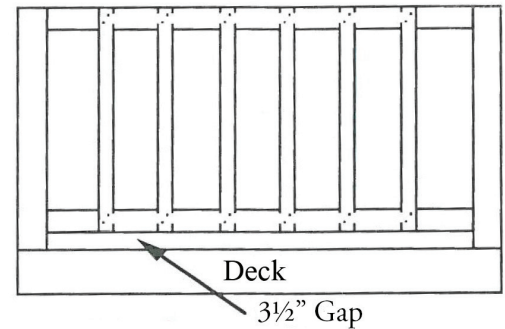
2. 36" Double Rail Picket Handrail

Install the top 2x4 cedar rail in between the posts so that the top of the rail is flush with the top of the posts. Use #16 casing nails. **(Figure 3)**

Install the bottom of the lower 2x4 cedar rail, in between posts, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " above the deck surface. **(Figure 3)**

2x2's are $32\frac{1}{2}$ " and picketed at both ends. Attach the 2x2's to the 2x4 rails with #8 casing nails. Use 4 nails per 2x2, 2 at the bottom and 2 at the top in a staggered pattern.

Figure 3



3. 36" Overlook Handrail

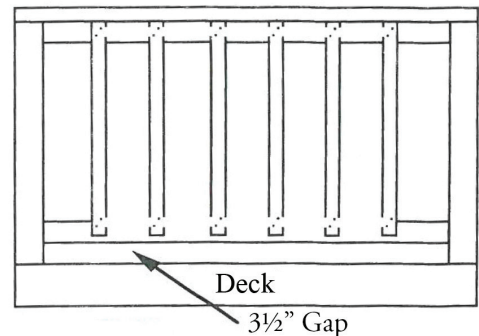
Install the top 2x4 cedar rail in between the posts so that the top of the rail is flush with the top of the posts. Use #16 casing nails. **(Figure 4)**

Install the bottom of the lower 2x4 cedar rail, in between the posts, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " above the deck surface. **(Figure 4)**

Install the top cedar cap using #10 casing nails.

2x2's are 30" and picketed at one end. Install the 2x2's so that the flat end will butt up against the cap and the picketed end will be nailed $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom for the lower 2x4 rail. **(Figure 4)**

Figure 4



5. 36" Overlook Handrail with Balusters

Using #16 casing nails, install the bottom 2x4 cedar rail in between the posts so that the bottom of the rail is $3\frac{1}{2}$ " above the deck surface. **(Figure 5)**

Next insert the balusters into the holes of the bottom rail. After all balusters are inserted, angle the top tail (Figure 6) and from one end of the section to the other, insert the balusters one by one as you lower the top rail.

The top 2x4 cedar rail should be between the posts so that the top of the rail is flush with the top of the posts. Use #16 casing nails to secure it in place.

Install the top cedar cap using #10 casing nails.

Figure 5

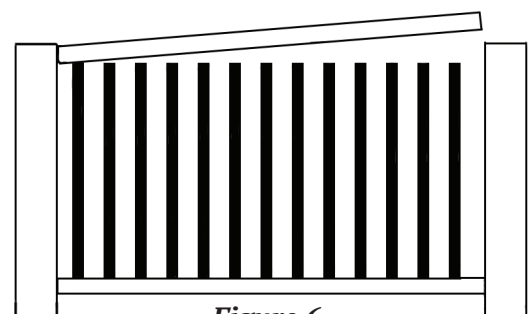
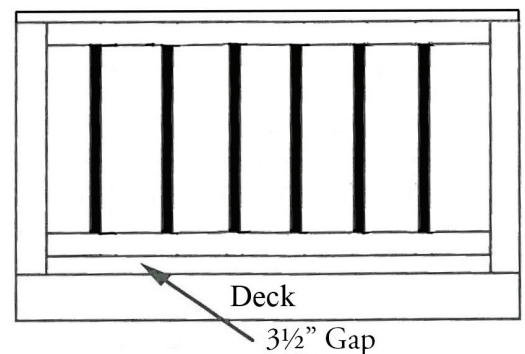


Figure 6