Exterior Deck Railing: The Basics



Minimum Height of Railing is 42" when a deck is above 6 feet high

Minimum Height of Railing is 36" when a deck is below 6 feet high

Stair Height of Railing is 34" to 42"

Handrail must be 2" away from a wall

Handrails must be graspable in a continuous fashion until top and bottom

Single family handrails are allowed to end with a newel post at bottom and turns

No gap opening can be larger than 4"

All Rail systems must comply to concentrated load tests

Railing is not required on stairs 3 rise or less

Railing is required on any height above 2 feet

2 handrails are required on widths greater than 43"

All ramps require 2 handrails

Wall mount handrails (brackets) must be max 47" apart and 12" max from ends

All guard Rails cannot have a climbable portion between 5.5" and 36"

All glass must be tempered and stamped and min 5mm