ProWood® Project Plan

SIDE RAIL SYSTEM

With ProWood® Professional Grade pressure-treated lumber, balusters and pre-cut posts, you can easily build a durable deck or porch that will enhance your yard.

Materials

- 4" x 4" x 4' ProWood® Pressure-Treated Pre-Cut Posts
- 2" x 4" x 8' ProWood® Pressure-Treated Lumber
- 2" x 6" x 8' ProWood® Pressure-Treated Lumber
- 2" x 2" x 36" ProWood® Pressure-Treated Balusters or 2" x 2" x 8' ProWood® Pressure-Treated Lumber
- Post Caps (Optional)
- One Box of 3" Galvanized Deck Screws
- Two 1/2" Carriage Bolts with Two Washers and One Nut per Bolt for Each Post

Basic Tools

- Miter Box for Angle Cuts
- 45-Degree Angle
- Circular or Table Saw
- Drill and Drill Bit
- Screwdriver (or Power Drill with Screwdriving Bit)
- Adjustable or Ratchet Wrench
- Tape Measure

If your wood project touches the ground, use pressure-treated lumber that is rated for ground contact to ensure long-term performance.
Position Posts

Caution: Always wear gloves, a dust mask and eye protection when sawing, sanding or machining wood.

- Determine the positions of the rail posts by measuring the runs of the project and placing the posts at the desired spacing.
- Keep in mind rails come in 8’ lengths.

Attach Posts

- Consult local building codes for structural post fastening requirements.
- Attach the first pre-cut rail post to deck perimeter joists 18” or closer to the end of the deck. Ideal distance from end of deck is 12”. Refer to the illustration below.
- Attach the remaining pre-cut rail posts to deck joists at the spacing you determined. Use two 1/2” carriage bolts with two washers and one nut per bolt for best results.

Attach Rails

- Attach 2” x 4” rails to the posts with 3” deck screws.

Cut and Install Balusters

- Cut balusters approximately 32” long using 2” x 2” x 8’ or 2” x 2” x 36” ProWood® pressure treated lumber. If balusters 36” or longer are used, extend baluster onto rim joist.
- Install balusters between rail posts, as illustrated, making sure a baluster is butted against both sides of each post for added stability and prevention of racking.
- Check local building codes to ensure proper spacing.

Form Corners

- Form corners by connecting the handrails either by butting the ends of the rails against each other or by cutting each rail at a 45-degree mitre. Refer to either of the two illustrations below.

Install Optional Post Caps

- Add an attractive finishing touch to the deck posts by installing optional post caps.