



5

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN BUYING RAILING

Your deck's perfect partner

Trex®



PVC (VINYL)

A simple look for a sharp, clean finish.

PROS

- + Basic color scheme complements many homes
- + More affordable than composite
- + Insect resistant
- + Splinter free
- + Soap-and-water cleaning

CONS

- Not as natural looking
- Tends to develop a chalky finish



TRADITIONAL COMPOSITE

Beautiful earth tones blend with durability to create subtle looks you'll love.

PROS

- + Offers a variety of colors
- + Won't warp, splinter or rot
- + No painting, no staining
- + Often protected by multi-year warranties

CONS

- May fade or stain over time
- Sometimes requires deck cleaner



WOOD

A traditionalist's dream.

PROS

- + A time-honored, natural aesthetic
- + Hand-crafted custom options also available

CONS

- Style options limited to the basics
- Will fade, warp, splinter, rot, split and twist
- Requires regular maintenance: staining, painting or sanding

2**LABOR**

How difficult is installation?

When taking a look at your project's budget, it's worth considering whether this is a DIY job or one best left to the pros. While wood railing needs to be cut and customized, alternative railing types often come in kits, designed to make installation quick and easy. Others offer à la carte components for a custom look without the cost of hiring a master carpenter.

3**MAINTENANCE**

How much upkeep are we talking?

The cost of maintaining and replacing some railing products can really add up. Over time, things like powerwashing, water seal, stain and weekend-filling chores mean a lot of money (and time) wasted. Consider a more durable option that's engineered to withstand the elements. While the initial cost of high-performance composite or aluminum railing may seem a little steep at first glance, they'll end up saving you in the long run.

4**EARTH FRIENDLINESS**

What impact does it have on the environment?

Enjoying the great outdoors is even better when you know you are doing your part to protect it, and there are many sustainable railing options out there. While aluminum is a 100% recyclable material, composite takes it a step further. Comprised of recycled materials such as sawdust and plastic packaging, composite offers the look of wood without contributing to deforestation.

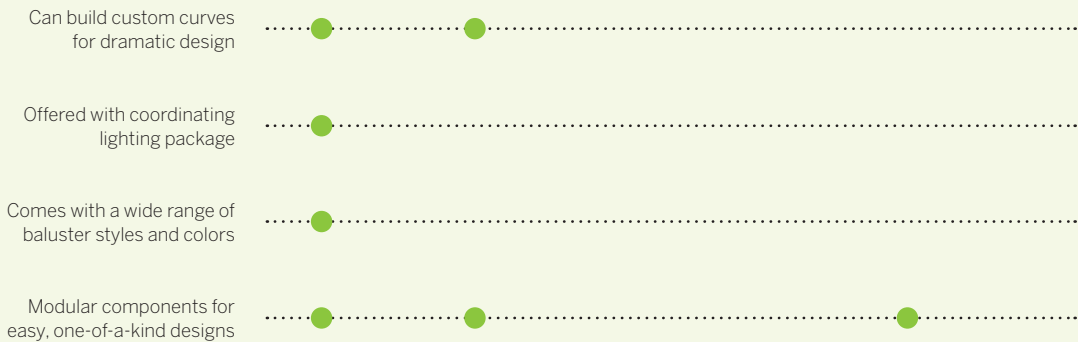
5**R.O.I.**

What's it worth when I move?

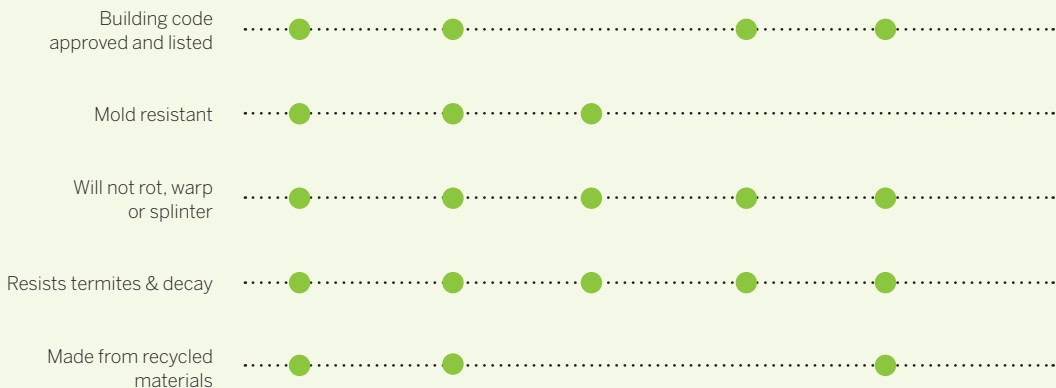
Adding quality railing to your deck enhances the overall look and feel of your outdoor space, adds value and joy to your home and ultimately makes it more attractive to potential homebuyers. So when you consider what you're ready to invest in this feature—the frame of your entire outdoor space—it's wise to consider your choices from a safety, aesthetic and long-term performance perspective.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE	ALUMINUM	SPECIALTY METALS	PVC (VINYL)	TRADITIONAL COMPOSITE	WOOD
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Beauty



Performance



Labor & Maintenance





HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE

The ultimate combination of beauty and performance that offers myriad design options to complement any house or deck.

PROS

- + Widest variety of colors, components and styles
- + Can be curved for dramatic results
- + Never needs sanding or refinishing
- + Often protected by multi-decade warranties
- + Cleans easily with soap and water or a pressure washer

CONS

- Higher initial cost than most other options



ALUMINUM

Sleek yet sturdy railing that knows how to get out of the way.

PROS

- + Powder coating retains color and resists corrosion
- + Possesses unparalleled strength with minimal geometry
- + Longer spans enable a less-impeded view
- + Fire, mold and mildew resistant
- + No splintering, cracking or warping
- + Soap-and-water cleaning

CONS

- A less natural aesthetic than wood or composite



SPECIALTY METALS

Cable, stainless steel, iron...so many options to reflect your vision.

PROS

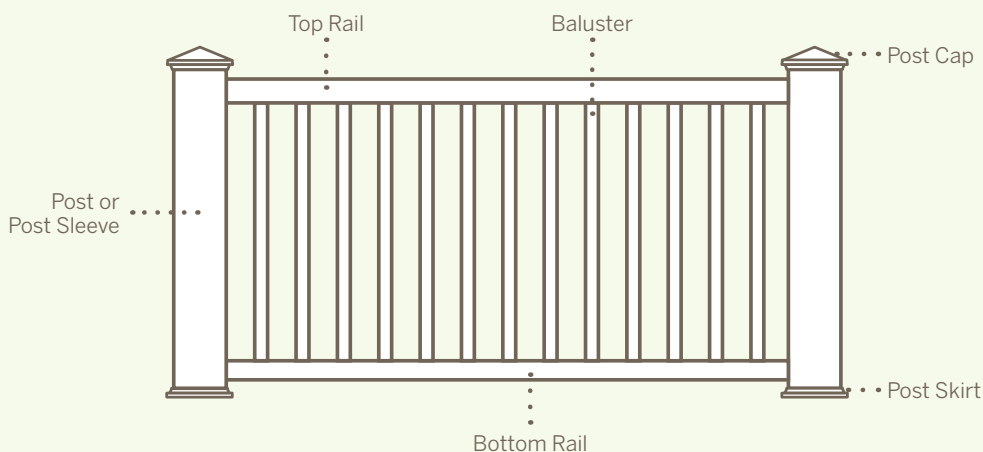
- + Durable materials are sturdy and strong
- + Unique styles allow for custom designs

CONS

- Custom builds can make it more expensive
- Often reserved for niche applications

Railing 101

At the heart of beautiful, winding rails along weekend-soaked outdoor spaces are...components—mix-and-match elements that can add up every which way. Consider this your guide to building that perfect deck partner—no matter which rail-baluster-cap-color combination comes together.



Post

Vertical support that divides the railing into sections.

Post Sleeve

Hollow sleeve that fits over a solid, pressure-treated post or post mount.

Top Rail

Horizontal rail attached to the top of the balusters and the posts—available in different profiles and sizes.

Bottom Rail

Horizontal rail attached to the bottom of the balusters and the posts.

Balusters

Vertical rungs—sometimes called spindles—that fill the space between two posts; come in a variety of shapes, finishes and colors for design flexibility.

Post Cap

Cap topping each post is the decorative finish that also withstands the weather. Available in a variety of shapes and colors.

Post Skirt

A finishing piece at the base of the post that covers any cuts where the decking and railing meet. Usually coordinates with the post cap.



IT'S A MATCH GAME

Railing doesn't fly solo. In fact, it's always an add-on to something else—some area with an aesthetic you've already mastered, whether it's your home, your deck or beyond. While this introduces a new level of installation and maintenance to your otherwise idyllic space (and some more than others), the glorious flipside comes with all the unique design possibilities railing inspires.

So use this cheat sheet to see what's out there...then winnow down the best choice for you, your look and your weekends.



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