

A black and white photograph of a stone retaining wall. The wall is constructed from large, irregular stones. In front of the wall, there are three horizontal wooden railings. Small, round, recessed lights are embedded in the wall behind each railing. In the background, there is a window with multiple panes and a potted plant. Two lanterns are placed on the top railing. The text "PLANNING AHEAD" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

PLANNING AHEAD

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Trex® Decking:

- » When installing any Trex decking product, especially Trex Transcend tropics, it is a good idea to mix and match all of the boards on the job site prior to installation to ensure an appealing mix of light and dark tones.
- » **DO NOT** combine Trex Select decking with other Trex decking products. Trex Select boards are thinner than Transcend and Enhance boards.

Railing (Including ADA Handrail):

- » First, pick the railing style you want.
- » Calculate your spanning based on the railing you chose.
- » Determine the number of balusters you will need based on the railing you choose. See pages 52, 68, 102, and 110.

NOTE: Trex Transcend and Select railings are made to be installed at maximum of 6' (1.83 m) or 8' (2.44 m) on center (depending upon type of railing you choose). Trex railings are not true 6' (72") or 8' (96") in length. Trex Reveal railings are made to be installed at maximum 6' or 8' CLEAR SPAN BETWEEN POSTS.

- » Determine post locations prior to installing any decking. In most cases, posts are usually installed before decking is installed.
- » Confirm with your local building official if ADA Handrail is required, and if so plan spanning for posts accordingly to allow for attachment of Trex ADA Handrail. ADA Handrail requires a span of 6' OC for posts.
- » Grill placement: A good recommendation to help prevent damage to your railing is to not have a grill too close to your railing. Allow for ample airspace between the back/sides of your grill to help prevent charring or staining to the railing.

See pages 52–67 for Transcend railing installation, pages 68–101 for Reveal railing installation, pages 102–109 for Select railing installation, and pages 110–113 for ADA Handrail installation.

Trex Lighting:

- » Plan locations of lights, power supply, timer, and dimmer. These should be accessible for service if necessary.
- » Install wiring before decking and railing have been installed.
- » **DO NOT** run wires between joists and deck boards.

See pages 12–24 for Trex OutdoorLighting™ installation.

Trex® RainEscape® Deck Drainage System:

- » Plan ahead for deck layout to allow for proper placement of Trex RainEscape within the joist system.
- » Make sure joists are straight and square.

See www.trex.com for more information on Trex RainEscape recommendations and installation. Trex RainEscape is manufactured and distributed by Dri-Deck Enterprises, LLC, under a trademark license with Trex Company, Inc.

Installing Hot Tubs, Planters, and Seating:

- » Plan ahead proper joist spanning if required (this is especially important if installing a hot tub).
- » Refer to page 30 for Trex Decking Span Chart for specific loads.

Call 1-800-BUY-TREX for detailed questions.

Installing Fireplaces and/or Fire Pits With Trex Decking:



- » Determine if fire will be gas or wood burning (**NOTE: Most fire pits shown in Trex images are gas burning**).
- » For gas, the fire pit is installed by cutting around the Trex decking. **It is not to be installed on top of Trex decking.** A fire-resistant material is installed under the fire pit and a protective “wall” made from stone or other fire-resistant material is installed to hold fire pit in place and also protect the decking from heat.
- » For wood, fire pits are not recommended on top of Trex decking unless using a product called DeckProtect®*. Wood-burning fire pits can damage the decking due to extreme heat from the bottom of the fire pit and/or burning embers “shooting” onto the decking. DeckProtect® was tested on all Trex decking and there were no issues with burning of the decking surface when placed directly under a standard size portable fire pit along with the accompanying rack (**NOTE: Rack is not available for all sizes, so check with manufacturer first for verification**). Trex does recommend that the

*DeckProtect® is a registered trademark of Infinite Heat Solutions.

PLANNING AHEAD/CONTINUED

DeckProtect® padding/rack be moved from time to time for general cleaning underneath. It should be noted that even when using DeckProtect®, burning embers could “shoot” beyond the protective mat and burn the deck.

For more information about this product, please visit their website at www.deckprotect.net or call 1-800-BUY-TREX. DeckProtect® is a registered trademark of Infinite Heat Solutions.



Installing a Pergola on Trex Decking:

- » Keep in mind if you are planning to install a Trex® Pergola™ on your deck, you will need access to the underside of the deck. Trex Pergola mounts with a 10" x 10" (254 mm x 254 mm) aluminum plate on the

underside of the deck, creating a clamping effect on both the top and bottom of the deck for maximum strength. If installed, water barriers and any under deck coverings will have to be removed to properly install the pergola posts.

- » You need to consider the location of your pergola posts in respect to joists. However, you do not have to mount your plates between joists. It is possible to place blocks on the bottom of the joists and mount the Trex Pergola brackets through the blocks.

Trex® Pergola™ products are manufactured and sold by Home & Leisure, Inc., d/b/a/ Structureworks Fabrication under a Trademark License Agreement with Trex Company, Inc. A 25-year Limited Warranty is provided by manufacturer.

Installing Trex® Spiral Stairs™:

- » Refer to www.trexspiralstairs.com for detailed information on how to plan and install Trex Spiral Stairs.

Trex® Spiral Stairs™ are manufactured and sold by M. Cohen and Sons, Inc., d/b/a The Iron Shop, under a Trademark License Agreement with Trex Company, Inc. A 25-year Limited Warranty is provided by manufacturer.

Installing Trex® Outdoor Storage™:

- » Refer to www.trexoutdoorstorage.com for detailed information on how to install Trex Outdoor Storage products.

Trex® Outdoor Storage™ products are manufactured and sold by NatureKast, LLC., under a Trademark License Agreement with Trex Company, Inc. A 25-year Limited Residential Warranty is provided by manufacturer.

NOTE: You can always reference the Design Tools Section on www.trex.com for additional planning ahead aids.

Special Patterns

When planning a unique pattern, you will need to adjust the framing to support the surface pattern. Refer to the span and gapping charts on pages 30–31. Many decks are designed to take advantage of angles, as shown below.



Herringbone Pattern



Tile Pattern



Picture Frame Pattern

NOTE: Construction methods are always improving. Please refer to www.trex.com for the most up-to-date installation requirements.