

INSTALLATION TIPS

Congratulations. You have selected a material that is both easy to work with and engineered to last. Whether this deck is for you or you're building it for someone else, working with ProDek™ Composite Decking and railing will be simple and rewarding. These installation instructions will take you through the process of installing the decking, railing and stair portions of your deck. As with any building project, use proper eye and ear protection. And always follow local building codes. ProDek Composite Decking and Railing is for decking and accessories only. It is not to be used as structural material.



STAIN PREVENTION - To prevent temporary stains on ProDek Composite Decking, keep it covered during storage or installation.

CLEANING - After your deck is installed, clean it thoroughly using a deck cleaner that contains oxalic acid, as debris from construction can create temporary stains. All decks can accumulate dirt and mildew through normal exposure. Periodic cleaning is recommended as with all exterior building products. Use a deck cleaner that is specific to your needs for general cleaning. Clean mildew or grease as needed.*

TOOLS - All you'll need is a hammer, circular saw (carbide-tipped blade with fewer than 20 teeth is recommended), level, tape measure, rasp and chalk line (do not use red chalk).

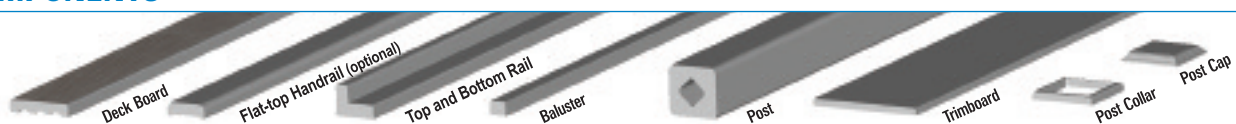
FASTENERS - We recommend #7 Swan Secure 2-1/4" stainless steel trim-head screws for the decking and railing. If you do not want the screw heads to show on the deck boards use the following technique: Countersink the trim-head screw, run your thumb lightly over the hole, then tap with a hammer. This will cover the trim-head screw with decking material. Each post requires two 1/2" Carriage bolts 8" minimum length with 1-1/4" flat washer on back.

For your convenience, some common model building code requirements are reprinted here:

- Residential minimum handrail height is generally 36".
- Multi-family minimum handrail height is sometimes 42".
- Baluster maximum spacing is generally 4" (clear distance between balusters).
- Maximum gap between bottom rail and deck surface is generally 4". Some codes require a 2" maximum gap for multi-family applications.

Spacing Note: The precise code language is generally "...do not allow passage of a sphere 4" in diameter." Be sure to check on the tolerance requirements of your local building code.

COMPONENTS



*For additional cleaning tips contact customer service at 1-866-204-3139 or visit www.arndtandherman.com.

ARNDT & HERMAN® BUILDING PRODUCTS

PRODEK™ COMPOSITE DECKING* LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

The Arndt & Herman® Building Products ProDek™ Composite Decking* (manufactured with MoistureShield® Technology) **Limited Lifetime Warranty is extended to original purchasers of Arndt & Herman ProDek Composite Decking. This warranty is for the benefit of the original single-family homeowner who purchased the product and is not transferable. Other variations of this warranty are available for multi-family and commercial applications.**

We warrant that the Decking Products, when properly installed, shall be free of manufacturing defects in workmanship and materials and will not rot, blister, check, split or splinter under conditions of normal use and service when properly installed. We further warrant that these products will not suffer structural damage from termites or fungal decay.

If the ProDek Composite Decking fails to perform as warranted, Arndt & Herman Building Products will provide, at its option, replacement parts or components to the dealer specified by the original purchaser at no cost. Arndt & Herman Building Products will not be responsible for installation or labor costs.

General Conditions and Exclusions

The Arndt & Herman Building Products Warranty is not transferable, and is subject to these general conditions and exclusions:

There are certain conditions or applications over which Arndt & Herman Building Products has no control. The Arndt & Herman Building Products ProDek Composite Decking does not cover defects or problems as a result of such conditions or applications.

What is not covered:

- Damage caused by improper installation, use, applications or maintenance.
- Damage caused by environmental conditions or use that exceeds design standards.
- Damage caused by accidents, Acts of God, abuse, vandalism or any other external forces.
- Normal weathering, chalking, fading, atmospheric pollutants or mildew buildup.
- Installation or labor costs.



Note: Over time, Arndt & Herman ProDek Composite Decking colors, Seasoned Mahogany, Cape Cod Gray, Rustic Cedar, Earthtone and Cherry will weather to a slightly lighter shade of the original color. Due to the nature of the ProDek manufacturing process, slight variations in color may occur, but will fade over time.

The limited warranties set forth are the only warranties (whether written or oral) applicable to Arndt & Herman Building Products ProDek Composite Decking.

ARNDT & HERMAN BUILDING PRODUCTS MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED AND MAKES NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THE REMEDIES STATED ABOVE ARE YOUR SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AND ARNDT & HERMAN BUILDING PRODUCTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RELATING TO YOUR PURCHASE OR USE OF ARNDT & HERMAN BUILDING PRODUCTS. ARNDT & HERMAN BUILDING PRODUCTS LIABILITY SHALL IN ALL INSTANCES BE LIMITED TO REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR REFUND OF YOUR ORIGINAL PURCHASE PRICE OF THE PRODUCT.

This warranty is only applicable in the United States and Canada. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

The Arndt & Herman Building Products Warranty for ProDek Composite Decking is backed by A.E.R.T. Corporation (manufacturers of MoistureShield), 914 N. Jefferson Street, Springdale, AR 72764.

How to get help if you have a Warranty Claim:

To obtain help with a warranty claim, contact the dealer, distributor or building products supplier where the Arndt & Herman Building Products ProDek Composite Decking was purchased. If after thirty (30) days, you have received no response to your complaint, then write to: Arndt & Herman Building Products, P.O. Box 130, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659.

Please include the following in your letter:

1. Identify the Arndt & Herman Building Products model number, date and place of purchase, and purchase price (proof of purchase will be required).
2. Describe the problem (photographs or sketches are helpful).
3. Describe any action that you have taken or those persons you have contacted in attempt to correct the problem.
4. Give your name, phone number and address where the product can be inspected.

Once we have received your letter, Arndt & Herman Building Products will respond within sixty (60) days. Arndt & Herman Building Products may charge an inspection fee for any onsite inspection that is required or requested by you. If it is determined that the product has a problem that is covered by the Arndt & Herman Building Products Warranty, no inspection fee will be charged.



For more information, contact 1-866-204-3139 or visit www.arndtandherman.com

* A MoistureShield® product manufactured by A.E.R.T., Inc. (Patent #5759680 NER #596)

** Manufacturer A.E.R.T. was the Region 6 recipient of the E.P.A.'s Partnership for Environmental Excellence Award.

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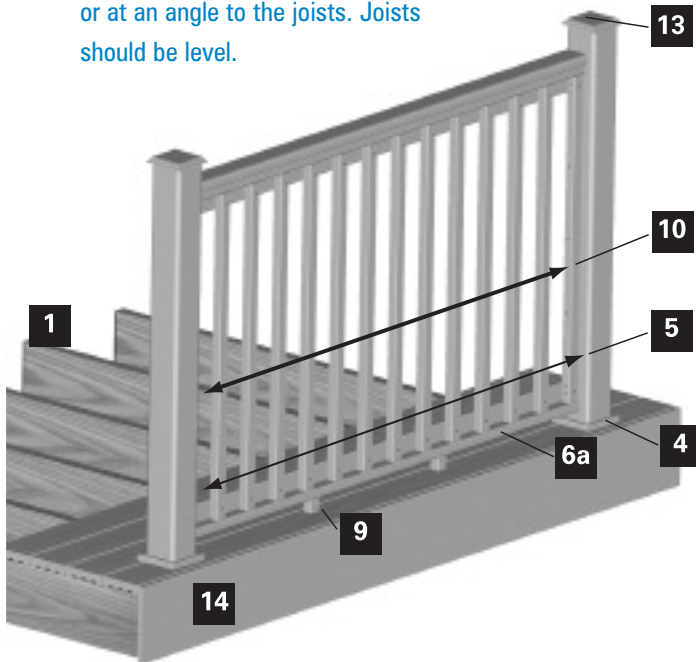
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SOLUTIONS

ProDek Composite Decking & Railing Installation Instructions

POST AND DECK INSTALLATION

1. Layout and install joists at either 16" on center (OC) when decking will be installed perpendicular to the joists, or 12" (OC) when deck boards will be installed diagonally or at an angle to the joists. Joists should be level.



2. Attach posts to decking frame. **DO NOT NOTCH POSTS.** The maximum distance from center of post to center of post is 72". Square and level posts.

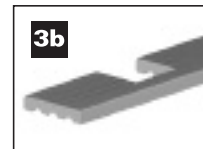
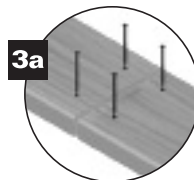
- A. Block posts and attach to rim joists with 2 bolts (1/2" Carriage bolts 8" minimum length w/ 1-1/4" flat washer on back).

Bolt positions: The top bolt to be no more than 3" below the finished deck surface and the bolt spacing to be no less than 4" on center.

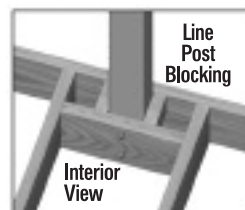
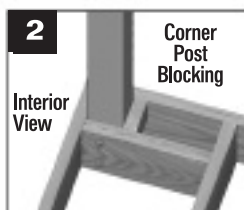


3. Install ProDek™ decking using 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure stainless steel trim-head screws, two screws per board per joist recommended. *Screws should be a minimum of 1/2" from the board end.*

- A. Allow 1/8" (or greater) side-to-side spacing between deck boards. Allow 1/8" (or greater) end-to-end spacing between ends of boards (butt joints). If installing in freezing weather, leave 1/4" (butt joints).
- B. Cut deck boards to fit around post. Leave 1/8" gap between board and post.
- C. Staggering the butt joints on long decks usually improves the overall appearance of the finished deck. Some people also prefer a distinctive pattern for the deck boards. To achieve an interesting design install a pattern board which eliminates butt joints.
- D. Once the boards are in place, adjust the blade depth of your saw to match the thickness of your deck boards. Use a chalk line to mark your cut and go. To avoid staining the decking boards use blue carpenter's chalk. Rasp the edges to finish.



4. Slip post collar over post onto deck if installing.
5. Cut top and bottom rails the same length (the maximum rail length as cut would be 67-3/4"). Measure from inside of post to inside of post to determine the top and bottom rail length.



These railing system components are to be installed with strict accordance with the procedures described in these ProDek™ Composite Decking and Railing Installation Instructions. Testing of these railing systems has shown that they meet the requirements of the major model building codes in the U.S.

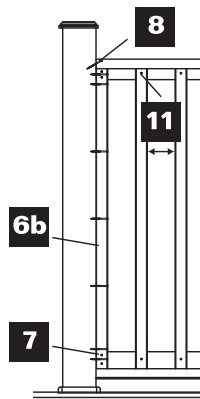
6. Cut two temporary blocks from scrap material to the height you want the toe sweep (no less than 2" nor greater than 4") place on inside of posts sitting on decking.

- A. Set bottom rail on blocks (with the 2-5/8" leg resting on the blocks) and center on post.
- B. Place baluster against post and sit it on the bottom rail (1-1/4" side against the post).

- C. Using 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless screws secure baluster to post, two screws at each end, and three additional screws evenly spaced between the end connections.

- D. Place 2nd baluster against opposite post and repeat step C.

7. Secure bottom rail to each post baluster using two 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screws, repeat on other end of bottom rail.



8. Place top rail on balusters (see railing orientation for details) and repeat fastening as in step 7. *In addition, angle (toe nail) two 2-1/4" Swan Secure trim-head stainless screws from top rail directly into each post.*

9. Place a support block every two feet between bottom rail and decking for support (see diagram 9). Secure support block with one 2-1/4" Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screw, through the bottom rail into the support block.

10. Use the formula below to determine the amount of balusters you need and the spacing between them. Measure the distance between the inside of one post baluster to the inside of the other post baluster. This is your *total space* _____.

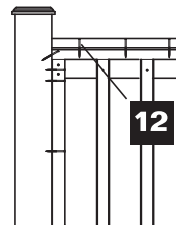
- A. Divide the *total space* by 5, and round it off to a whole number = _____. This is the number of additional balusters you need.

- B. Multiply the value in A X 1.5 and subtract it from your *total space* = _____.

- C. Divide the value in B by the value of (A + 1) = _____. This is the spacing between the balusters. *You may want to cut two spacer blocks from scrap material or a baluster, the same width as answer C, and use these two spacers at top and bottom to place each baluster.*

11. Attach balusters to top and bottom rails using one 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screws (4" maximum distance between balusters, visible opening – check local building code).

12. Attach flat-top handrail (optional) to top rail using 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screws. Install screws from the bottom of the top rail up into the flat-top handrail or from the flat-top handrail down into the top rail. *Install a screw in the center of every baluster opening for structural integrity.*

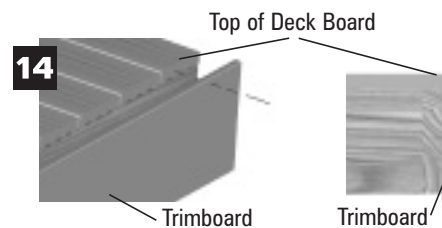


13. Attach post caps to top of post using 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screws or construction adhesive (see diagram 13).

14. Additionally, for a finished look, install trimboards over the rim joists. Position flush with the top of the decking.

- A. Attach using 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure stainless steel trim-head screws. *One screw through the end or side of the decking and one into the rim joist every 18".*

- B. We recommend putting the screw through the thickest part of the deck board (center between the top of the board and the bottom of a rib) when attaching the trimboard. Take care to keep screws level when installing trimboard to the decking.



45-DEGREE RAILING

15. Attach posts to decking frame.

Square to straight side of rim joist and level. Follow procedures 2-4 to install posts and decking.

16. Determine the angle of the top rail and the flat-top handrail (optional)

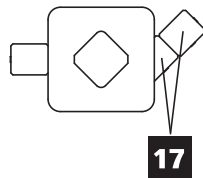
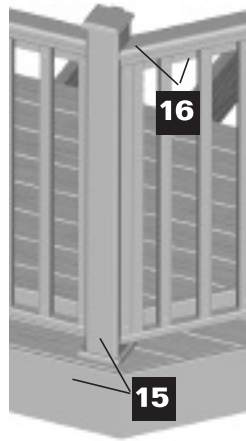
A. Lay a top rail centered on top of the two posts and mark angle (see railing orientation) and cut. Mark and cut the bottom rail the same way, making sure to lay the 2-5/8" leg on the posts.

B. Mark and cut the flat-top handrail (optional) if you are installing it.

17. Cut a baluster length-wise across the diagonal on a 45-degree angle.

- A. Place bottom rail on blocks that are cut to the toe sweep height desired (no less than 2" nor greater than 4") – 2-5/8" leg lying on blocks.
- B. Place baluster with 45-degree cut side against the post positioned at the 45-degree corner and sit it on the bottom rail. Attach it to the post using procedure 6C.
- C. Place a regular baluster against the diagonal baluster, sitting on bottom rail and attach with three 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screws, evenly spaced top to bottom.

18. Finish with steps 6D-13 with the exception of the post baluster that has been installed already in this 45-degree section (step 17).



STAIR RAILING

19. Attach posts to stair stringers (stringers should be 2' x 10" and placed 12" OC or less). Square posts to stringers and level.

A. Follow step 2 to install posts to stair stringers (use corner post blocking method).

20. Install deck boards. Boards may be flush with riser or extend past the rise by 1". Use two 2-1/4" #7 Swan Secure trim-head stainless steel screws per board per stringer.

A. Optional: cut and install "kick boards" (deck boards) along each stair rise.

B. Install post collars if desired.

C. Cut and install trimboard on stringers if desired.

Use procedures in step 14.

21. Lay a top and bottom rail along the edges of the steps and up next to the posts.

A. Position both rails for marking with the 2-5/8" leg lying on the steps.

B. Mark the rails on the inside faces of the two upright posts.

C. Cut each rail along this mark (line). Cut the flat top handrail to the same length and angle as the top rail if you are installing it (see railing orientation).

22. Position bottom rail 1/2" above edges of steps (check local code) support on blocks cut from scrap material.

23. Cut ends of two balusters at the same angle as the top and bottom rails and use them as the post balusters.

24. To complete stair railing follow steps 6B-13.



RAILING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

RAILING ORIENTATION – Flat-top handrail (optional):

To use the flat-top handrail, the top rail should be installed with the short leg (2-5/8") in the horizontal orientation. If you choose not to use the flat-top handrail, the top rail must be installed with the long leg (3-5/8") in the horizontal orientation. The balusters set on the ledge of the bottom leg of the bottom rail and are covered by the top rail leg. The top and bottom rails allow the balusters to face either toward or away from the deck depending on which way the consumer prefers the rail system to be installed.

