

# Before You Begin

## IMPORTANT

Always wear safety glasses when cutting and drilling railing or decking products.

### HELPFUL HINTS

- Use carbide-tipped, multi-purpose blade for cutting.
- Do not lay components on abrasive surfaces.
- Do not use excessive force while assembling components.
- If any components are missing or defective, please call us at 800-233-8990.

### TIPS

- Make sure you have all the pieces you need to complete the job.
- Separate your flat and stair pieces to avoid using the wrong ones.

### IMPORTANT FIRE INFORMATION

Rigid vinyl decking and railing are made from organic materials that will not burn on their own but melt or burn when exposed to a significant source of flame or heat. Consequently, owners and installers should take a few simple steps to protect vinyl building materials from fire. Building owners, occupants and outside maintenance personnel should always take normal precautions to keep sources of fire, such as barbecues, and combustible materials like dry leaves, mulch and trash, away from vinyl decking and railing.

### TOOLS REQUIRED FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

- Chop/mitre saw (with carbide-tipped, multi-purpose blade or non-ferrous blade)
- Power drill and bits
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Level
- Safety glasses and equipment (as identified by tool manufacturers)
- #2 square drive
- Phillips screwdriver or bit

### ADDITIONAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC JOBS

- **Certa-Snap® Post Wrap**
  - Hammer
  - Siding snips
- **Gates**
  - 1/8" drill bit
  - 3/16" drill bit
  - 1/4" drill bit
  - 5/32" drill bit
  - 11/64" drill bit
  - 7/16" wrench
  - #3 square drive bit
- **Handrail Component System**
  - 3/8" masonry drill bit (for concrete installation)
  - 3/4" drill bit
  - Angle finder
  - Quick-clamps
  - Adhesive
  - Recommended adhesives:
    - Aluminum bonding-
    - Loctite® Metal/Concrete Epoxy™
    - Gorilla™ Epoxy-Impact Tough®
    - J-B Weld®-2-Part Epoxy
    - Loctite® Extra Time Epoxy
- **Mount Post Support Wood Surface**
  - 2" x 6" or 2" x 8" blocking
  - Wood screws to attach blocking to deck
  - 3/8" drill bit
  - 1/8" drill bit
  - 1/2" wrench or socket
- **Panorama®**
  - 1/4" drive socket, extension and 7/16" socket
  - Jigsaw/coping saw (optional)
  - Utility knife (optional)
  - File (optional)
  - Box-end wrenches (optional)
  - Chalk line (optional)
  - Silicone caulk and caulk gun (optional)
  - Angle finder (optional)
  - Extension bit for crush block (optional)
- **Porch Columns**
  - Saber saw with a fine-tooth blade
  - Hammer drill with 1/4" and 1/2" drill bits
  - T-square
- **UnderShield® Water Diversion**
  - Gloves
  - Step ladder
  - Snips
  - Utility knife
  - Chalk line
  - 12" speed square
  - Vinyl snap lock punch
  - Cordless drill/driver
  - 1-inch "J" channel
  - Flashing
  - Gutter and Downspout
  - Fascia boards
- **Vinyl Decking and Oxford T-Rail**
  - 2" hole saw
  - Circular saw
  - Drop cloth
  - Screwdrivers
    - Phillips and flat-bladed
  - Wood clamps
  - Wrenches (sockets)
    - 3/4" (post support)
    - 7/16" (EZ Set bracket)
    - 3/8" (rail plate)
  - Bevel guide (optional)
  - Chalk line (optional)
  - File (optional)
  - Jigsaw/hacksaw (optional)
  - Rotary hammer drill (optional)
  - Utility knife (optional)

**TIP: Stainless steel fasteners are recommended to prevent future rust streaking.**

## BRACKET AND RAILING INSTALLATION

### Installing the Bracketed Railing System

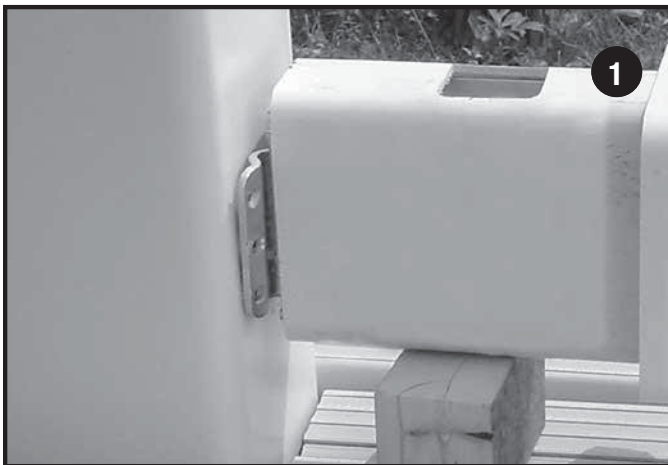
Brackets can be used on existing posts and columns directly, with a vinyl post sleeve over a 4x4 wood post or using The Mount or EZ Set II bracketed post support. Brackets should never be connected to a hollow vinyl sleeve without an internal shim in the post. To ensure a safe installation, rail mount brackets must be anchored securely. Before mounting the railing, determine that the structure is solid and that the fasteners appropriate for the structure are used.

When using the vinyl sleeve-over installation, the 4x4 wood posts must meet local building code requirements. CertainTeed is not responsible for the structural integrity of these posts.

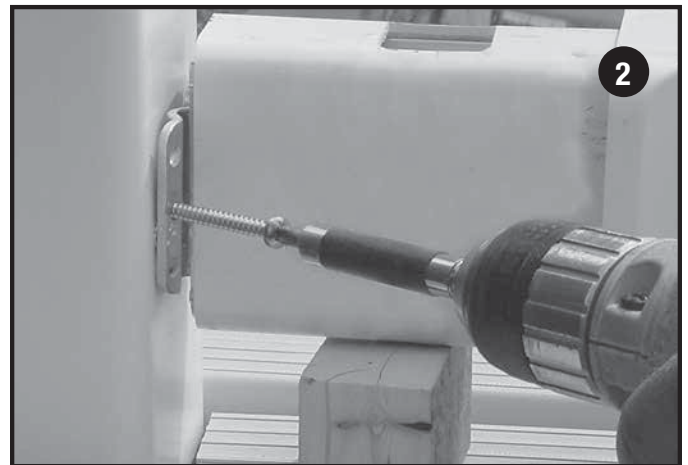
**IMPORTANT:** To ensure meeting code requirements, be sure that the space between the last baluster and the wall or post is not more than 4". Be sure the top of the top rail is positioned 36" (for 3') or 42" (for 3-1/2') from the surface. Also, the measurement between the bottom rail and the surface should not exceed 4".

#### BRACKET INSTALLATION

**Step 1:** Measure rails for proper length and mark. Measure 1/4" back from both end marks and cut rails. Place cover over rail ends, insert brackets and slide rail into place between posts.



**Step 2:** Drill pilot hole with a 9/64" drill bit for bracket attachment screw. Attach bracket to post with screw provided. Use four screws per bracket.



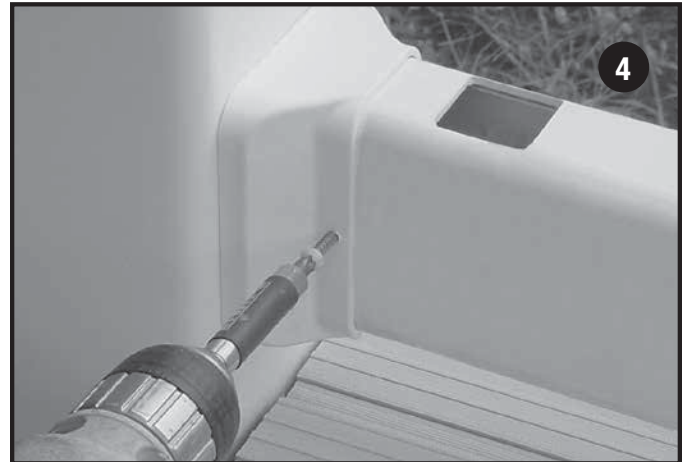
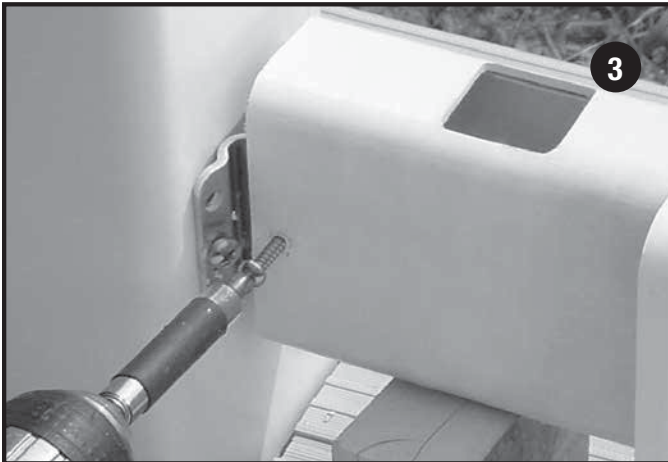
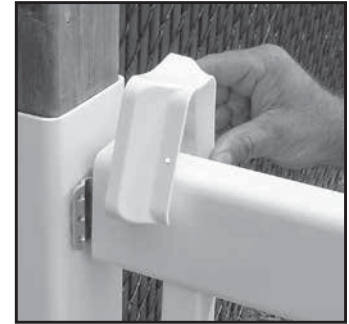
**NOTE:** Bottom rail for aluminum baluster in-fill contains pre-installed adhesive foam tape to prevent rattling.

## BRACKET INSTALLATION CONTINUED

**Step 3:** Pre-drill 9/64" hole for rail attachment screw. Attach rail to bracket with 3/4" screw.

**Step 4:** Slide cover in place, pre-drill 9/64" hole to expedite cover attachment. Attach cover to rail with 3/4" screw provided.

**TIP:** If baluster interferes with bracket cover, slit the underside of the cover. Spread open and slide over railing and attach. Vinyl adhesive or clear silicone adhesive can be used to attach cover to rail.



## 45° BRACKET INSTALLATION

**Step 1:** Measure rails for proper length, mark and cut rails. Place cover over rail ends, insert brackets and slide rail down from the top of the post into place.

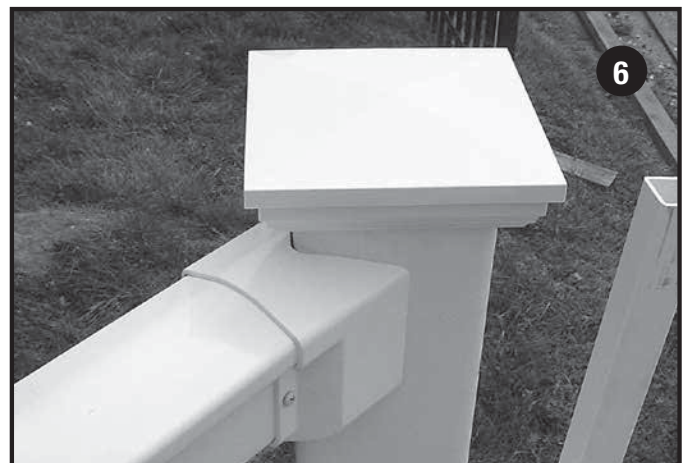
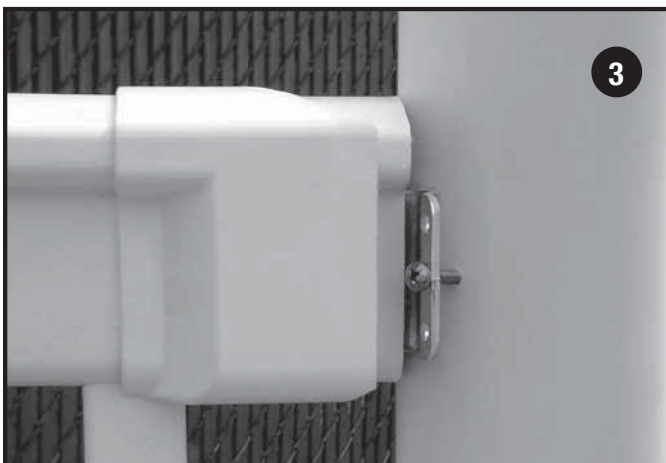
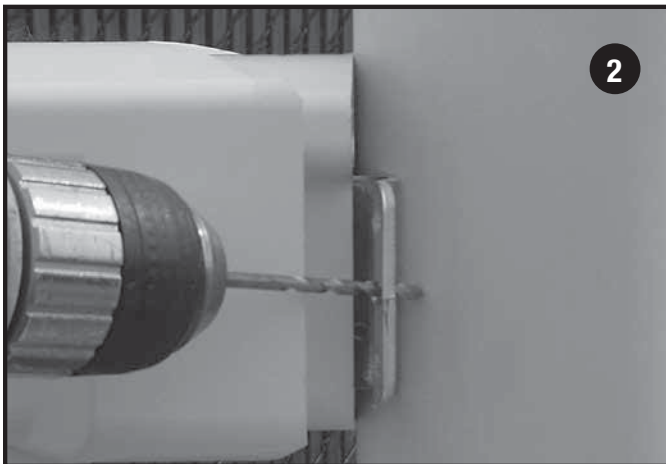
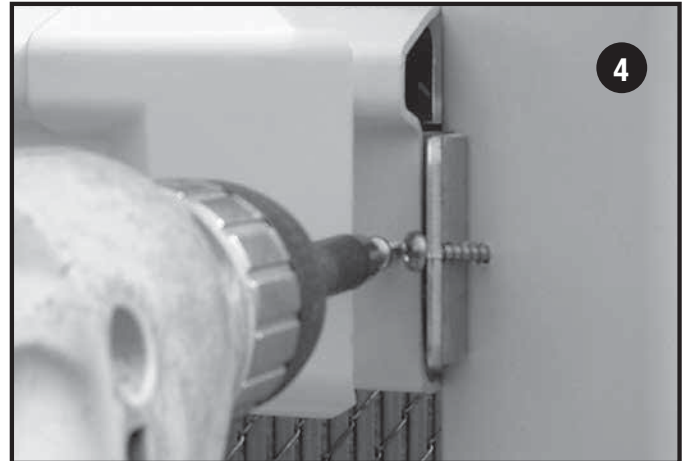
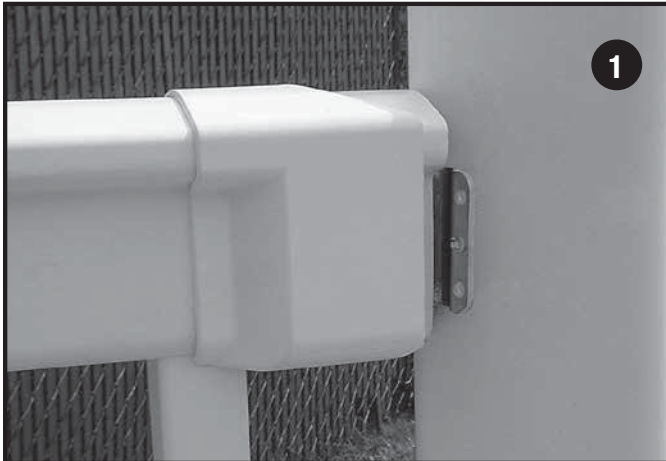
**Step 2:** Drill pilot hole for bracket attachment screw.

**Step 3:** Attach bracket to post with screw provided. Use four screws per bracket.

**Step 4:** Attach rail to bracket with 3/4" screw. Pre-drill 9/64" hole to expedite installation.

**Step 5:** Slide cover in place and attach cover to rail with 3/4" screw provided. Pre-drill 9/64" hole to expedite installation.

**Step 6:** Finish post with choice of post cap. Use vinyl adhesive for cap attachment.



## 22-1/2° BRACKET INSTALLATION

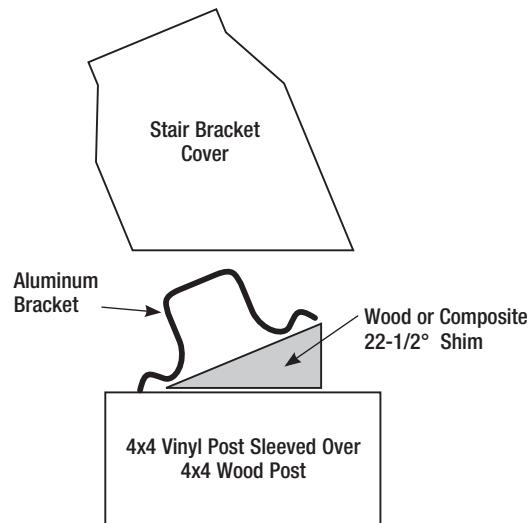
**Step 1:** Use stair bracket kit.

**Step 2:** Cut four 22-1/2° shims from a wood or composite 4x4 post.

**Step 3:** Cut rails to length.

**Step 4:** Cut stair covers at 22-1/2°.

**Step 5:** Place shims between post/brackets and install bottom rail. Before securing bracket in post, always check the alignment of cover for possible adjustments.



## STAIR BRACKET INSTALLATION

### APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Railings can be mounted to walls or columns using rail mount brackets. To ensure a safe installation, rail mount brackets must be anchored securely. Before mounting the railing, determine that the structure is solid and that the fasteners appropriate for the structure are used.

**IMPORTANT:** To ensure meeting code requirements, be sure that the space between the last baluster and the wall or post is not more than 4".

**Step 1:** Check for equal end baluster spacing on both sides. Mark rail where it intersects post. Measure back 1/4" from lines and cut railing.

**Step 2:** Foam is included to secure cover while cutting. Slide covers over scrap piece of rail and hold in place by inserting foam blocks. Do not attempt to cut covers without placing on a rail. Cut vinyl covers to stair angle and then slide over both ends of rail.

**Step 3:** Insert aluminum bracket into both ends of rail. Check correct position by sliding vinyl cover over bracket for fit.

**Step 4:** Secure rail and bracket to post with four 2" screws (included). Fasten screws in each corner of the bracket flange.

**TIP:** When securing bracket to post, drill pilot hole with a 9/64" drill bit to prevent bracket from sliding.

## COLUMN BRACKET INSTALLATION

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- Step 1:** Rail length should be measured to fit from outside edge of column. Measure and check for equal end baluster spacing between columns, at both ends of rail. Mark top/bottom rails and cut.
- Step 2:** Slide vinyl bracket covers over both ends of bottom rail and insert aluminum brackets into both ends of rail.
- Step 3:** Install bottom rail in between columns, sliding from top down to bottom of column, spacing bottom rail 2" off floor.
- Step 4:** Secure aluminum brackets to column with four 2" screws (included). Fasten screws in each corner of the bracket flange.

- Step 5:** Double check for equal end baluster spacing at columns. Secure rail to brackets with two 3/4" screws, through rail sides.
- Step 6:** Slide vinyl cover along rail to columns and insert set screw.
- Step 7:** To finish the section installation, insert balusters into bottom rail and then insert top rail over balusters. Repeat steps above for top rail bracket installation.

## COLUMN STAIR BRACKET INSTALLATION

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- Step 1:** Use stair bracket kit.
- Step 2:** Cut degree of angle of stairway to cover.
- Step 3:** Place cover against column. Trace radius to top and bottom of cover.
- Step 4:** Cut and install rail and then insert top rail over balusters. Repeat steps above for top rail bracket installation.



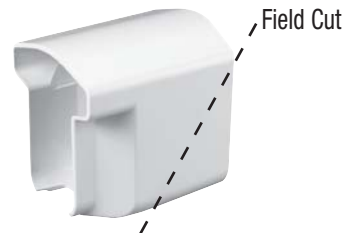
**Oxford Flat**



**Oxford Column**  
(minimum 8"  
round column)



**Oxford 45°**



**Oxford Stair**

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Vinyl and composite building materials require very little maintenance. Nevertheless, common sense dictates that builders and suppliers of these products store, handle, and install materials in a manner that avoids damage to the product or structure.

CertainTeed decking and railing is not difficult to work with, but there are a few precautions you should take before you begin to unload and install the product. Always place planks, posts, rails and accessories on a non-abrasive surface, such as a drop cloth or cardboard, to avoid scratches. Protect all components during transport. Finally, when assembling the deck and railing, avoid over-tightening the screws.

## CLEANING VINYL DECKING AND RAILING

CertainTeed vinyl decking and railing resists most common household stains, including oil and grease. But, like any other product, it will get dirty when it is exposed to the atmosphere. Chalk may also accumulate on the surface. This is a normal condition for all pigmented materials that are constantly exposed to sunlight and the elements. Soil, grime and chalk can be removed with a garden hose and a bucket of soapy water.

### Mildew

Mildew may be a problem in some areas, especially warmer climates with consistently high humidity. Mildew appears as black spots on surface dirt and is usually first detected in areas not subjected to rainfall, such as eaves and porch enclosures. You can remove mildew from vinyl decking and railing with the following solution.

### Mix together:

- 1/3 cup detergent (Tide, for example)
- 2/3 cup trisodium phosphate (e.g., Soilex)
- 1 qt. 5% sodium hypochlorite (e.g., Clorox)
- 3 qt. water

**CAUTION: Cleaning solution mixed at greater concentrations may harm the vinyl.**

If the above solution does not readily remove the mildew spots, purchase mildew cleaner from your local hardware store. Before you use any commercial cleaner, test it on an inconspicuous area.

The chemical agents mentioned above may be hazardous to the user or to the environment. Be sure to follow all precautions and warnings on the product label, particularly those that may be necessary to prevent personal injury. Please DISCARD these chemical agents in the manner

prescribed by the manufacturer. If you are unsure how to use or dispose of these chemical agents, contact the manufacturer.

## CLEANING PANORAMA® COMPOSITE RAILING

Panorama® Composite Railing resists most common household stains, but it will become dirty like any product exposed to atmospheric conditions. Periodic washing with a soft bristle brush and clean water from a garden hose may be necessary to remove surface dirt which may accumulate on the surface. For best appearance, clean your Panorama Composite Railing at least once a year, unless local conditions require additional cleaning.

## CLEANING UNDERSHIELD® WATER DIVERSION SYSTEM

UnderShield® resists most common household stains, but it will become dirty like any product exposed to atmospheric conditions. Periodic washing with a soft bristle brush and clean water from a garden hose may be necessary to remove surface dirt. Chalk may also accumulate on the surface. This is a normal condition for pigmented materials exposed to the elements. For the best appearance, clean UnderShield at least once a year. To remove soil, grime and chalk from UnderShield, use a garden hose, a soft bristle brush, and a bucket of soapy water. (You can also use the solution described in the section dealing with mildew.) Thoroughly rinse UnderShield with clean water from a garden hose. Avoid prolonged or high pressure rinsing of open ventilated areas. Keep cleaning solution off surrounding fixtures and surfaces not scheduled for washing.

If debris such as leaves gets in the system, you will need to periodically flush out the system with a garden hose. This can be done from above or possibly from access to the sides by removing the fascia panel.

**NOTE: We do not recommend power washing UnderShield as it can cause moisture intrusion, damage, and/or discoloration.**

### Stubborn Stains

If you can't remove especially stubborn stains using normal household detergents, request a cleaner from your contractor or your local building materials retailer. Always test any cleaner on an inconspicuous area before full use.

**CAUTION: Greater concentration may cause damage to UnderShield.**

If the above solution does not readily remove mildew spots, ask your contractor or your local building materials retailer for a mildew cleaner.