

Stair Talk



Balcony Height- The vertical distance from the finish floor to the top of the level railing.

Baluster- A decorative vertical member, used to fill the open area between the railing and the floor or tread, adding safety, support and stability to the balustrade.

Balustrade- A rail system which includes handrail, newels, and balusters.

Bending Rail- A rail profile made up of thin vertical strips, which have been moulded with a tongue and groove bead to create an alignment of the plies. Bending rail offers the ability to glue and bend handrail to a radius to match most curved balustrades.

Bent Riser- The riser included in a starting step, curved on one or both ends to form a decorative first step in a stair.

Box Newel- A large square newel, usually hollow, used in a Post-To-Post balustrade system.

Cap- That part of a fitting which widens in order to sit on top of a pin top Newel. Caps are found in a variety of different Over -The-Post fittings.

Cove Moulding- A concave shaped moulding used to cover the joint formed where the face of the riser meets the underside of the tread. On an open stair the cove moulding is continued under the return nosing.

Curved Stair- A stair that winds or curves its way from one floor to the next. It may be constructed having one turn of direction, or a series of turns.

Fitting: A combination of components that are profiled to match handrail patterns and permit directional and vertical changes with handrail in Over-the-Post balustrades.

Gooseneck: A rail fitting used to accommodate transitions in height and/or direction at intermediate and balcony landings.

Handrail: A rail fixed to posts or a wall for people to hold on to for support.

Header: A floor framing member that runs across the well opening. The top riser of the stair is attached to the header.

Landing: A level platform installed at the point where stairs change direction, at the top of a flight of stairs, or between flights.

Landing Tread: A structural moulding, used on all landings and balconies, to create a transition between the stair and the finished floor.

Level Quarterturn: A rail fitting that permits level handrail to turn.

Level Rail: Railing used on a balcony or a landing.

Newel Posts: The major support posts for the balustrade system. Larger and heavier than the balusters, the central supporting pillar of a spiral or winding staircase, located at the head or foot of a flight of stairs supporting a handrail.

Nosing: Stair Nosing is referred to by most stair builders as the front of the stair step or tread and usually overhangs the stair riser by about an 1 inch.

Over Easing: A rail fitting that creates flow into the horizontal section of the handrail. The over easing is used in transition from the sloping portion of the handrail to the horizontal section without the use of a gooseneck.

Over-the-Post: A balustrade system which utilizes fittings to go over newels posts to create an unbroken, continuous handrail.

Skirt: a piece of trim installed to the finished wall to cover the structural section of stairs on the open side.