

Skill Level: INTERMEDIATE Give these projects a try if you're a confident DIYer with a good working knowledge of a variety of tools. They can take a day or more to complete. If you can build a birdhouse or install a ceiling fan, your skill level is probably appropriate.

✓ MATERIALS

- Replacement Materials: Composite Railings, Composite/Vinyl Lattice and Fascia Board—as needed
- Fasteners: Deck Screws and Other Hardware—as needed
- Electric Drill with Bits
- PVC Glue
- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- Carpenter's Square
- Jig Saw
- Circular/Miter Saw
- Rubber Mallet
- Construction Adhesive
- Work Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- Hearing Protection

If you're looking for a way to give your deck a new look, Lowe's can help. In this two-part series, *How to Refresh Your Deck*, we show you how to give your deck that updated look with Lowe's Severe Weather™ composite railings and lattice. If you haven't already, review the instructions for Part 1 of this series, which will explain how to install the composite posts. In this part, we're going to show you how to attach the composite railings and lattice.

ATTACHING RAILINGS

01 Measure the distance between posts.

- **TIP:** If the new railing has pre-cut baluster holes, cut the railing so the end holes are equal distance from the end of the rails. Be sure you don't have partial holes at the railing ends. If you do, you'll have to adjust the rail to either direction.



- Also, account for the brackets when determining rail length. For example, with our railing system, we subtracted 1/2" for the brackets.

02 Place the bottom rail next to the top rail, line up the holes and mark the length.

03 Cut the rails to length with a saw.

- **CAUTION:** Wear a dust mask when cutting composite materials or treated lumber.



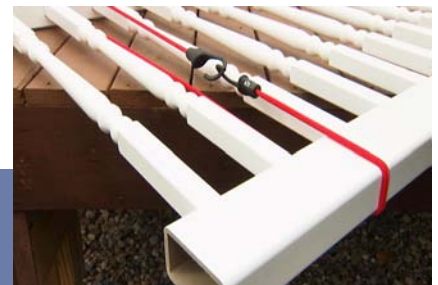
04 Attach the crush block to the middle of the bottom rail using PVC glue, following the manufacturer's instructions.

The crush block helps provide support to the middle of the rails.

05 Once the PVC glue has cured, assemble the railings.

1. Insert the spindles in the holes on the top and bottom rail.
2. Slide the end caps on the rails.

- **TIP:** To keep the railing together for easier installation, tie a couple of bungee cords or rope around it near each end.



IMPORTANT

Before you begin refreshing your deck, discuss the job with a Lowe's associate or call a professional for help. In some locations, a building permit may be required for replacing deck components. If changes are significant, a homeowners' association also may have requirements.

ATTACHING RAILINGS (cont.)

06 Hold the railing in place between the posts, making sure the end caps are centered, and lightly trace around them.

- You may need help holding the railing in place.

07 Set the railing aside and remove the end caps.

1. Hold an end cap on its respective mark.
2. Place the bracket flange inside each cap and mark the screw holes.
3. Remove the caps and drill the holes.
4. Hold each flange in place and attach with screws.
5. Repeat for the remaining three caps on the top and bottom rails.
6. Reattach the end caps on the railing.

08 Hold the railing assembly between the posts above the flanges, then press downward to lock all the caps.



INSTALLING STAIR RAILINGS

01 Replace the railing posts as needed following the previous instructions.

02 Place the top and bottom rail with attached brackets on the stairs, next to the posts, as shown in the diagram. Make sure the end baluster holes are equal distance to each post. Use a pencil to mark the angle of the rail to the perpendicular post. Typically, it will be about 32-degrees.

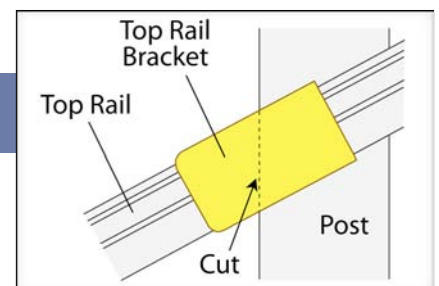
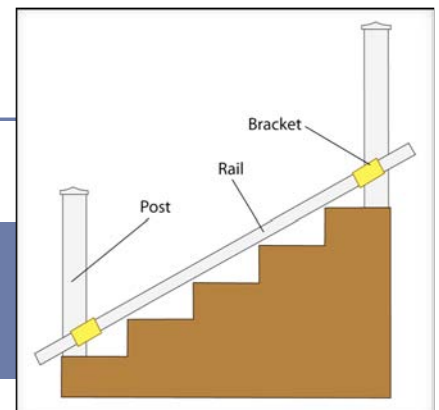
- Attaching the railings on stairs requires special stair brackets. Ask a Lowe's associate for assistance when purchasing.

03 Cut the rails and attached brackets with a saw. Be sure the pre-cut baluster holes are lined up on the top and bottom rails.

04 Assemble the railings as noted in the previous instructions.

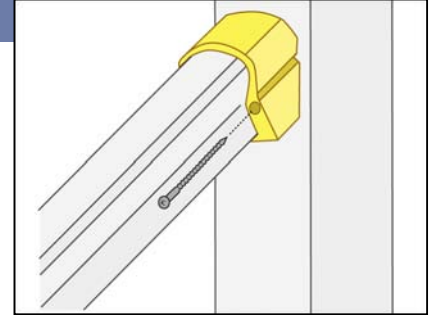
05 Position the assembled rail section on the posts and mark the screw locations.

06 Drill the bracket holes with a 1/8" drill bit.



INSTALLING STAIR RAILINGS (cont.)

- 07 Attach the brackets to the posts with screws to secure the railing.



FINISHING THE DECK

- 01 Install the post caps. Many simply snap into place.

- Solar post caps can provide accent lighting. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation.

- 02 You can cover bolt holes from old posts by installing fascia boards. For best results, use treated lumber about 2" narrower than the rim and end joists, then you can attach lattice to the exposed joist areas.

1. Position the boards flush with the top of the decking. Either have someone hold the boards in place or use clamps.
2. Drill holes for the screws.
3. Then secure with screws.

- 03 Install vinyl lattice.

1. Measure and cut the lattice sheets to fit the selected location(s). Attach it to the exposed rim and end joists.

- **TIP:** Add trim around the lattice for a cleaner look.

2. Place the cut lattice in position.
3. Secure the lattice to the rim joist and end joists with lattice screws.





Let's Build Something Together™

How To:

REFRESH YOUR DECK: PART 2

FINISHING THE DECK (cont.)

Add some new furniture and your deck has a brand new look. For other home improvement ideas, including more deck enhancement projects, visit [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).



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