

Framework You Will Need for Cable Railing

End Post Construction

Since hundreds of pounds of tension is being applied to end posts using cable railing, those posts must be substantial enough to handle that tension.

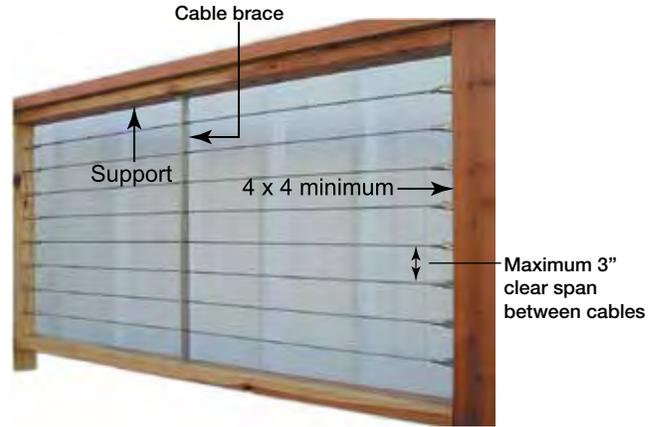
For wood posts a minimum 4x4 (3-1/2" square) post is required to keep the post from bending when the cables are tensioned. You will need a top rail, and we recommend that it be reinforced with a support such as a 2x4 on end under the top rail (see illustration at right). End posts must be securely mounted to the deck to prevent the post from coming loose when the cables are tensioned. A bottom rail helps distribute the force away from the bottom of the post, but is not required.

For steel posts, kits are designed for use with 1-1/2"x1-1/2" square and 2"x2" square tube. End posts will need to be a minimum 1/4" wall to handle the load when the cables are tensioned; intermediates can be 1/8". As with wood posts, you will need a top rail, but that is sufficient for structural integrity. For aluminum, your end posts should be reinforced and you may want to consider a bottom rail to help prevent post-bowing (see illustration below).

Of course, secure mounting of the posts to the deck is just as important with metal posts as wood, and as important with end posts as intermediates.

Intermediate posts between end and corner posts

To keep the cable from spreading beyond standard code requirements, we recommend that the cable



be supported in some manner no more than every 42" along its run. Intermediate posts, through which the cable is strung, act as supports for the cable. To avoid having to use more intermediate posts than is structurally necessary, a thin metal cable brace with holes for the cables to pass through can be used to support the cables (see illustrations). A typical cable brace is 1/4" thick by 1" wide and made of steel (which is then painted) or stainless steel and can be ordered separately.

Cable spacing on your posts

We recommend that you space the cables with no more than a 3" clear span between the cables (see illustrations). For example, if you are using 3/16" diameter cable, you would drill your holes on center no more than 3-3/16" apart.

