

## Dos and Don'ts of installing GC Cable Handrail systems

1. Safety is most important. Remember to wear eye protection and any other safety items necessary to keep you and those around you safe.
2. Our starting posts that go up against a wall or at the end of a run, are right or left handed. That means they are designed to have a solid bar and a bar with holes. The solid bar is designed to hide the crimp ends. Here's some examples of how the handrail should look. Sometimes we see the posts get reversed and the crimp ends are exposed. \*\* Please remember to leave a maximum of 3.5" between the post and the wall.



The post in the left photo should be reversed 180 degrees to have the solid bar cover the crimped ends. This would make for a much cleaner look. The post in the right post is correct, the crimps are behind the solid bar.

3. Now the next option will be do you have the solid bar on the deck side or the yard side? If you have the solid bar on the deck side, you can see the crimped ends from the yard. Normally we plan for the solid bar be on the deck side, which means you must tension from the yard side. Sometimes the deck is very high off the ground and it's not possible to tension easily. So, we reverse the side that gets the crimps. In both photos above the solid bar is on the deck side.
4. Posts should be set on top of a solid surface such as wood. Do NOT install posts directly to drywall, you need a solid surface such as wood.
5. When you handle your posts, they can get scratched, as tough as our finish is, it still can get damaged. Use our touch up kit to make any repairs. Mix the paint with the catalyst and use the artist brush we supply to fix any blemishes.

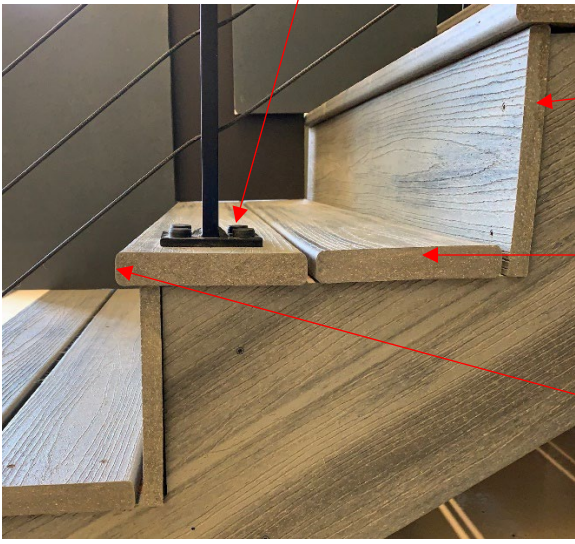
6. We cut our cables 2 feet longer than the length of the run, so you will have extra to make tightening easier. There are 10 cables per post, unless you have a knee wall installation, then you will have less cables.
7. When you get ready to begin threading your cables, you want to start them at the wall and go towards an open area. This will be much easier, than trying to tension with the tool up against the wall. Often there isn't enough room to fit a tool against the wall.
8. Over tightening is possible with our tensioning system. What does over tightening look like? Here's a photo of an over tightened corner.



In this case, you might be replacing cables and possibly even a top cap. When tensioning cables, a little goes a long way. If your cables are too tight, then you will have to cut them and get a new set. There is no way to back off the tension on the one-way valves. So be careful to not go too far.

9. One-way valves need to be re-set each time you use them. There are 2 tiny clamps inside that need to be opened wide after each use. Use our punch tool to separate them from the smaller end of the one-way valve. To remove cables from one-way valves after use, roll the channel locking pliers to the side from the larger end, while holding the cable with the pliers. This should release the cables from the valves.
10. Cables should not be tensioned until after the top cap or grabber is permanently attached to the posts. If the cables are tensioned beforehand, injury or another hazard is possible.
11. Posts should be mounted towards the front of each tread. The outside 2 screws should be able to screw into framing such as the stair stringer or rim joist. If not, add blocking. Make sure your cables clear the front edge of each stair nosing.
12. It's important to line up the crimper on the sleeve straight up and down. If you don't, and the sleeve cracks, that means you were not aligned when you crimped the sleeve. The sleeve can't be removed and replaced due to the tension tool locked onto the cable. This means you will need to call us to get another cable and sleeve, which we will need to charge you for unfortunately. Then tension the new cable with the single tension tool.

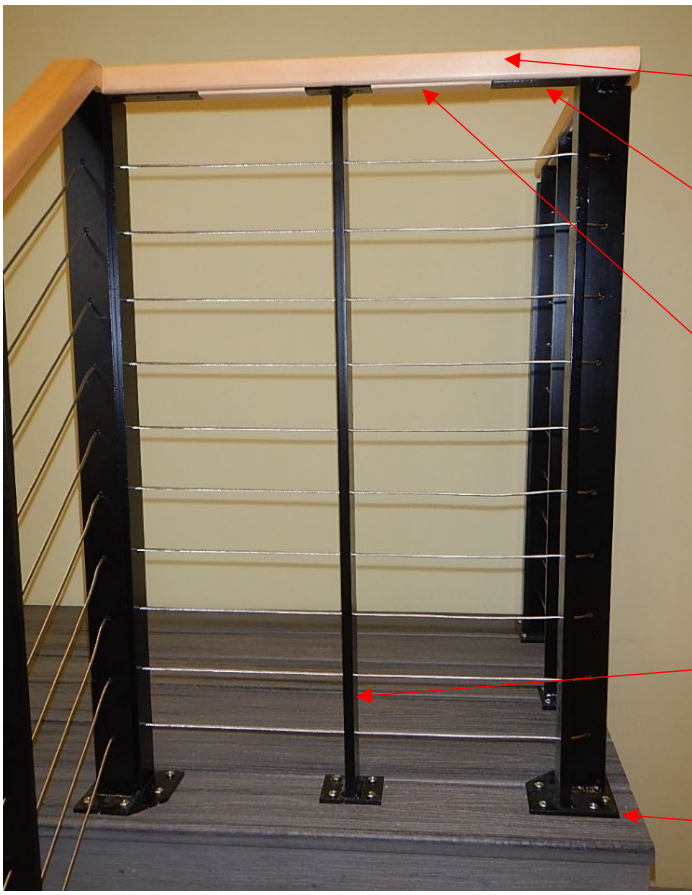
Screws for Base Plate, Drill 2 into Stair Stringer



Stair Riser

Stair Tread

Stair Nosing



Top cap or grabber – the part you put your hand on

Top plate of post

Fillet the part that fills in the area between the top plates

Post is 1/2" thick x 2" wide

Bottom plate of post