

## Introduction

Carefully plan your entire deck, from deck boards to rails and stairs, before cutting your first board or drilling your first hole. Account for the unique design and dimensions of DecoRators® postcovers and your chosen rail system in the planning stage. Inventory all necessary postcovers and associated rail connectors and fasteners at the job site, before getting started. For installations over 4x4 nominal wood posts, you will need (2) 2x4-pieces of treated or cedar lumber per in-line rail postcover and (4) 2x4 pieces of treated or cedar lumber per corner rail postcover. The length of the 2x4 depends on the height of the postcover. 42" postcovers require 41" high 2x4s and the 53" requires 52" high pieces.

### Items you may need to complete the installation:

- Exterior masonry adhesive (epoxy or silicone caulk)
- Wood shims
- Drill
- 1/8" Masonry drill bit
- Saw (if trimming is required)
- Diamond masonry blade (if trimming is required)
- Carpenter's pencil
- 100 grit coarse aluminum oxide sandpaper
- 2x4s as required (see introduction section)
- 2-1/2" wood deck screws as required
- #8 x 3-1/2" exterior grade screws\* (2 per rail bracket)
- Safety glasses



Stacked Stone



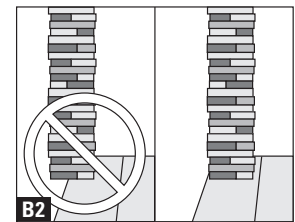
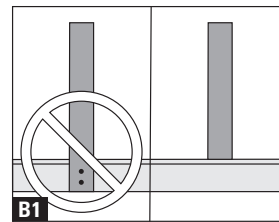
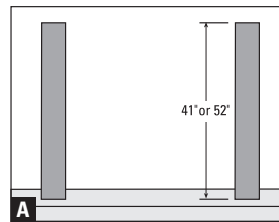
Cobblestone



Fieldstone

## Step 1 • Secure 4x4 or 6x6 nominal treated or cedar wood posts

- A** The deck design will dictate how you install and secure the deck posts. Be sure the post extends 41 inches above the deck surface to ensure a proper fit with the 42" postcover and 52" above the deck for a proper fit with the 53" postcover.
- B** Posts should be installed on the inside of the deck frame, to allow the postcover to rest entirely on the decking.

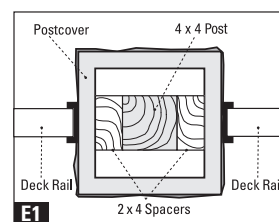
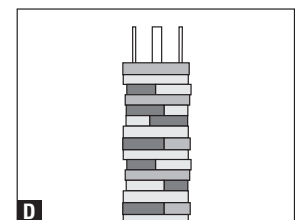
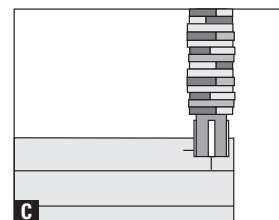


**Note:** Use a saw with a diamond masonry blade if trimming of the postcover is required. Always trim the bottom of the postcover, which is the side without the lip.

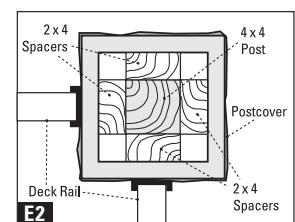
## Step 2 • Install postcover

- C** A 6x6 S4S (smooth four sides) wood post can vary from 5-1/4" to 5-5/8" in thickness and may be subject to slight irregularities. Use wood shims at the top and bottom of the post to ensure a snug fit. Shim the bottom and slide the postcover over the post to the deck base.
- D** Shim the top of the post for a tight, level fit. It is important to shim evenly on all four sides so the post remains centered within the postcover.
- E** If the installation is over a 4x4 nominal wood post, then wood 2x4s will need to be added to the sides of the 4x4 post. The number of 2x4s differs

based on the location of the wood posts. You will need (2) 2x4-pieces of lumber per in-line rail postcover and (4) 2x4 pieces of lumber per corner rail postcover. The length of the 2x4 depends on the height of the postcover. 42" postcovers require 41" high 2x4's and the 53" requires 52" high pieces. For in-line rail posts, attach the 2x4s to the sides of the wood post where the connector and railing will be installed using 2-1/2" wood deck screws. For corner posts, install 2x4s to all four sides of the post using 2-1/2" wood deck screws.



In-line Rail



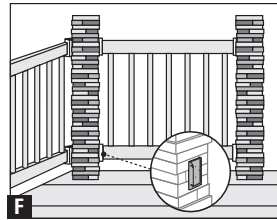
Corner Rail

## Step 3 • Build rail section

**F** Deckorators Postcovers can be used with wood, composite material or vinyl rail sections. Rail connectors (sold separately) allow for trouble-free 2x4 rail installation of 90-degree, 22.5-degree and 45-degree rail angles, and 35-degree stair angles.

If installing any railing besides a 2x4, use the connectors provided with the railing.

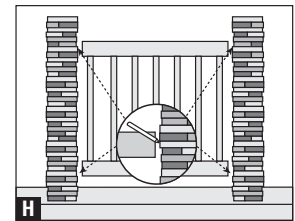
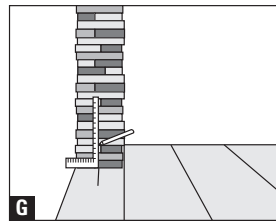
Build your first rail section to use as a template, before adding the rail connectors to the postcovers.



## Step 4 • Rail connector placement

**G** Before you install the rail connectors, you must first mark the center of the postcover. To do this, make a vertical mark on the postcover using a carpenter's pencil.

**H** Lift the rail section into place and line it up with the vertical mark on the postcover. Make sure it is level and plumb, and mark where the rail connectors should go.

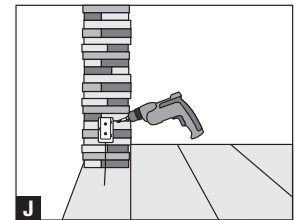
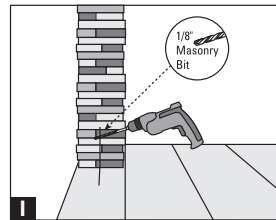


## Step 5 • Install rail connectors

**I** Hold the connectors up to the postcover in their proper location, mark the connector holes and pre-drill using a 1/8" masonry drill bit.

**J** Fasten the connectors to the postcover and wood post using #8 x 3-1/2" exterior grade screws\* (sold separately). The screws MUST be attached to the wood post for proper structural support.

The postcover is for decorative use only. Although the postcover finish was designed with rail connectors in mind, some sanding may be required for a perfectly plumb installation. Simply sand the uneven spot within the location of the connector bracket using 100 grit coarse aluminum oxide sandpaper.

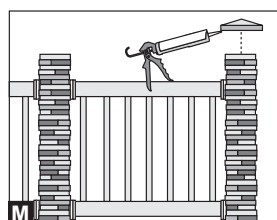
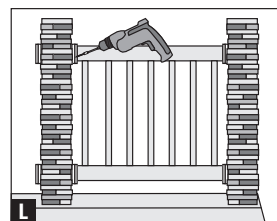
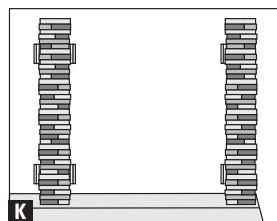


## Step 6 • Finish the job

**K** To complete the first rail section installation, drill holes and install connectors on the other side.

**L** Cut rails to fit and place them as you go. Secure rails to connectors with the screws provided. Finish deck railing.

**M** If using postcover post caps, use a strong exterior masonry adhesive to secure post cap to the postcover.



**Note:** If any chips or blemishes have occurred to the finish of the postcover due to mishandling, they can be touched up using Deckorators postcover touch up kits, sold separately.

\* Screw must be compliant with ANSI/ASME Standard B18.6.1-1981 with a yield strength of 90,000 psi.

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