



## Introduction

This guide is for handrail installation only – for a complete balustrade installation guide, or any other How-To guide you need, visit [www.whitemetal.co.uk/how-to-guides/](http://www.whitemetal.co.uk/how-to-guides/) or contact us on 03300 414 881

- **Only fit handrails once you have all the posts firmly fixed to your substrate and you are happy with the strength, location and orientation.**
- Always do a dry run first, as this ensures you have everything you need for installation,. Time spent on this “dry run” is well worth it as it will avoid costly mistakes later.
- Lay out all components as per the site layout plan provided and the labels marked on the individual parts. Take great care to ensure all parts have been allocated in the correct location on the entire project, including cables, fittings and/or glass.
- This modular system has been CUSTOM manufactured for your installation and needs to be installed as designed. Some parts are not adaptable and using them in the incorrect location is irreversible.

### Note:

Technical information, dimensions and illustrations in this guide are for guidance purposes only. We reserve the right to change product sizes and details without prior notice. We always recommend that the purchaser checks the sizes of the actual batch purchased prior to drilling other materials.

All advice or assistance relating to our products is given in good faith but without obligation and subject specifically to the exclusion of any liability whatever on our part or on the part of our staff for damages whether direct or consequential. It is the buyer's responsibility to establish the suitability of the product and materials for the purpose for which they are purchased.

## Fitting the handrails:

1. Do not use any adhesive at this stage, this is a dry run! Place the handrail connectors into the tops of the posts. Depending on the specific design of your balustrade these could be saddles, universals, elbows or a combination of all three. Take care to place these in the correct locations.
2. Starting at a fixed end i.e. against a wall, measure and cut the handrail tube as required. Remember if the end of the handrail joins into an elbow ensure the measurement is accurate. (If White Glove Service has been used, your handrails can be pre-cut to the correct length.)
3. Tape the handrail supports to the handrail using gauze tape. If the handrail connects to the wall then fix the wall flange onto the tube in the appropriate position but DO NOT fix this to the wall yet.
4. If you are using saddle connections rather than universals proceed straight to point 10. Remove the handrail completely from the uprights ensuring the supports remain securely taped in the exact position they were when the handrail was in place.
5. Using a felt pen, mark the holes on the handrail where your handrail support is positioned. Once all holes are marked and you are happy with their positions, un-tape the handrail supports. Alternatively you may wish to drill the handrail with the handrail supports still taped in place, this is fine and down to your personal preference.
6. Ensuring your handrail is securely positioned within a vice or similar mechanism, place a small piece of gauze tape over the marked area and using a sharp point, gently mark a pilot hole into your handrail - this will assist you in drilling the hole accurately.
7. Place lubricant onto your drill bit and proceed to drill the holes into your handrail. See our *Drilling & Tapping How To* guide.

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8. Once the hole has been successfully drilled you must now tap it. See our *Drilling & Tapping How To* guide.
9. Fit any necessary end caps to the handrails as required. Identify if these are glue in or knock in type and use appropriate method.
10. Once all holes in your handrail are drilled and tapped, proceed to replace your handrail supports, marrying up the holes in your handrail supports to the holes in your handrail. Place fixings through the underside of your handrail support and tighten until the handrail is securely fixed to handrail support.
11. Once you are satisfied with the assembly, alignment and positioning of these handrail supports, glue into the posts, as per our *Glueing Components How To Guide*.
12. Place the handrail supports and elbows into your uprights. Using gauze tape, securely tape any areas that you have applied adhesive to act as extra support and hold the joints closed while the adhesive sets. Leave to set for 24 hours.
13. Repeat points 1 to 11 until all handrails are securely fixed. If your layout includes a raking section (i.e. down stairs) take note of the fittings and layout required as per drawings supplied or contact our team to discuss.
14. With handrail fully fitted, give the balustrade a wipedown to remove the dirt and dust caused during installation. This significantly reduces the risk of tea staining.

**Once you have all the handrails firmly fixed to the posts and you are happy with the strength, location and orientation you can now fit the infill (if required).**

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## Cleaning & Protecting

1. Cleaning and protecting the balustrade straight after installation is important to minimise the risk of contamination or t-staining. To begin, do an initial wipedown to remove dust/dirt incurred during installation.
2. If the balustrade has a SATIN/ BRUSHED finish: Using the cleaning kit box (sold separately), take the brown scotchbrite pad and remove any bad scratches incurred during installation from the stainless steel. Follow with the maroon scotchbrite pad to polish up the stainless steel, making sure to rub in the direction of the existing grain.
3. Cleaning and protecting the steel straight after installation is important. Spray a small amount of Stainless Clean onto a lint free cloth and rub into the stainless. Refer to our 'Selecting & Caring for Stainless Steel' guide for more info.



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