

# PLANNING AHEAD

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### Trex Decking:

- » When installing any Trex decking product, especially Trex Transcend Tropicals, it is a good idea to mix and match all of the boards on the job site prior to installation to ensure an appealing mix of light and dark tones.
- » **DO NOT** combine Trex Select decking with other Trex decking products. Trex Select boards are thinner than Transcend and Enhance boards.

### Railing (Including ADA Handrail):

- » First, pick the railing style you want.
- » Calculate your spanning based on the railing you chose.
- » Determine the number of balusters you will need based on the railing you chose.

**NOTE: Trex Transcend and Select railings are made to be installed at maximum of 6' (1.83 m) or 8' (2.44 m) on center (depending upon type of railing you choose). Trex railings are not true 6' (72") or 8' (96") in length. Trex® Signature™ railing and Rod Rail are made to be installed at maximum 6' or 8' CLEAR SPAN BETWEEN POSTS.**

- » Determine post locations prior to installing any decking. In most cases, posts are usually installed before decking is installed.
- » Confirm with your local building official if ADA Handrail is required, and if so plan spanning for posts accordingly to allow for attachment of Trex ADA Handrail. ADA Handrail requires a span of 6' OC for posts.
- » Grill placement: A good recommendation to help prevent damage to your railing is to not have a grill too close to your railing. Allow for ample airspace (6" or more is recommended) between the back/sides of your grill to help prevent charring or staining to the railing.

See pages 58-71 for Transcend railing installation, pages 74-123 for Trex® Signature™ railing installation, pages 124-135 for Rod Rail installation, pages 136-145 for Select railing installation, and pages 146-149 for ADA Handrail installation.

### Trex Lighting:

- » Plan locations of lights, power supply, timer, and dimmer. These should be accessible for service if necessary.
- » Install wiring before decking and railing have been installed.
- » **DO NOT** run wires between joists and deck boards.

See pages 13-21 for Trex® OutdoorLighting™ installation.

### Trex® RainEscape® Deck Drainage System:

- » Plan ahead for deck layout to allow for proper placement of Trex RainEscape within the joist system.
- » Make sure joists are straight and square.

See [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com) for more information on Trex RainEscape recommendations and installation. Trex RainEscape is manufactured and distributed by Dri-Deck Enterprises, LLC, under a trademark license with Trex Company, Inc.

### Installing Hot Tubs, Planters, and Seating:

- » Plan ahead proper joist spanning if required (this is especially important if installing a hot tub).
- » Refer to page 29 for Trex Decking Span Chart for specific loads.

Call 1-800-BUY-TREX for detailed questions.

### Installing Fireplaces and/or Fire Pits With Trex Decking:



- » Determine if fire will be gas or wood burning. (NOTE: Most fire pits shown in Trex images are gas burning.)
- » For gas, the fire pit is installed by cutting around the Trex decking. **It is not to be installed on top of Trex decking.** A fire-resistant material is installed under the fire pit and a protective "wall" made from stone or other fire-resistant material is installed to hold fire pit in place and also protect the decking from heat.
- » For wood, fire pits are not recommended on top of Trex decking unless using a product called DeckProtect®. Wood-burning fire pits can damage the decking due to extreme heat from the bottom of the fire pit and/or burning embers "shooting" onto the decking. DeckProtect® was tested on all Trex decking and there were no issues with burning of the decking surface when placed directly under a standard size portable fire pit along with the accompanying rack (NOTE: Rack is not available for all sizes, so check with manufacturer first for verification). Trex does recommend that the DeckProtect® padding/rack

\*DeckProtect® is a registered trademark of Infinite Heat Solutions.

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be moved from time to time for general cleaning underneath. It should be noted that even when using DeckProtect®, burning embers could “shoot” beyond the protective mat and burn the deck.

For more information about this product, please visit their website at [www.deckprotect.net](http://www.deckprotect.net) or call 1-800-BUY-TREX. DeckProtect® is a registered trademark of Infinite Heat Solutions.



### Installing a Pergola on Trex Decking:

- » Keep in mind if you are planning to install a Trex® Pergola™ on your deck, you will need access to the underside of the deck. Trex Pergola mounts with a 10" x 10" (254 mm x 254 mm) aluminum plate on the underside of the deck, creating a clamping effect on

both the top and bottom of the deck for maximum strength. If installed, water barriers and any under deck coverings will have to be removed to properly install the pergola posts.

- » You need to consider the location of your pergola posts with respect to joists. However, you do not have to mount your plates between joists. It is possible to place blocks on the bottom of the joists and mount the Trex Pergola brackets through the blocks.

Trex® Pergola™ products are manufactured and sold by Home & Leisure, Inc., d/b/a/ Structureworks Fabrication under a Trademark License Agreement with Trex Company, Inc. A 25-year Limited Warranty is provided by manufacturer.

### Installing Trex® Spiral Stairs™:

- » Refer to [www.trexspiralstairs.com](http://www.trexspiralstairs.com) for detailed information on how to plan and install Trex Spiral Stairs.

Trex® Spiral Stairs™ are manufactured and sold by M. Cohen and Sons, Inc., d/b/a The Iron Shop, under a Trademark License Agreement with Trex Company, Inc. A 25-year Limited Warranty is provided by manufacturer.

### Installing Trex® Outdoor Kitchens Cabinetry and Storage™:

- » Refer to [www.trexoutdoorstorage.com](http://www.trexoutdoorstorage.com) for detailed information on how to install Trex Outdoor Kitchens and Cabinetry Storage products.

Trex® Outdoor Kitchens Cabinetry and Storage™ products are manufactured and sold by NatureKast, LLC., under a Trademark License Agreement with Trex Company, Inc. Warranty is provided by manufacturer.

**NOTE:** You can always reference the Design Tools Section on [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com) for additional planning ahead aids.