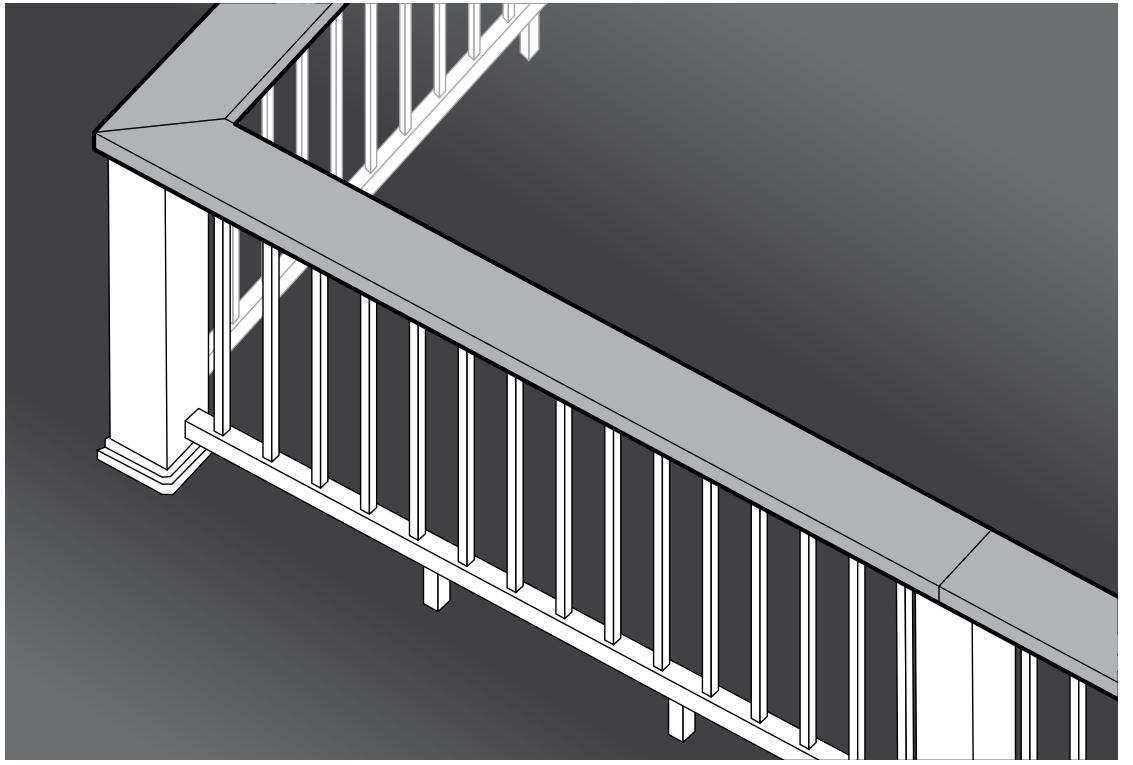


# DRINK RAIL INSTALLATION GUIDE



## FOR CLASSIC COMPOSITE SERIES RAILING

INSTALLING DRINK RAIL ON LEVEL PANELS.....4

INSTALLING DRINK RAIL ON STAIR PANELS.....8



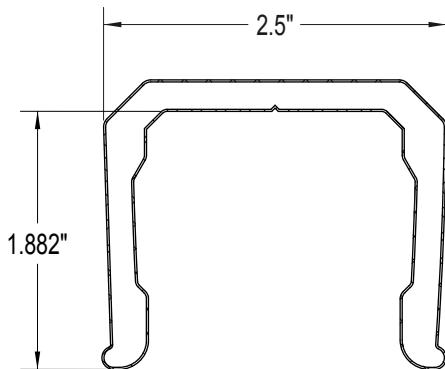
## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Please read all instructions completely before starting any part of the installation. Always make sure to visit [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com) to ensure you are viewing the most current installation instructions, care and cleaning, technical information and more.
- TimberTech Railing should be installed using the same good building principles used to install wood or composite railing and in accordance with the local building codes and the installation guidelines included below.
- The AZEK Company accepts no liability or responsibility for the improper installation of this product.
- TimberTech Railing may not be suitable for every application and it is the sole responsibility of the installer to be sure that the Railing is fit for the intended use. Since all installations are unique, it is also the installer's responsibility to determine specific requirements in regards to each Rail application.
- The AZEK Company recommends that all applications be reviewed by a licensed architect, engineer or local building official before installation. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please call AZEK Customer Service at 877-ASK-AZEK (877-275-2935), or visit our website at [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com).
- TimberTech Railing is tested as a whole system and should be used that way. It is not intended to be used in conjunction with other railing systems or fasteners.
- The following Installation Guidelines are applicable only for installation of TimberTech Classic Composite Series Railing.
- **IMPORTANT:** Make sure the DRIVE TOOL/DRILL is configured or set to use the SCREW setting when driving and/or tightening all FASTENERS. It is very Important not to overdrive fasteners. The use of Impact type drill drivers can increase the risk of overdriving fasteners.
- **SAFETY:** Always wear goggles when handling, cutting, drilling and fastening materials.
- Failure to install this product in accordance with applicable building codes and TimberTech's written Rail Install Guide may lead to personal injury, affect rail system performance and void the product warranty.
- The buildup or generation of static electricity is a naturally occurring phenomenon in many plastic based products such as carpeting, upholstery, and clothing, and can occur on alternative decking under certain environmental conditions. This static electricity can discharge once contact is made with hardware, railing, or other conductors of electricity.

**NOTE:** IF INSTALLING POST LIGHTING, WIRING MUST BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO SECURING POSTS TO DECK/STAIR SURFACE AND INSTALLING TOP RAILS.

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all local code requirements and obtain all required building permits. The installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The AZEK Company or its reseller shall not be held responsible for improper or unsafe installations.

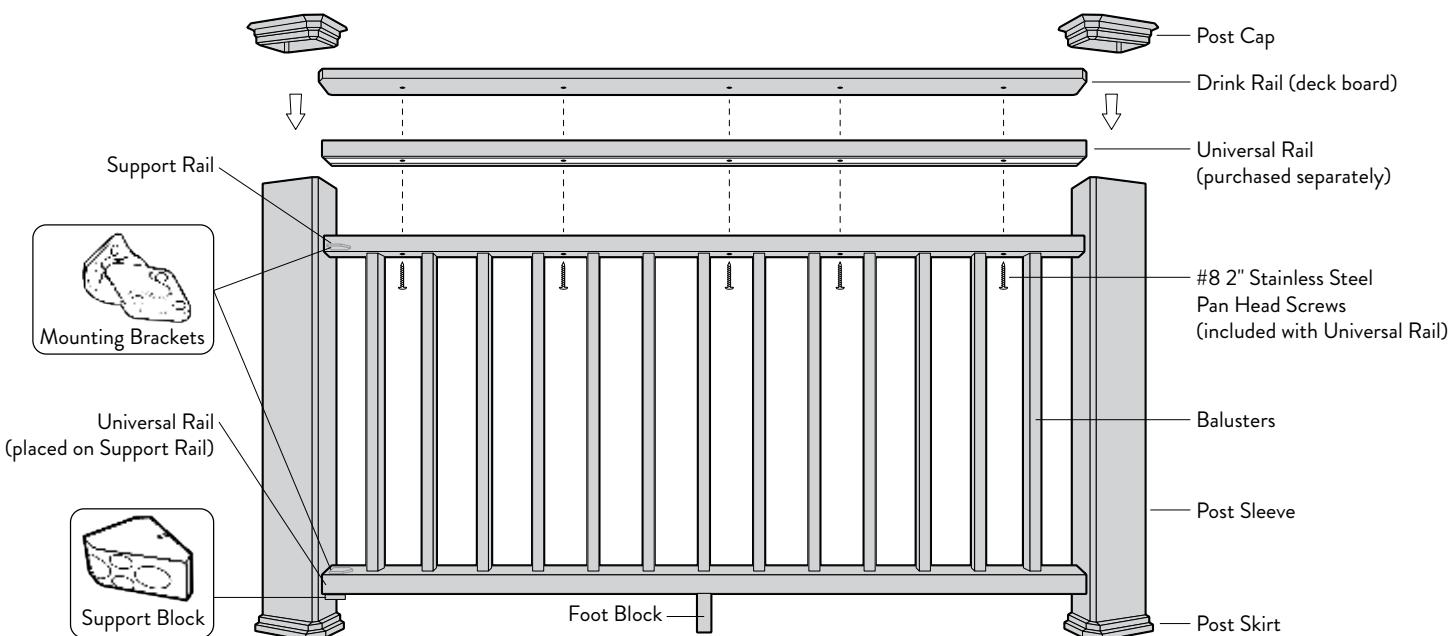
## UNIVERSAL RAIL DIMENSIONS



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Prior to construction, check with your local regulatory agency for special code requirements in your area.
- Common railing height is 36" or 42".
- TimberTech Railing 10', 8' and 6' Rails are designed not to exceed 10', 8' and 6' from center of post to center of post, respectively.
- For all other applications, consult a design professional or a TimberTech Railing representative for more information. For stair applications maximum rail length must not exceed 91".
- 4x4 lumber posts must be installed plumb and level with each other. This is specifically critical for Over-the-Post applications.
- Cut slowly, using a fine tooth saw blade to avoid chipping.
- Read instructions completely to get an understanding of how the product goes together and how each piece affects the other.
- For Over-the-Post applications, a wood post must be used inside our Post Sleeve. The use of Secure Mount Post is not an option for Over-the-Post applications.
- Compatible with all Classic Composite Series Railing Infills EXCEPT GLASS INFILL

# INSTALLING DRINK RAIL FOR CLASSIC COMPOSITE SERIES RAILING



## COMPONENTS NEEDED FOR INSTALLING ONE SECTION OF DRINK RAIL FOR COMPOSITE

COMPONENT	INCLUDES
Universal Rail	1 - Universal Rail (5) #8 x 2" screws for 6' rail, (7) screws for 8' rail, and (8) screws for 10' rail
Drink Rail	1 - Drink Rail (deck board) not included - must be purchased separately

Visit [www.timbertech.com/installation](http://www.timbertech.com/installation) to view installation videos.

Consult your local building codes for guard and handrail requirements.

## TOOLS REQUIRED:

- Miter Saw
- Tape Measure
- Cordless Drill
- T20 Drive Bit / Phillips Bit
- 7/64" Drill Bit
- 3/16" Drill Bit
- 1/4" Drill Bit
- Caulk Gun

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

TimberTech Universal Rails are available in 10', 8' and 6' lengths.

For Deck boards, visit:

<https://www.timbertech.com/products decking>

The Drink Rail system works with all full profile, square-shoulder deck boards, but **NOT** with scalloped boards (i.e. Terrain, Prime, Prime+ or ReliaBoard).

## DECK BOARDS

✓ YES  
FULL PROFILE

✗ NO  
SCALLOPED

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

It is **not recommended** to use narrow width (3.5") deck boards in Over-the-Post applications.

**Do not use** wide width (7.5") deck boards in Between-the-Post applications.

## These instructions cover installation of the Drink Rail (Deck board Top Rail) on Classic Composite Series Level Panels.

These instructions **DO NOT** cover the entire level rail assembly process. Please follow steps 1-7 on pages 3-5 in TimberTech Composite Series Railing Install Guide to build level rail assembly prior to installing Drink Rail.

The full **TimberTech Classic Composite Series Railing Install Guide** can be found at [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com)

This Installation Guide applies to the use of this product in a Drink Rail application. If you are using it as a bottom rail as part of a standard TimberTech railing installation, please refer to the full **TimberTech Classic Composite Rail Installation Guide** found at [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com).



### IMPORTANT NOTES:

Be sure to cut Post Sleeves such that finished rail height is at least 36" high for a 36" rail application and 42" high for a 42" application. For a 36" application, Post Sleeves typically should not be cut less than 35.25". For a 42" application post sleeves typically should not be cut less than 41.25".

**For all rail installations, post and post covers must be plumb and aligned with one another.**

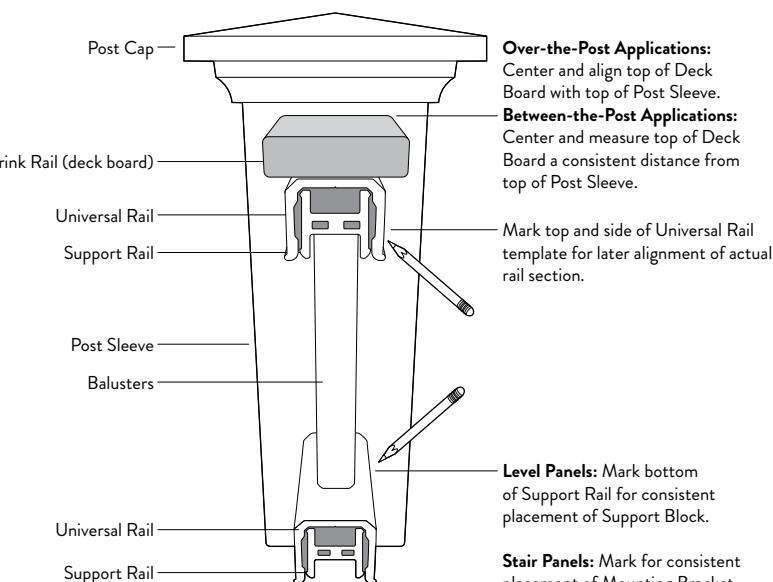
**For Over-the-Post applications, it is also critical that Posts be of a consistent height** (e.g. the tops of all post sleeves are level and on plane with each other).

**TIP:** To ensure that the tops of all post sleeves are level, you may use a traditional 8 ft. level or a string line to establish a common level across all post sleeves and cut at that level. Alternatively, you may use a laser level to "shoot" a level mark on each post sleeve and then cut at that mark.

For a proper finished look on Over-The-Post Drink Rail applications, make sure Universal Rail is even with the top of the post sleeves. Prior to installing rail assembly to Post, ensure that rail assembly is positioned (height wise) to eliminate any gaps between Deck board and Universal Rail (positioned on top).

**TIP:** It may be helpful to make a jig using a baluster, top and bottom support rail, and a Universal Rail on top and bottom. This will help set the top Universal Rail at the proper height (i.e. even with the height of the post sleeve) ensuring a flush fit for the deck board (**Dia. A**).

**Dia. A**



### FOR BEST RESULTS WITH OVER-THE-POST APPLICATIONS :

As is the case when using wood, Over-the-Post applications using TimberTech deck boards in which boards are mitered in the corners or that use butt joints mid-span are susceptible to those joints opening up or separating over time with changes in temperature. While it may be impossible to completely eliminate joints from separating, there are steps you can take to minimize the separation of the joints. We recommend the following:

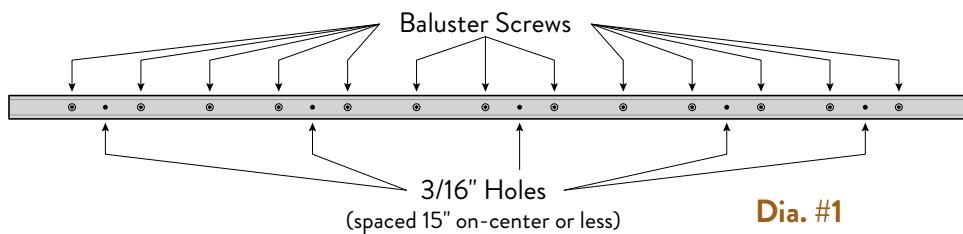
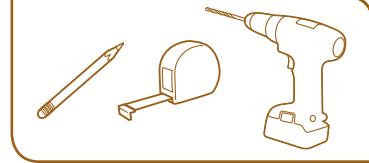
- It is critical that all **Posts are in line on the top**. In some cases, due to deck service undulation, the length of posts will vary in order to achieve a level sight line with your top drink rail.
- Avoid using butt joints whenever possible.** Utilization of butt joints may result in gapping of boards.
- Follow all fastener recommendations clearly** and make sure that any fasteners driven down through the deck boards and into posts make solid contact with the wood post. Do not use metal or other surface-mounted posts which are not made of wood.
- Before installing deck boards as drink rails, take all possible measures to **keep the temperature of the boards as low as possible**. The cooler the board at installation, the less apt joints will be to separate or gap. For best results and to minimize gapping, do not store or install deck boards in direct sunlight.
- Install all joints tight.** Unlike boards used in decking applications in which some spacing between boards may be recommended, there should be NO gap between the ends of TimberTech deck boards when installed as a drink rail.
- Not recommended** to use narrow width (3.5") deck boards in Over-the-Post applications.

# INSTALLING DRINK RAIL – LEVEL PANELS FOR CLASSIC COMPOSITE SERIES RAILING

**1**

## PREPARE UPPER SUPPORT RAIL

Measure, mark and drill 3/16" diameter holes down through the upper support rail at 15" on-center or less intervals (Dia. #1). There must be a hole drilled between the first and second baluster at each end of the rail. These holes will be used to run anchoring screws into the bottom of the deck board.

**2**

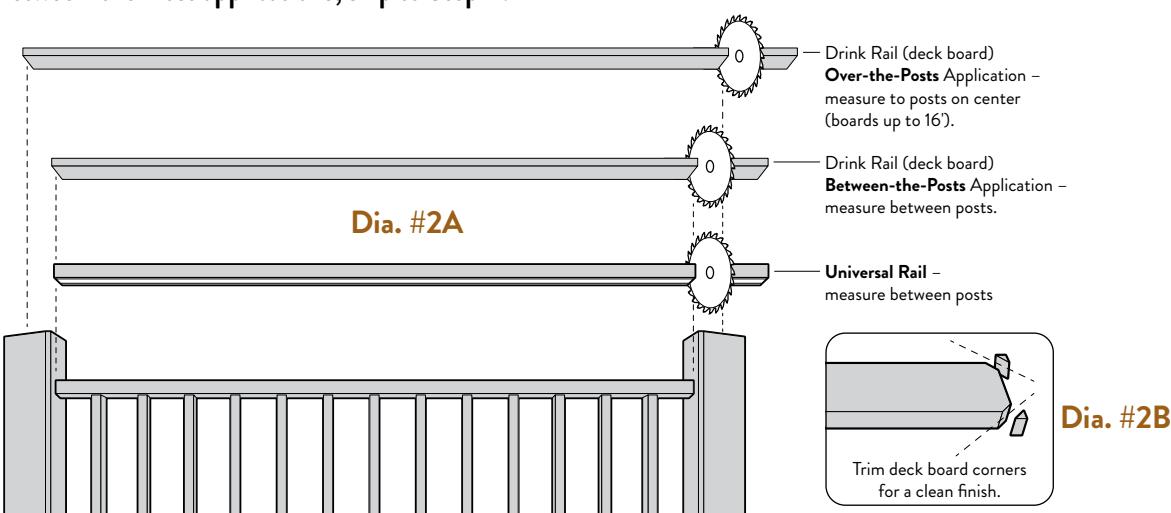
## CUT UNIVERSAL RAIL AND DECK BOARD

Measure, mark and cut the 2nd Universal Rail (purchased separately) and deck board to length (Dia. #2A). For Over-the-Post applications, cut deck boards so that any seams fall at the center of a post (boards up to 16'). Miter the planks at corner posts.



For Between-the-Post applications if the deck board is wider than posts, if desired, trim deck board corners for a clean finish (Dia. #2B). If using 3 1/2" wide boards, there is no need to trim corners for composite post applications. Place the Universal Rail over the top support rail between the post sleeves.

- For Over-the-Post applications, proceed to Step 3.
- For Between-the-Post applications, skip to Step 4.



## 3

### FASTEN DECK BOARD TO POSTS



#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

##### PRIOR TO INSTALLING DECK BOARDS:

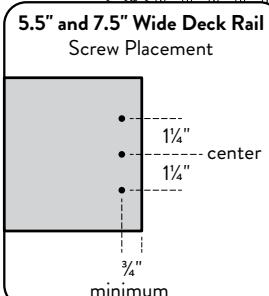
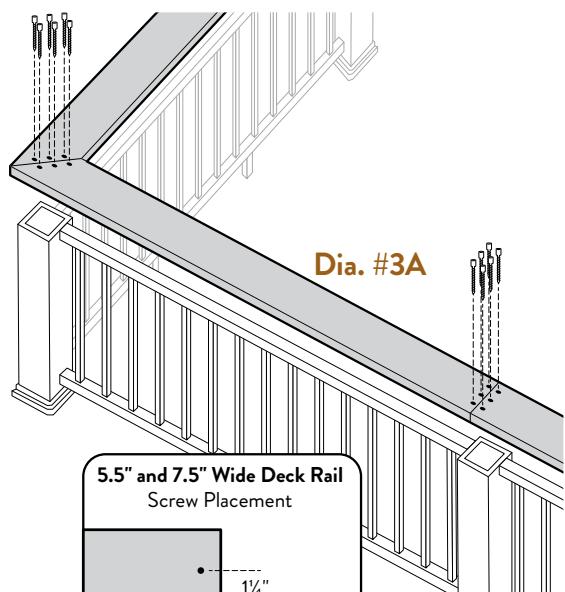
It is very important to have the **Universal Rail (positioned on top) even with the top of the post sleeves** to keep from seeing gaps under the Drink Rail.

The tops of all **4x4" posts must be within ¼" of the tops of post covers** for proper fastening of deck boards.

It is recommended to drill a **slight countersink** into the surface of the support rail so that the head of the screw sits just flush to slightly above the surface. Do not over countersink. Without countersinking, the Universal Rail may not sit flat against the support rail.

For **Over-the-Post Applications**, fasten deck board to posts with (3) 2 ½" SS Cortex or applicable TOPLOC screws (not included) on either side of a butt joint. For butt joints, install (3) screws on either side of butt joint into post. **Fasten no closer than 3/4" from the outside edge and ends of each plank (Dia. #3A, 3B)**. Make sure that boards are tight together at butt joints and no gap is left. **For proper screw placement, measure 1 ¼" from center of board to ensure ensure full contact with wood post (Dia. #3B)**.

**TIP:** Pre-drilling significantly reduces spinouts in end grain. Pre-drill through deck plank only, not into structural post. It is also suggested to drill only half way through the plank. Pre-drilling requirements vary distinctly by collection. See the [TimberTech Classic Composite Series Railing Install Guide](#) for details.



#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Pre-drilling with a 3/16" drill bit is always required when installing Cortex or applicable TOPLOC in TimberTech PRO and EDGE decking.
- The Cortex Setting Tool must be used to set the Cortex screw to the proper depth.
- The Cortex fastener must be driven perpendicular to the deck surface for proper fit and ideal finished look.
- The cored hole must be free of debris or moisture. Use a smooth hammer head to set the Cortex plug.
- The interaction between the deck board, screw, and plug is essential.

# INSTALLING DRINK RAIL – LEVEL PANELS FOR CLASSIC COMPOSITE SERIES RAILING

**4**

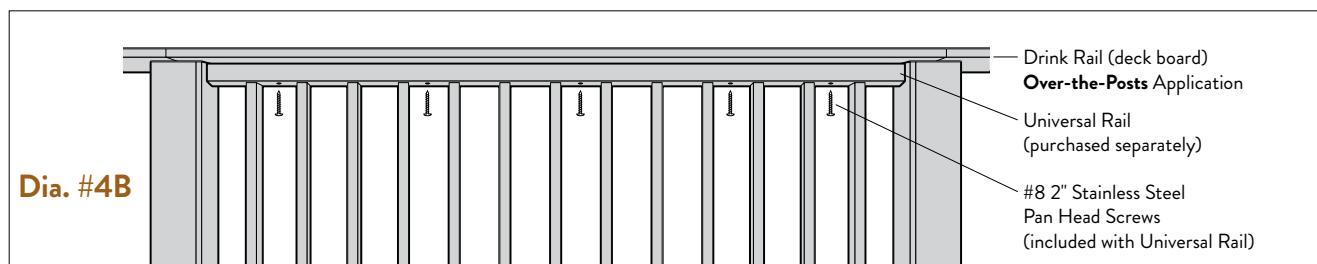
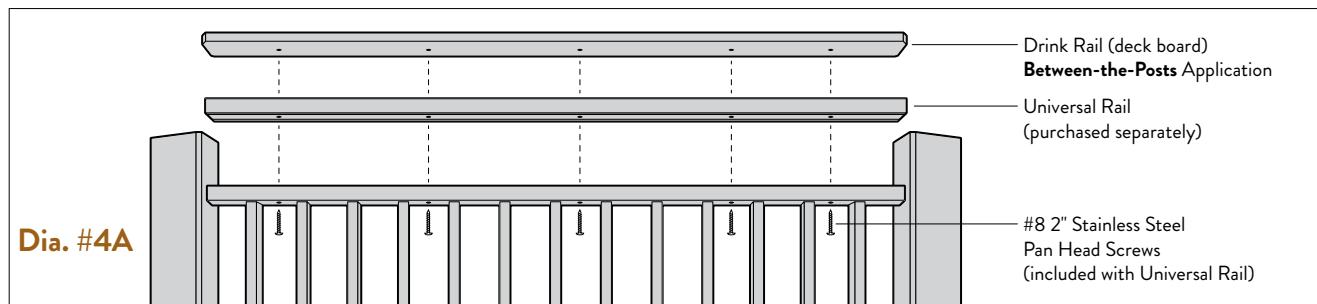
## FASTEN DECK BOARD TO UNIVERSAL RAIL

Place the Deck Board on top and centered over the Universal Rail. For both **Between-the-Post (Dia #4A)** and **Over-the-Post and Applications (Dia #4B)**, secure Deck Board and Universal Rail to Upper Support Rail using the 3/16" holes that were drilled in Step 1, use #8 2" Stainless Steel Pan Head Screws (included with Universal Rail).



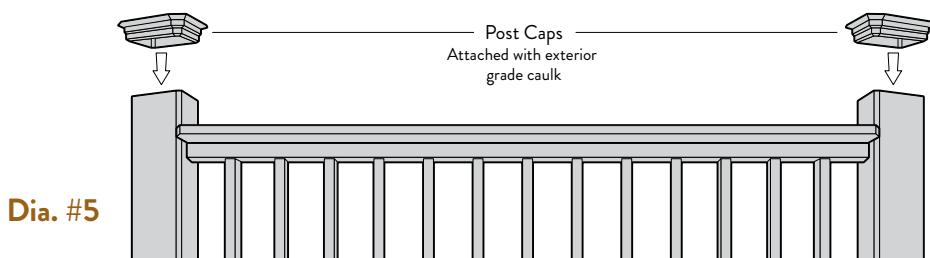
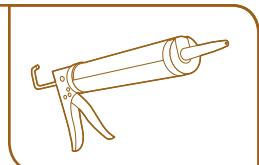
### IMPORTANT NOTE:

When installing cWPC decking (TimberTech PRO or TimberTech Edge), anchoring holes must be pre-drilled thru the rail assembly and into the deck board. Using the 3/16" holes that were drilled at 15' intervals as guides, drill a 1/8" diameter  $\frac{3}{4}$ " into the bottom of the deck board. Care must be taken not to drill through the top of the deck plank.

**5**

## ATTACH POST CAPS (BETWEEN-THE-POST APPLICATIONS)

Attach Post caps using exterior grade caulk/adhesive applied to the inside corners of the post caps (Dia. #5).



**These instructions cover installation of the Drink Rail (Deck board Top Rail) on Classic Composite Series Stair Panels.**

These instructions **DO NOT** cover the entire level rail assembly process. Please follow steps 1-7 on pages 3-5 in TimberTech Composite Series Railing Install Guide to build level rail assembly prior to installing Drink Rail.

The full **TimberTech Classic Composite Series Railing Install Guide** can be found at [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com)

This Installation Guide applies to the use of this product in a Drink Rail application. If you are using it as a bottom rail as part of a standard TimberTech railing installation, please refer to the full **TimberTech Classic Composite Rail Installation Guide** found at [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com).



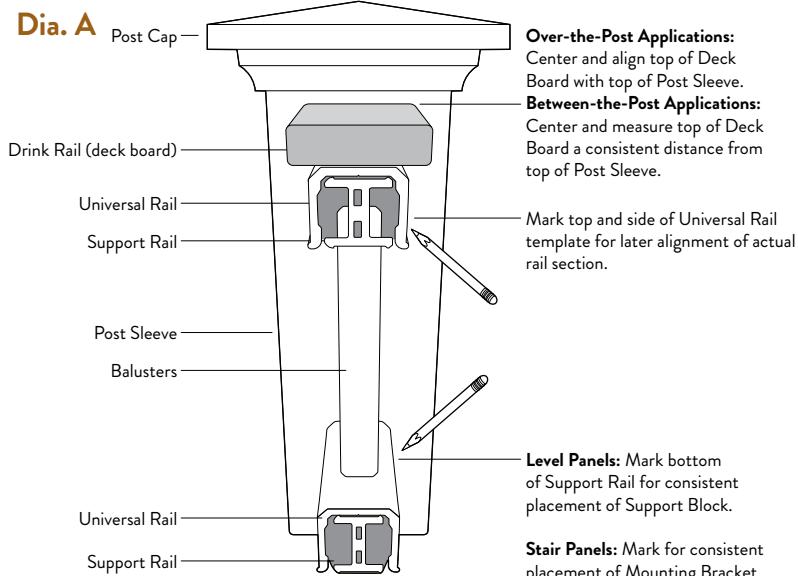
## IMPORTANT NOTE:

**For all rail installations, post and post covers must be plumb and aligned with one another.**

For a proper finished look on Over-The-Post Drink Rail applications, make sure Universal Rail is even with the top of the post sleeves and that post sleeves are a consistent height. Prior to installing rail assembly to Post, ensure that rail assembly is positioned (height wise) to eliminate any gaps between Deck board and Universal Rail (positioned on top).

**TIP:** It may be helpful to make a jig using a baluster, top and bottom support rail, and a Universal Rail on top and bottom. This will help set the top Universal Rail at the proper height (i.e. even with the height of the post sleeve) ensuring a flush fit for the deck board (**Dia. A**).

**Dia. A**



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

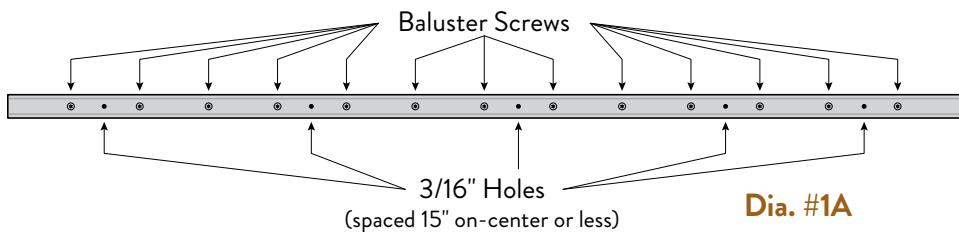
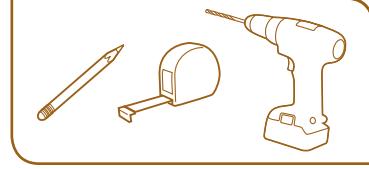
Make sure to drive screws parallel to balusters.

# INSTALLING DRINK RAIL – STAIR PANELS FOR CLASSIC COMPOSITE SERIES RAILING

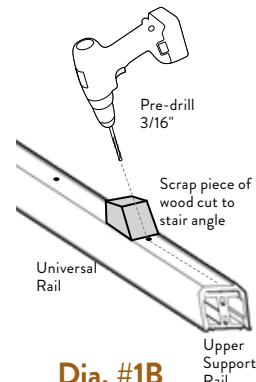


## 1 PREPARE UPPER SUPPORT RAIL

Measure, mark and drill 3/16" diameter holes down through the upper support rail at 15" on-center intervals (Dia. #1A). There must be a hole drilled between the first and second baluster at each end of the rail. These holes will be used to run anchoring screws into the bottom of the deck board. Holes should be drilled to match the angle of the stairs. A scrap piece of wood cut to stair angle may help. (Dia. #1B).



Dia. #1A



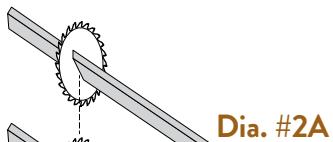
Dia. #1B

## 2 CUT UNIVERSAL RAIL AND DECK BOARD

Measure, mark and cut the 2nd Universal Rail (purchased separately) and deck board to length (Dia. #2A). Both ends need to be cut to match the angle of the Top Support Rail.

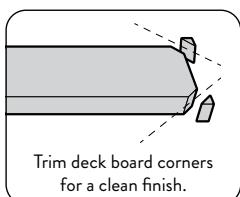
For Between-the-Post applications, trim both ends of deck board for a clean finish (Dia. #2B). Place the Universal Rail over the top support rail between the post sleeves.

- For Over-the-Post applications, proceed to Step 3.
- For Between-the-Post applications, skip to Step 4.

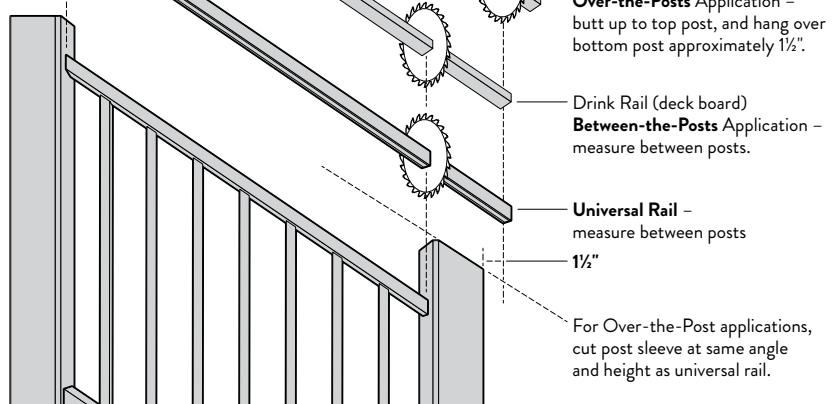


Dia. #2A

Dia. #2B



Trim deck board corners  
for a clean finish.



## 3

### FASTEN DECK BOARD TO POSTS (OVER-THE-POST APPLICATIONS)



#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

##### PRIOR TO INSTALLING DECK BOARDS:

As with the level panel sections, it is very important to have the **Universal Rail (positioned on top) even with the top of the post sleeves** to keep from seeing gaps under the Drink Rail.

It is recommended to drill a slight countersink into the surface of the support rail so that the head of the screw sits just flush to slightly above the surface. Do not over countersink. Without countersinking, the Universal Rail may not sit flat against the support rail. Make sure to drive screws parallel to balusters.

For butt joints, install (3) screws on either side of butt joint into post.

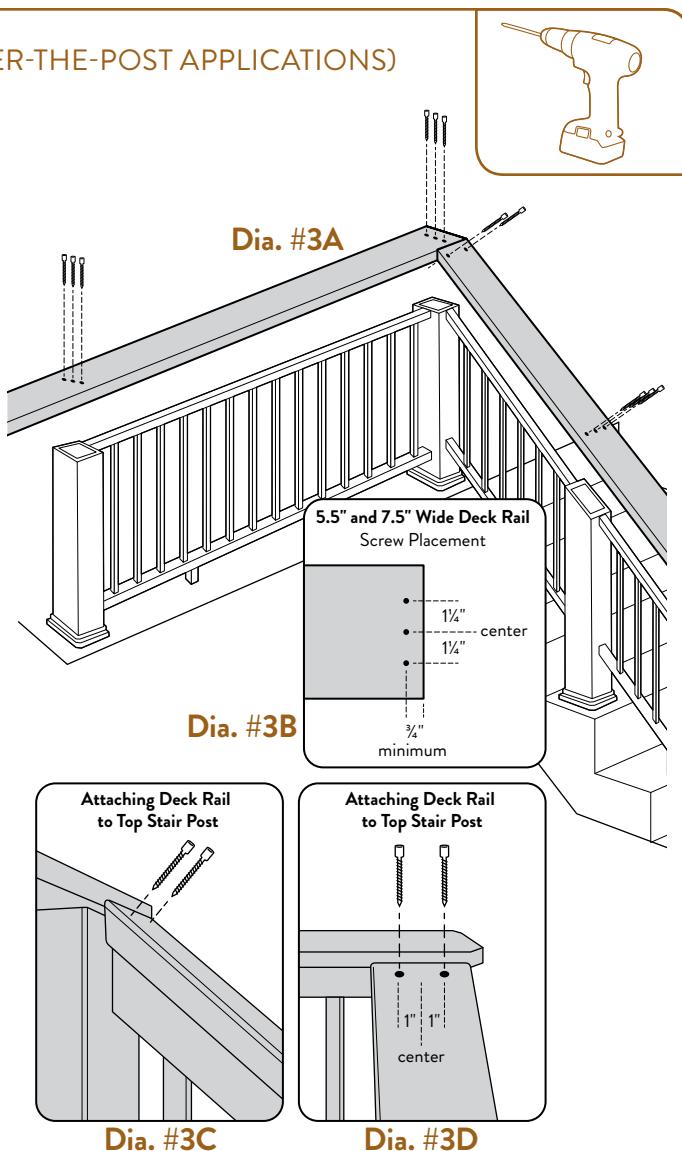
For **Over-the-Post Applications**, fasten deck board to posts with (3) 2 1/2" SS Cortex screws (not included) on either side of a butt joint. **For composite deck boards**, fasten **no closer than 3/4"** from the outside edge and ends of each plank (Dia. #3A & 3B). For PVC boards, fasten **within 1/2"** from outside edge and ends of each plank. For screw placement, measure **1 1/4" from center of board** to ensure full contact with wood post. (Dia. #3A & 3B). Make sure that boards are tight together at butt joints and no gap is left.

**TIP:** Pre-drilling significantly reduces spinouts in end grain. Pre-drill through deck plank only, not into structural post. It is also suggested to drill only half way through the plank. Pre-drilling requirements vary distinctly by collection. See the [TimberTech Classic Composite Series Railing Install Guide](#) for details.



#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Pre-drilling with a 3/16" drill bit is always required when installing Cortex in TimberTech PRO and EDGE decking.
- The Cortex Setting Tool must be used to set the Cortex screw to the proper depth.
- The Cortex fastener must be driven perpendicular to the deck surface for proper fit and ideal finished look.
- The cored hole must be free of debris or moisture. Use a smooth hammer head to set the Cortex plug.
- The interaction between the deck board, screw, and plug is essential. Use of non-Cortex Screws or non-Cortex plugs will nullify the warranty.



**TIP:** For stairs, it is suggested to install the Drink Rail butted to the top post and over the bottom post. This is based on the ability to anchor the Drink Rail securely at the top and bottom. (Dia. #4B)



#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

When attaching the **deck board to the top stair post**, it is recommended to predrill thru the deck board **1" from center on both sides** and thru the post sleeve (Dia. #3C & 3D). The top deck board is screwed into the side of the top post. Only **two screws** are needed.

# INSTALLING DRINK RAIL – STAIR PANELS FOR CLASSIC COMPOSITE SERIES RAILING

**4**

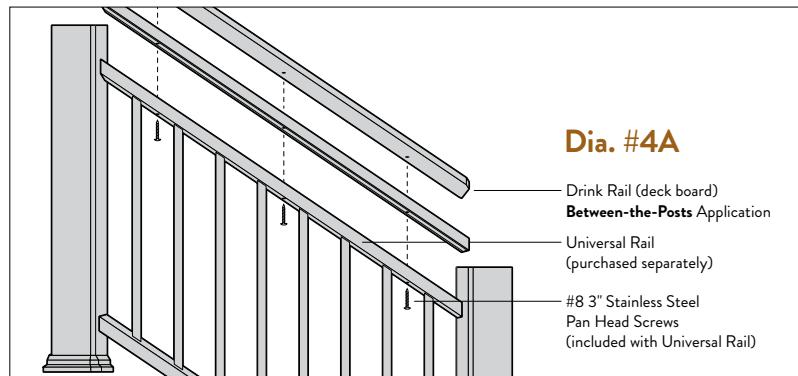
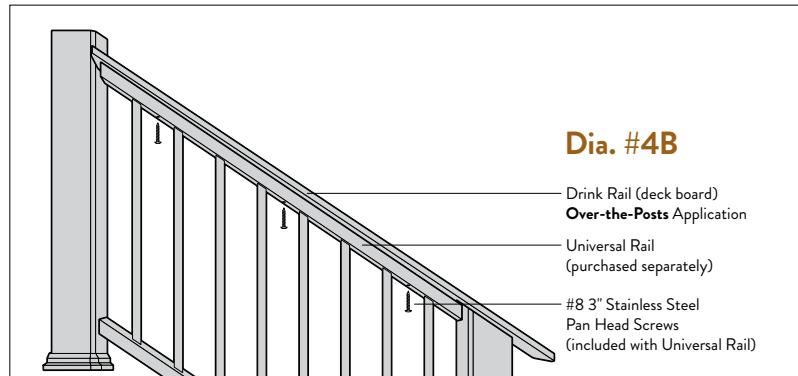
## FASTEN DECK BOARD TO UNIVERSAL RAIL

Place the Deck Board on top and centered over the Universal Rail. For both **Between-the-Post** (Dia #4A) and **Over-the-Post** and **Applications** (Dia #4B), secure Deck Board and Universal Rail to Upper Support Rail using the 3/16" holes that were drilled in Step 1, use #8 3" Stainless Steel Pan Head Screws (included with Universal Rail), taking care to drive them in parallel to balusters.



### IMPORTANT NOTE:

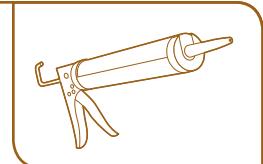
When installing cWPC decking (TimberTech PRO and EDGE), anchoring holes must be pre-drilled thru the rail assembly and into the deck board. Using the 3/16" holes that were drilled at 15" intervals as guides, drill a 1/8" diameter holes  $\frac{3}{4}$ " into the bottom of the deck board. Care must be taken not to drill through the top of the deck plank. (Dia. #4C)

**Dia. #4C****5**

## ATTACH POST CAPS

(BETWEEN-THE-POST APPLICATIONS)

Attach Post caps using exterior grade caulk/adhesive applied to the inside corners of the post caps (Dia. #5).



### IMPORTANT NOTE:

The diagrams and instructions in this brochure are for illustration purposes only and are not meant to replace a licensed professional. Any construction or use of the product must be in accordance with all local zoning and/or building codes. The consumer assumes all risks and liability associated with the construction or use of this product. The consumer or contractor should take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the project, including, but not limited to, wearing the appropriate safety equipment. Except as contained in the written limited warranty, The AZEK Company does not provide any other warranty, either express or implied, and shall not be liable for any damages, including consequential damages.



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