

# FAQ



## TUSCAN MANUFACTURING, LP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **What is the maximum mounting angle I can achieve from a 4" x 4" post?**

Using the 22.5° bracket kit, you can install up to a 22.5° angle to the face of a 4" x 4" post. More than a 22.5° angle you will need to field modify a stair bracket or use the 45° adapter to encompass a corner of the post.

### **Do the stair brackets come pre-cut at 29° or 36°?**

No. The stair brackets can be cut on site, in conjunction with stair rail, to match the stair angle.

### **Is there a flush mount structural post for commercial height rail?**

Our surface mount can be adjusted to accommodate 42" high railing. In addition, all of our porch posts are structural and are designed to mount 42" high railing.

### **How do I keep my post caps on?**

Post caps can be glued in place with any clear vinyl adhesive. PVC glue or a silicone adhesive can also be used. Any of these are sold by most hardware stores, lumber yards, or home centers.

### **How high above the rail should I cut post sleeves?**

We suggest measuring up 2½" to 3½" above the crest of the top rail bracket.

### **Does Tuscan railing meet the necessary building codes?**

Yes, Tuscan products meet or exceed the load requirements for all building code applications. Always check with your local code enforcement official for the requirements in your area. Independent accredited and engineer endorsed test reports are available by request.

### **Are the dimensions in your kits actual?**

Yes. Tuscan kits are designed to span 6', 8', and 10' lengths.

### **Can one rail kit be split evenly in half?**

Kits can be cut down to any dimension and, with an additional bracket kit, can become two complete railing sections. Cutting a kit evenly in half may not allow symmetrical end spacing depending on the kit used.

### **Can porch posts be split evenly in half?**

Porch posts can be cut down to any dimension but they will no longer be structural if the inside components are cut out or modified in any way.

### **What is vinyl made from?**

The base ingredient is rigid PVC (polyvinyl chloride), modified to provide superior strength and ultraviolet (UV) resistance. The formulation is similar to vinyl siding and windows, which have a nearly 30 year history of durability and structural integrity.

### **What is "virgin vinyl"?**

Virgin vinyl is 100% new PVC with no recycled material added.

### **How strong is vinyl?**

Our vinyl is impact modified for flexibility and durability. Tuscan products have been tested to ICC standards by an IAS lab.

### **Does vinyl retain its strength in cold weather?**

Most plastics, vinyl included, become less flexible in severe conditions. Unless subjected to unusual impact, it will not break due to the quality of modifiers used in Tuscan's vinyl.

### **What about hot weather or temperature swings?**

All materials expand and contract with temperature changes. Our products are engineered with this in mind.

### **Is vinyl safe?**

With Tuscan railing, your finished installation hides all fasteners, leaving nothing but smooth surfaces and no sharp edges. Vinyl is tough, retains no moisture, and is non-porous with an easy to clean durable finish.

### **Will Tuscan railing turn yellow?**

No, it will not. It contains >10 parts titanium dioxide (UV inhibitor) which prevents degradation from sunlight.



### **Is vinyl easily burned or melted?**

No. PVC has a high flash point of 900°F and does not readily ignite. It is also categorized as a self-extinguishing polymer.

### **Is it hard to clean?**

For normal cleaning, any non-abrasive cleaner mixed with water will be sufficient. For more stubborn problems using #0000 steel wool in conjunction with cleaner, is recommended.

### **Can I paint it?**

Your choice of Tuscan products would normally preclude the desire to paint or do maintenance in any way. However, if you do choose to paint, there are vinyl primers and epoxy-based paints available to achieve this. However, this will void any warranty, written or implied.

### **Is vinyl expensive?**

In reality, vinyl is not only as economical, but more so than other options available. The initial purchase may seem high at first glance, but after maintenance (painting, sanding, priming, water proofing or staining) is added to the equation, you will see drastic savings early in its life cycle.

### **Can I use Tuscan railing on a second story?**

Yes, Tuscan railing meets or exceeds all current ICC code requirements. It is very important to always check with your local code enforcement office for any special or local requirements on your project. 42" high railing is usually required for second story installation.

### **Why does Tuscan railing come in a box?**

Tuscan railing is packaged this way so you can be sure each and every piece will be safe, secure, and undamaged until you are ready to install it.

### **Are your railing kits reinforced in any way?**

All Tuscan vinyl railing kits are reinforced with top and bottom aluminum extrusions that are specifically engineered for the best possible performance and value.

### **Do you offer turned or "colonial" style balusters?**

Tuscan offers both square and turned style balusters with matching porch and newel posts.

### **Does Tuscan offer "graspable" hand rail for handicap access ramps?**

The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires "ALL" stair and/or ramp installations to be complete with "continuous graspable handrail". Tuscan Compliant Railing™ meets this need. Always consult local building codes in your area prior to building.

### **How can I find Tuscan railing?**

Tuscan railing is distributed through an extensive nationwide dealer network. Simply call 800-500-8778 and we will be happy to find a dealer near you.

### **What do I do with odd angles?**

Tuscan railing offers bracket kits to achieve most level angles and acute angles possible on one post. We offer both 22.5° and 45° bracket kits which install directly to the corner of a post or wall. Our stair bracket can be field modified to facilitate all other acute angles. .

### **I have round columns, how do I mount to them?**

Our round column adapter will allow our railing brackets to mount to 6", 8", or 10" round columns to provide you with a designer look and finish. .

### **How do I install Tuscan POSTS to brick or concrete?**

**For newel posts:** use our post mount in conjunction with specified hardware through the bottom plate.

**For porch posts:** mount through supplied mounting plates using the provided hardware and instructions.

### **What is the best way to transition from level to stair at an angle?**

The best way to accomplish this is to plan ahead. When installing your posts, be sure to set the transition post in line with the stair rail so you can utilize the standard stair brackets. With this done, you can use the 45° adapter to install your level rail to the same post.

### **What type of saw can I cut it with?**

Tuscan railing can be cut with most saw types. When using a power miter saw, a high tooth count (80 or more) carbide tip is best. Be sure to have the blade up to speed before beginning your cut. Hack saws and other saw types with metal cutting blades will also do the job.