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How to Install Iron Balusters

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Changing from wood balusters is an easy project for most DIYers. This step by step guide will show you the key points for a good installation.

1



Before installation.

2



Cut the wood balusters in the middle and discard.

3



Cutting balusters with a reciprocating saw saves time.

4



The Staircase with balusters removed.

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5



Notice wood screws that need to be removed prior to drilling holes for iron.

6



Layout the pattern of balusters before starting installation.

7



Measure and cut balusters 2" longer than the distance from wall cap to handrail. This will allow 1" of iron baluster to extend into the handrail and 1" into the wall cap.

8



The angle of the shoes can be adjusted with a belt sander for a perfect fit. This step is not required, but it is helpful for a perfect fit.

9



Drill holes 5/8" or 3/4" in diameter 1" deep into the wall cap. The hole in the handrail should be about 2" deep to allow the baluster to slide into the handrail and down into the wall cap.

10



Put the shoes on the balusters (loosen set screws as necessary). Slide the baluster up and into the handrail, then down and into the wall cap (or stair tread as applicable).

11



Put tape around the top of the baluster. The tape can be removed later. The tape provides a barrier so that any epoxy that runs out of the hole sticks to the tape rather than the baluster. Fill the gaps with epoxy using the fine point on the epoxy mixing tube.

12



Put epoxy in the bottom as well as the top. The bottom shoe is held out of the way with tape. Allow the epoxy to fully cure for 24 hours before touching the handrail or balusters.

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13



Slide the shoes in place and tighten the setscrews so you can enjoy your new stairway.

14



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