

## Balustrade Regulations for Wire Rope Balustrades

This should only be used as a guide and we recommend speaking to your local council before installing your balustrade.

There have been several revisions to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) regulations on wire balustrades in the past few years with revisions made in 2005, 2007, 2008 and again in 2009. Other websites are still recommending spacing and distances based on the old regulations so please be careful before installing your own balustrade.

Based on the most recently released regulations in MAY 2009 our understanding and recommendations are as follows.

**Balustrades with a fall of less than 1 meter to the area below** (ie the furthest someone could fall if they fell off the edge of your deck).

In this case a balustrade is not required so you can space the wire at your own discretion and place your posts at any distance you like. We would

- recommend spacing your wires at between 100mm and 200mm and
- posts placed at around 2 meters apart.

### Balustrades with a fall of between 1 and 4 meters.

- The top of your handrail on your balustrade must be at least 1m from the floor of your deck and
- Strongly suggest using a top rail of at least 40mm thick (either timber or steel).
- the spacing between wires needs to be **80mm** and
- the distance between posts should be no more than **1.5meters**. (e.g.) Using a top rail at 1m off the ground and at least 40mm thick you would need to use **11 wires**.
- Runs of wire should only be installed in straight lines (must be terminated at each corner).
- Maximum length of any run to be 10 meters. (Straight line run of over 10 meters should be terminated on one side of a centre post and started again on the other).

