

Things to Consider When Buying Cable Railing

Understand What You Are Buying

Not all cable railing is the same so make sure you are buying quality products. To assist you in understanding your choices, Feeney® gives you a list of items to look for when buying railing products.

Is It a Quality Product?

Since quality standards vary from each manufacturer, here are some key questions to ask in regards to quality. Each manufacturer should have this information readily available for any buyer. The least expensive product may not always be the best one to choose.

- **Testing reports** are something that every manufacturer should have readily available to show the buyer a third-party validation of their products. Here are some test reports that you can require for your project:
 - » Salt Fog Exposure Test (ASTM B117)
 - » Performance and Compliance Testing
- **Warranty claim percentage** to sales is a key number for a buyer to get from a manufacturer. This will tell you how many product failures occurred during the product life cycle. Make sure you get the details on this one; for example, you will need the years that the manufacturer is using for their data.
- **Product composition** of materials used to make the product. Just like in the food you eat, you want to know what makes up the railing product being purchased. The ingredients and manufacturing process is key to knowing if the product you are buying will stand up years from now. Here is what we suggest for a cable railing product composition and manufacturing process:
 - » Marine Grade 316 stainless steel, for excellent corrosion resistance.

Component	Alloy	Reference Standard
Wire Rope	Type 316 Stainless Steel	AISI Type 316, ASTM A492
Threaded Terminal Fittings	Type 316 Stainless Steel	ASTM A276
Quick-Connect® Fittings		
Beveled Washers		
Nut Washers		
Decorative Caps		

- » Validated premium raw materials, manufacturer should confirm elemental composition prior to production.
- » Silicone protection seal for fittings with exposed cable insertion holes (9800/9900) must be on the fitting for added protection against dirt, debris and potentially corrosive elements from entering the body of the fitting.

Can I Trust the Manufacturer?

Manufacturers will come and go, so make sure the one you choose will be there for you after the purchase. Feeney is the "original" cable railing manufacturer and we are 70+ years strong. Feeney will be here for you for years to come, with an expert staff to support you through the quoting, purchase, installation and after install care.

Is It Easy to Install?

The easier cable railing is to install the more of a win-win it is for both buyer and contractor. Feeney has been making it easy for over 70 years, perfecting the art of cable railing. Whether it is Feeney engineered tools to assist with the install or our Patented Quick-Connect® fittings, choosing Feeney will make your project a breeze.

Is It Safe and Code-Compliant?

See below for basic code requirements for railing installation.

International Code Council – International Residential Code (IRC):

- 1. Section 104.11 Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment.**
Supporting data, where necessary to assist in the approval of materials or assemblies not specifically provided for in this code, shall consist of valid research reports from approved sources.
- 2. 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021 IRC Section R311.7.8 – Handrails.**
Handrails shall be provided on not less than one side of each flight of stairs with four or more risers.
- 3. 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021 IRC Section R311.8.3 – Handrails Required.**
Handrail height, measured above the finished surface of the ramp slope, shall be not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm).
- 4. 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021 IRC Section 312 – Guards.**
Guards shall be provided for those portions of open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, ramps and landings, that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side.

International Code Council – International Building Code (IBC):

- 1. Section 104.11 – Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment.**
- 2. Section 1014 – Handrails.**
- 3. Section 1015 – Guards.**