



DIYmodify Factsheet

SKILLS NEEDED: Wall mounted handrail

This project requires MORE SKILL.

It is essential you put the handrail in the best place, at the right height and that it is fixed securely.

For this project, you will need to:

- measure accurately,
- have a good range of flexibility and mobility,
- hold small items steady,
- balance and hold a length of rail to make sure it is straight,
- problem solve if something doesn't go according to plan,
- feel certain you can start and complete all the different tasks for this project. Make sure you have everything that you will need to complete the task available and ready before you start!

If you can't do all these things easily by yourself, maybe get a friend or family member to help.

If you don't want to try it or are concerned about completing it, why not get a builder or tradesperson to do the job for you! There is a quote form you can send off to a handyperson or builder and can be found in the DIYmodify App under Installation Tips.

Caution

Make sure there are no electrical wires anywhere near where you are drilling for the fixings. If you are not sure where the electrical wiring is get someone to help you to find out.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE DOING THIS PROJECT

You **DON'T WANT** a wobbly or loose handrail.

Handrails carry your weight when you are leaning on them and they must be fixed firmly into the wall. A handrail is only as strong as the wall it is fixed to.

You will need to know what your house is made of so that you know which fixings to use.

Your handrail must be fixed into studs if your house is timber stud framed.

TIP: Use a stud finder to locate the studs for fixing the handrail.

If your house is steel stud framed, you may have to strengthen the framework before fixing the handrail.

If your house is made of brickwork, you need to make sure you use fixings for brickwork.

If your home has asbestos walls, do not drill into the asbestos. Get some help. The Australian Government's enHealth's *Asbestos: A guide for householders and the general public, February 2013* explains about asbestos and where to get help. If you do not know if your home has asbestos or not, seek help with this. Do **NOT** start until you are sure your walls are **NOT** asbestos.

Measure and mark on the wall with chalk or masking tape, or something similar, where you are going to fix the handrail. Measure up from the edge of each step. Lie your handrail against the marks you have made to make sure it matches with each of these, particularly at the top step and the bottom step.

Make sure the handrail continues past the top and bottom steps so you still have something to hold onto when you finish the steps.

Check that all the steps are the same height. It is easier to go up steps if they are all the same height and fit your feet well. The steps may need to be changed before putting in a handrail.

Lighting near the steps will also help you get up them.

***This information was correct at time of printing.*