



experience installing glass handrail systems. "We have to be sure that the structure will withstand imposed loads. Since each individual glass handrail or guardrail system differs in some way, it is advisable to have an engineer inspect every project."

Put Your Shoes

The first piece of glass handrail is mounted to the wall. The

pre-drilled holes in the steel structure can be used to attach the glass panels. This guardrail system is resistant to moisture and salt. The screws or bolts are driven.

Block It Up

Place setting blocks inside of the shoe moldings to provide support and cushion for the glass panels. These flexible blocks hold the glass panel in place

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ed when
for support
guardrail is used
them that can prevent
acciden. In this regard, a typical
handrail varies from 34 to 38 inches in
height and a guardrail nearly always
measures 42 inches in height. In addi-
tion, most model codes have some basic
load requirements. At a distance of 42
inches above floor level, the system
should be able to handle a 50-pound
uniform load or a 200-pound concen-
trated load. The bottom line is that each
system designer should consult govern-
ing code, local ordinances, project spec-
ifications, and regulatory authorities to
determine requirements for compliance
not only before installation but before
fabrication begins.

Many installation subcontractors do not take any chances when it comes to meeting codes. "We like to draw up our projects and submit them to an engineer to get his/her blessing," says Mike Boydston of Eastside Glass of Kirkland, WA, a firm with more than 25 years of

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