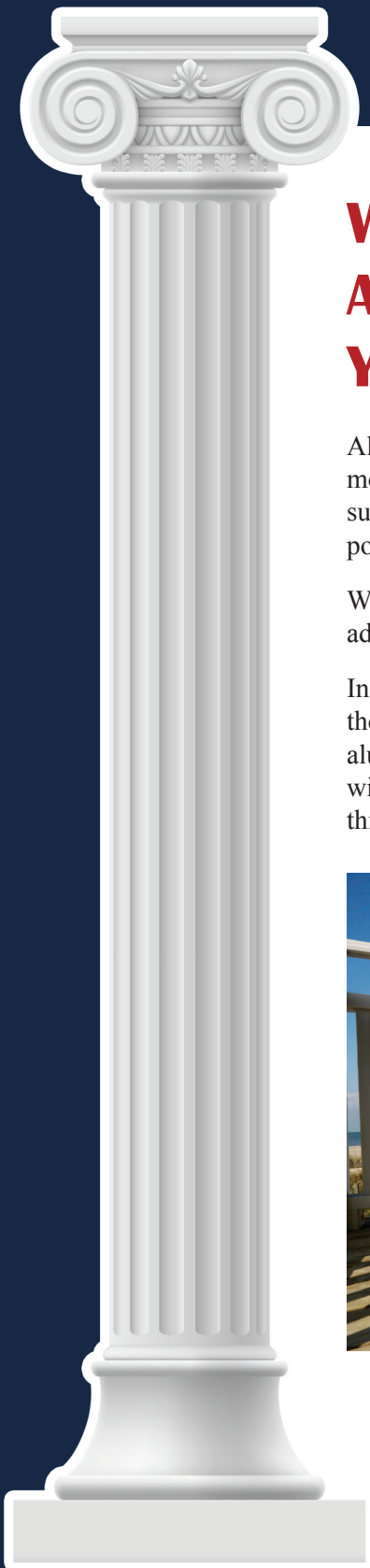


# The Monthly COLUMN™



## Why You Should Use Aluminum Railing For Your Next Project

Aluminum railings are a savvy and beautiful option in the modern decking market. In fact, aluminum deck railing is such a great choice that it has become one of the most popular deck railing selections available.

Why is it so popular? Because it comes with so many great advantages at a smart investment point.

In this edition of the Monthly Column we will explore those advantages. We will lay out the key features that aluminum brings to the table, as well as compare aluminum with other popular materials. See for yourself why we think aluminum is top-notch!



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- Did You Know

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- Which Porch Column Material is Most Affordable?
- 5 Myths Surrounding Load-Bearing Structural Columns



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### The Key Characteristics of Aluminum Deck Railing

#### Strength

In addition to adding security and beauty to your outdoor space, aluminum brings an incredible strength against the elements. By nature, aluminum is a non-ferrous metal – which means that it does not contain iron. This translates to one of the most weather-resistant materials out there! Aluminum is not prone to excessive corrosion or rust, and it beautifully withstands Mother Nature's toughest seasons.

#### Kicked-Back Care

Powder coated aluminum deck railing comes with zero maintenance. It will not need regular care or even touch-up painting. This means that caring for your beautiful railing system involves nothing more than enjoying it.

#### Style

Aluminum deck railing comes in endless varieties of colors and styles, to help you show off yours! First impressions start at the front of your home and with all of these options, you can display a décor personality all your own.

#### Smart Savings

While an aluminum deck railing is more costly than the cheapest wood options, it is a much smarter investment. Over time, wood requires many more time-consuming and costly regular maintenance tasks. This makes an aluminum deck railing actually more affordable in the long term. It is also far less expensive than other metal materials such as wrought iron or steel. And because it is a smarter investment than wood, yet less costly than other metals, it is the best bang for your buck!

Now that we have highlighted some of aluminum's key characteristics, let's compare aluminum to other available materials and see just how it stacks up.

|                                  | Aluminum | Steel | Wood | Vinyl |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Low Expansion/Shrinkage Index    | Yes      | Yes   | No   | No    |
| Can withstand the elements       | Yes      | Yes   | No   | No    |
| Zero Maintenance                 | Yes      | Yes   | No   | No    |
| Protected from rotting           | Yes      | Yes   | No   | No    |
| Long-lasting paint finish        | Yes      | No    | No   | No    |
| Easy to transport                | Yes      | No    | Yes  | Yes   |
| Easy to handle                   | Yes      | No    | Yes  | Yes   |
| Easy to make on-site adjustments | Yes      | No    | Yes  | Yes   |
| Cost Effective                   | Yes      | No    | No   | Yes   |

*“Nothing requires the architect’s care more than the due proportions of buildings. -Vitruvius*

## By The #'s

### Housing Market Index

June 2015 = 54 ↓

Source:  
NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing  
Market Index, U.S. Census Bureau

### U.S. Housing Starts

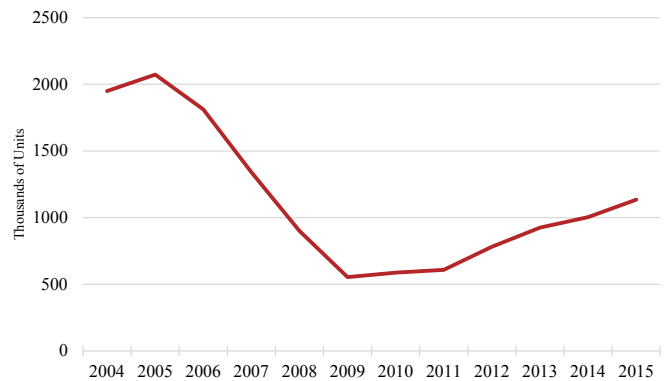
April 2015 = 1,135 ↑

Source:  
Economics Department, NAHB

Housing Market Index (HMI)



U.S. Housing Starts



*Did you  
know?*

- The word Architecture comes from the Greek word *arkhitekton*, meaning “chief builder”.
- Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch TV for 3 hours.
- Just 2.5 million people lived in the U.S.A. in 1776. Today it’s 314 million.

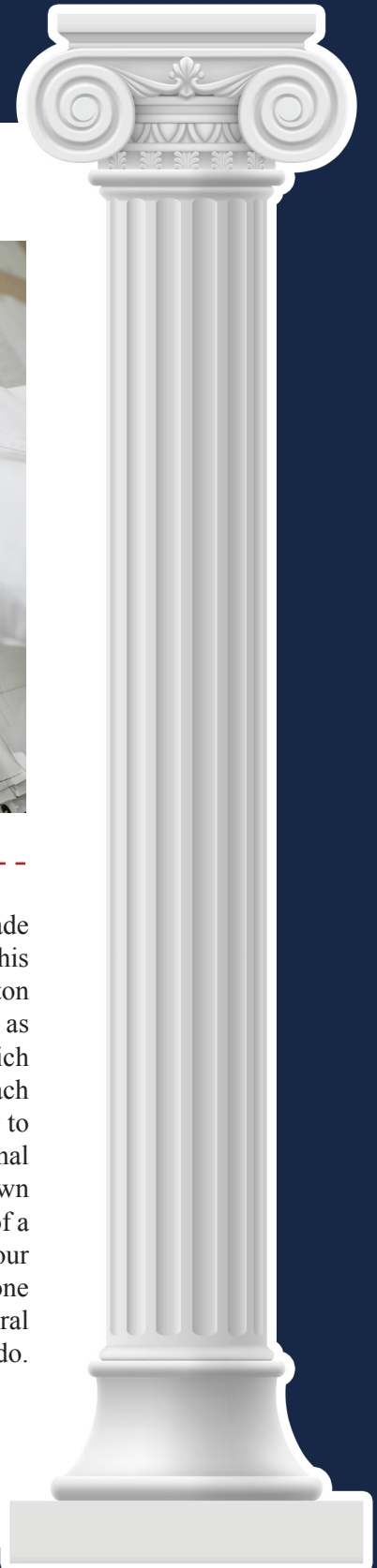


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John 3:16



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