

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Follow The Code By Railing Against Danger

(NAPSA)—Are your living spaces up to code? Just as important as planning fire escape routes and installing smoke detectors, homeowners should plan their exterior living spaces with safety in mind.

When choosing outdoor products such as railing systems for porches, decks, balconies and the like, design and cost can quickly become the easiest aspects to discern. Before committing to the wrong railing system, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is your railing code compliant? State and national codes exist to measure whether products meet construction industry standards for safety and performance. The International Code Council (ICC) has developed a clear set of standards for materials and practices. Look for a railing that complies with the agency's International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC). EverNew® vinyl railing by CertainTeed, for instance, offers three systems that meet the ICC requirements, including its popular Kingston Railing System that features a metal-to-metal connection for lasting strength, durability and performance.

- What building material is best for railing? Wood, composite and vinyl are popular choices, but perform differently when exposed to the elements. You want a product that will maintain its structural integrity over time and be as safe in the future as it is the day it is installed. For example, neither vinyl nor composite materials break down, warp, shrink, rot or



Homeowners: Don't come in from the code. For safety's sake, your house should meet or exceed all building codes.

decay like wood can over time. Also, wood needs consistent care and upkeep, including scraping, sanding and sealing or repainting. Modern materials are designed to remain cool to the touch in summer months and are not prone to splinters or sharp edges.

- Does the railing enhance curb appeal? To ensure your return on investment, choose products that are as visually appealing as they are safe. Touted for beauty as well as brawn, vinyl railing accomplishes its duty and looks good doing it. Options and various product lines are available through manufacturers such as CertainTeed to give you the look you want with the safety you need. EverNew railing is available in different colors, heights and styles for a wide variety of design options.

For more information on vinyl railing, visit the CertainTeed Web site at www.certainteed.com or call 800-782-8777.