

Installing Base Rail



Base rail is a standard finishing material that the spindles fit into. Typically, the base rail is fastened down using nails or screws that are hidden once the spindles are installed. Our standard base rail measures 2 7/8" x 3/4", manufactured in solid for round spindles or glass clips, 1/2" dado for square metal spindles, and 1 5/8" dado for square wood spindles.

We can custom cut the base rail to a variety of widths, to fit an odd sized spindle or fit a glass installation.

The base rail is installed on horizontal guard rail sections and on the stringer.



One of the most common misconceptions about installing the base rail is that it is installed to the subfloor with the flooring butting up to it.

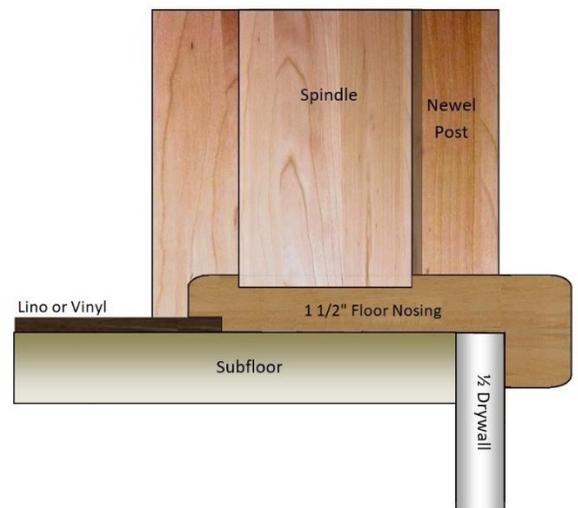
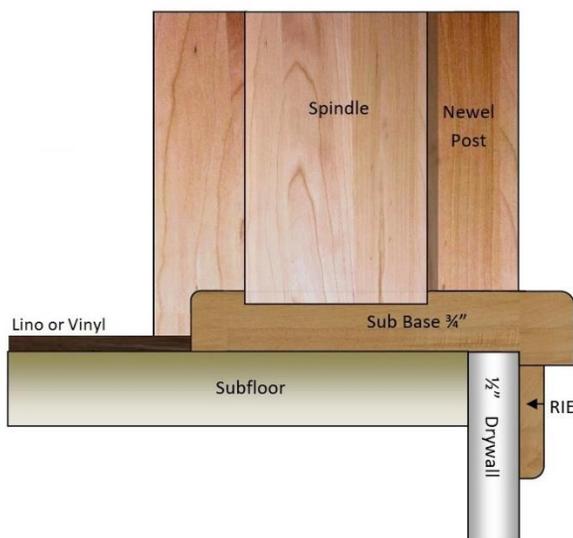


This is incorrect, when the base rail is installed to the subfloor a number of problems can occur:

- **There is little to no room on the outside for a nosing to be installed**
- **You can get a dust trap in the groove between the flooring and base rail depending on the thickness of the flooring**
- **Flooring cuts need to be perfect, you can't hide any mistakes**

This method of installation can work to an advantage in a few scenarios, but it typically requires some customization:

- **You are installing a thin vinyl or linoleum, and don't want to use a metal nosing you will need to consider a custom base rail/nosing**
- **The vinyl or linoleum can be butted against the base rail, which requires a perfect cut, or a rabbet can be cut out for the flooring to fit into.**
- **Most commonly, the vinyl or linoleum is installed up to the edge of the drywall and a metal nosing is used to finish, with the base rail installed over top the flooring.**



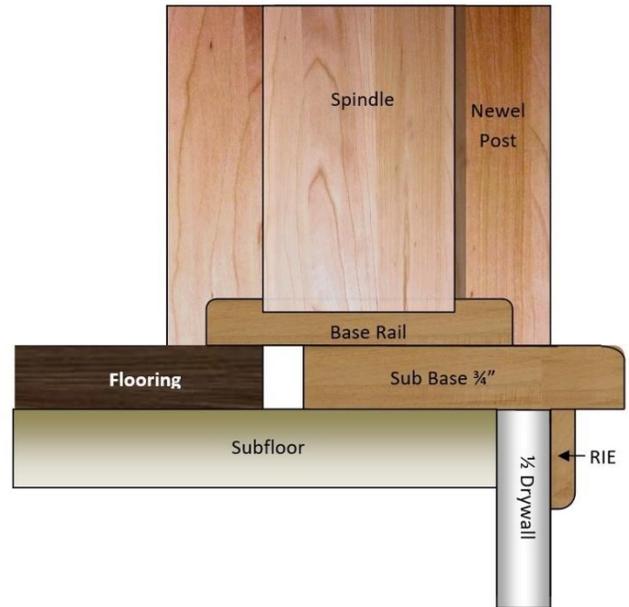
Standard Installations

There are a few options to finishing depending on the type of flooring you are using, and the trim options available from your flooring manufacturer.

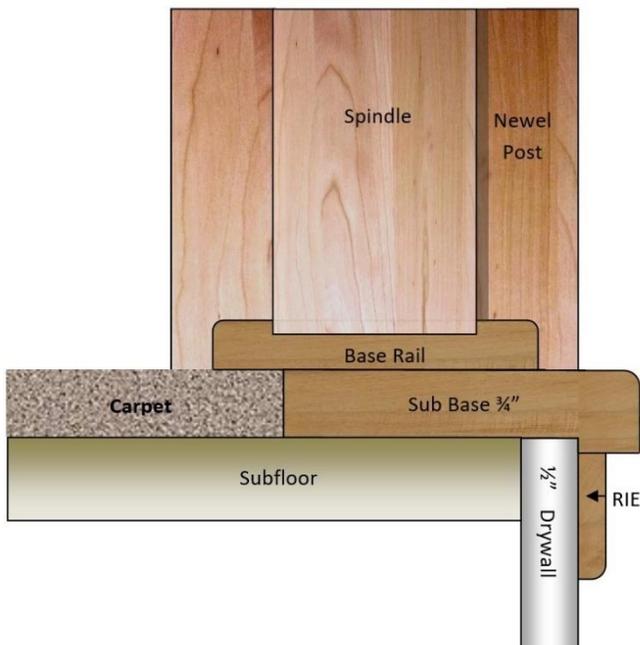


If you are installing a hardwood or laminate your flooring manufacturer might have a matching floor nosing. Install the floor nosing first and fasten the base rail to it. The flooring can be installed at the same time or later, as the base rail will hide any gap between the two pieces. Depending on the style of nosing you may require additional R1E trim to finish the transition and hide any imperfect cuts in the drywall.

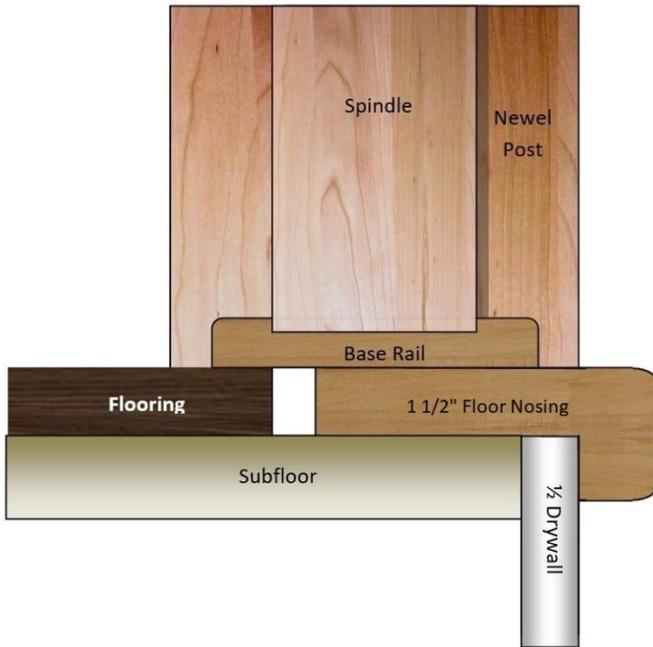
If your flooring manufacturer doesn't make a matching floor nosing we can supply sub base material in the same wood species, the standard thickness is 3/4" which matches most hardwood floorings. The sub base is fastened to the sub floor over hanging the drywall to create a nosing. It is finished with R1E trim to hide any defects in the drywall.



If your flooring is less than 3/4" thick we can mill the sub base material thinner or you can cut a recess in the underside to create a nosing. It is finished with R1E trim to hide any imperfections in the drywall.

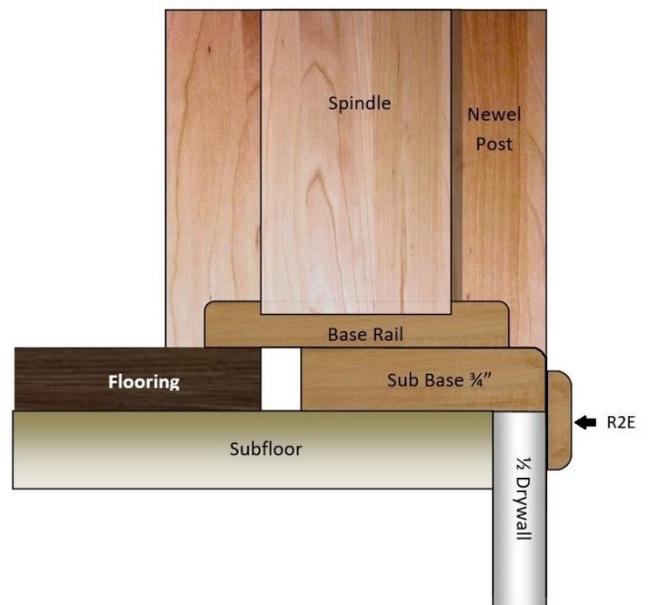


If you are wanting a more finished look, we can also manufacture a finished floor nosing.



The standard size for this is 3" – 3 1/2" wide, 3/4" thick and has a finished 1 1/2" tall nosing. This can be custom modified to fit your flooring installation.

If you are working in a space that doesn't allow for a lot of room for an overhanging nosing you can also consider using a R2E trim. This will have the sub base material installed flush with the drywall and a piece of R2E trim to cover the seam.



Base rail can also be installed to the ceiling in applications where a diagonal section of railing terminates rather than continuing to the top with spindles.

