There are three main categories of glass balustrades:

- **Framed glass balustrade:** This has a glass centre surrounded by aluminium or stainless.
- **Semi-frameless glass balustrade:** The ends of the glass panels are fully supported but the top or bottom edges of the glass panels are free standing.
- **Frameless glass balustrade:** Only the bottom of the glass is held in a frame. Both ends and the top are free standing.

The balustrade can be made out of powdercoated aluminium, stainless steel or even powdercoated mild steel. The stainless steel can be finished to either a high polish or a satin finish. The powdercoating can be to almost any colour, so your balustrade can be matched or contrasted to any aspect of your colour scheme.

The glass is generally clear glass to give you optimum view but it can be tinted or even made opaque if required. All glass needs to be toughened to meet building regulations.

As with all balustrading the fixing of the base is very important so we need to be involved at the planning and building stage of your project to ensure that there are adequate fixing points for your type of balustrading. Permit requirements for balustrading are very stringent and good planning will ensure that the requirements are met during the building process. If you get Tasman Aluminium to help you design your balustrading we will ensure that all requirements are covered as we will build it to the NZ 1170 regulations.

**The first decision with any glass balustrade is the fixing type.**

- **Core fixed.** This is when the fixing is integral to the floor of the deck such as pre-set stainless stub posts set into the concrete slab when it is poured or core drilled afterwards.
- **Top mounted.** With this type of fixing the base of the posts are fixed directly onto the surface of the deck or patio.
- **Face mounted.** With this type of fixing the posts are fixed to the end of the deck or patio slab. This method gives you the most space on your deck or patio as it moves the balustrading right to the edge of the area.
The second decision is the type of balustrading:

**Framed Glass Balustrading.** This type of balustrading is very cost effective. There are rails at the top and bottom of each panel and the centre is glazed. This type of balustrading is strong and allows good vision through the balustrading if that is important to your project.

**Semi-Frameless Glass Balustrading.** This type of balustrading is quite spectacular yet cost effective. There are no rails on the top and bottom of the panels so there is very little apart from the post in the way of your view. This type of balustrading allows almost uninterrupted vision through the balustrading.

**Frameless Glass Balustrading.** This type of balustrading is stunning. The glass is held at the base so there is no interference with your view.

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**Framed Glass Balustrade Designs.** The colour of the posts and rails is also an important decision. There are a range of 40 standard powdercoat colours to choose from so complementing any part of your colour scheme is easy, just pick up one of our colour charts and choose a colour.

**Semi Frameless Balustrade Designs.**

There are a number of designs available. There is a choice of how the glass is attached to the post. The glass can be inserted into a slot in the side of the post or attached to lugs on the side of the post. The glass fixing to the post can be by through bolt or by a clamp system. There are a number of styles shown below.

**Frameless glass balustrade designs.**

There are a number of ways that the glass can be attached:

1. **Top fixed channel.** With this method an aluminium powder coated channel is fixed on the top of the deck or patio and the glass is clamped in the channel.

2. **Side fixed channel.** With this method an aluminium powder coated channel is fixed on the end of the patio slab or timberwork. The glass is clamped in the channel on the end of the patio or deck.

3. **Side fixed via stand-offs.** The glass is fixed by stainless steel bolts through the glass and held slightly off the end of the deck or patio slab end by stainless steel fittings (standoffs). With this method there is absolutely nothing but glass showing in your view.

4. **Bullet or clamp fixed.** These are bullet shaped glass clamps that are fixed into the patio or deck. The glass is clamped into the bullets. The bullets are often used as a feature as they look very “high tech”. The bullets are also used around pools when there may be a need for water to flow under the glass and therefore a channel would be inappropriate.

The glass is generally clear glass to give you optimum view but it can be tinted or even made opaque if required. All glass needs to be toughened to meet building regulations.

Once again the final decision is who can build and install it. That’s easy, Tasman Aluminium can build and install any type of balustrading. Tasman Aluminium has its own builders who can do any carpentry work required and also install all balustrading. All work done has a warranty. And is built to the NZS 1170 regulations. A PS1 to the NZ 1170 code is available for all balustrade work carried out by Tasman Aluminium. The PS1 is generally required for your local council.