

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Product Recognition Program

Report of PromenAid™ Handrails



Available online at www.caot.ca/prp





Report last updated January 2017

Disclaimers

The information compiled in this report was designed for informational purposes and to communicate the final conclusions of a documented review process. The decision to award a seal of recognition does **not supersede or replace other codes, requirements or regulations** set by authoritative organizations of a specific jurisdiction. CAOT encourages health professionals to act in a responsible manner and according to best practices for the recommendation, assessment, installation and maintenance of this product. It is critical to **follow the recommendations set by the manufacturer and/or distributor** of this product and, when relevant, engage domain expert for training, use, installation, maintenance and repair.

Recognition of a product by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists through the Product Recognition Program **is not a guarantee** of any product, nor is it an endorsement of the company. The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists assumes **no responsibility** for any product or corporation, nor for any damages caused by any product or company. It is recommended that you consult an occupational therapist about the appropriateness and the proper use of the product.

Specific questions related to this product(s) (including usage, availability, pricing, etc.) should be addressed directly to the manufacturer and/or distributor. Please contact Rob Geller by email at rob.geller@promenaid.com or by phone at 1 (888) 992 4943 ext. 101 or visit www.promenaid.com. Concerns or questions related to the content of this report should be addressed to Julie Lapointe, Director of Professional Practice, at jlapointe@caot.ca or at 1(800) 434-2268 ext. 260

The conclusions presented in the current report are derived from the best information available. In the case that new information becomes available and grants a modification to the conclusions, CAOT reserves the right to update and issue a new report of this product at any time.

Acknowledgement

The generation of this report would not have been possible without the contribution of occupational therapists and members of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).



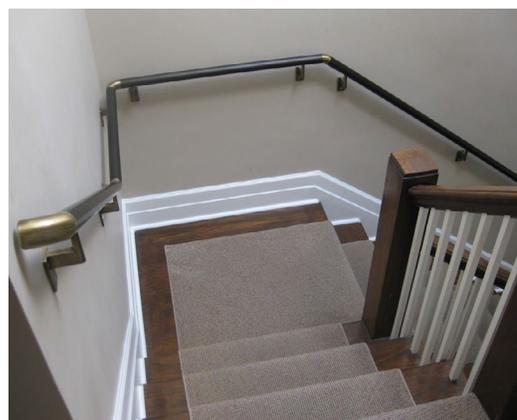
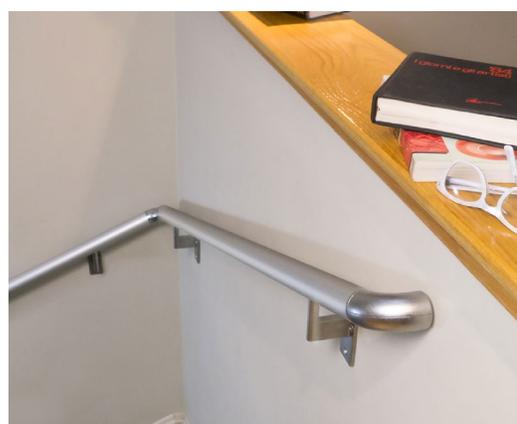
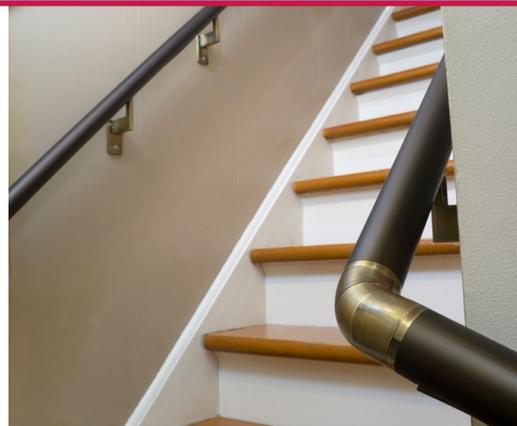
© Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, 2016

Executive Summary

This report is based on a careful examination of the components of the *PromenAid™ Handrail* and its accompanying documents but reviewers have not installed the product. The *PromenAid™ Handrail* is designed to provide the support and safety of a continuous handrail in a wide range of staircase designs, hallways, bathrooms and outdoor walkways. Its adjustable mounting brackets system allowing to be fixed in the wall studs appears more robust and secure than traditional handrails. The social implications of having this handrail installed in the living space will likely be lessened by its modern appearance.



***PromenAid™ Handrails* are recognized by CAOT.**





Review report

The purpose of this product and target groups

The *PromenAid™ Handrail* is a modular system designed to provide the support and safety of a continuous handrail in a wide range of staircase designs (i.e. straight stairs, with a landing or an angle) in interior or exterior environments as well as hallways, bathrooms and outdoor walkways. Reviewers judged that this product would be particularly suitable for clients who require substantial support from a handrail. The method of attaching it to the wall through the use of adjustable mounting brackets and articulating connectors is more solid and secure than traditional handrails. Although this could not be appraised by reviewers, the distributor certifies that the entire process of measuring, ordering, shipping and installing can be completed in as little as 24 - 48 hours anywhere in Canada.

Performance of the product (efficacy, usability, safety, reliability, durability)

- The product is suitable to straight and more difficult staircases with custom ordered lengths and various types of joints to accommodate different angles and corners.
- It is made from quality materials (satin-anodized, nickel plated or antique brass), along with attractive finishes. It looks robust and well made. There are no sharp or exposed edges to catch on and the segments fit together snugly.
- The modular system offers an effective solution to install what is essentially a custom handrail. The mounting brackets can be moved anywhere on the handrail, to ensure they can be put into the wall studs no matter where the studs are located.
- The only group of clients who may find it difficult to use this handrail are those with small hands or a limitation in opening the hand as the diameter is 1-5/8" (4 cm).
- The instructions are clearly written providing step by step sequencing. The picture diagrams are helpful especially for adjusting the universal joints.
- As with any handrail it would need to be monitored to ensure that the screws holding the brackets and handrail in place have not become loose.
- The handrail would require routine cleaning. This handrail does not appear to have any additional maintenance or monitoring requirements.
- The only safety issues would be related to the product not being installed correctly. The overall weight of the product may cause concern if the mounting brackets are not installed to the wall studs.
- The manufacturer addresses this issue by noting at the bottom of each page of the installation instructions that "Installation must be performed by qualified personnel". However who would be "qualified personnel" is not specified hence there is room for interpretation.
- The social implications of having this handrail in the living space may be lessened by its very nice modern appearance.
- The surface options are quite smooth, which could be slippery if installed in the bathroom or humid environment. An optional vinyl anti-slip piece is provided to address this issue, but it's only a small piece which fits on the underside of the rail. A textured rail option for the bath might be a safer and potentially less slippery option.



Important recommendations

Proper installation is necessary for clients' safety.

This product has adjustable mounting brackets to allow for the handrail to be mounted into the wall studs. Someone with the proper knowledge and skills should install this product.

Please contact the manufacturer if you want more information about the specific qualifications required for the installation.

Economic considerations (value for money, retail and customer service)

The price seems fair and offers good value for the investment, particularly as *PromenAid™ Handrail* is a quality product. Also, given the anticipated long-term use of this type of product the price seems to be reasonable.

Scientific evidence

A quick search of the literature reveals that there are no research results published on the *PromenAid™ Handrail* per se, but a study have reviewed the multiple aspects to support clients with balance impairments and the use of a well-placed and well-adjusted handrail is part of the solution (Maki et al., 2011).

Review committee

Each reviewer had at least 12 years of practice as occupational therapists. The recommendation of home modifications is a predominant part of their role.

Final recommendation

This product can be recommended for a client who requires the support of a handrail inside or outside the home. It could also be recommended if there is an issue with a current handrail not meeting the client's needs, i.e. the client requires a continuous handrail for support whereas the current railing does not provide continuous support around a corner; the current railing is not sufficiently secure to adequately support the client's weight; the current railing is falling off or broken.

References

Maki, B. E., Sibley, K. M., Jaglal, S. B., Bayley, M., Brooks, D., Fernie, G. R., . . . Zettel, J. L. (2011). Reducing fall risk by improving balance control: Development, evaluation and knowledge-translation of new approaches. *Journal of Safety Research*, 42(6), 473-485. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2011.02.002>