

— USING TIMBER IN YOUR STAIRCASE OR BALUSTRADES

Part of the beauty of timber is its natural variations. There can be changes in colour, grain and texture all within one piece! This adds to the natural character of the timber, but can sometimes have unexpected results which we'd like to make sure you know about.

CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENT

- Timber is susceptible to changes in the environment. This can result in checking, splitting, swelling, or shrinking of the timber. No manufacturer can provide a guarantee against this happening and it will not be considered a workmanship defect.
- Exposure to sources of heat, such as direct sunlight or proximity to household heating appliances, will increase the likelihood of this occurring.
- Likewise, excessive moisture or dryness in the atmosphere also increases the likelihood of movement in the staircase.
- Within a single staircase, different areas of the stair may react differently. Some components may move more than others. Some may not be affected at all.

AGING OF THE TIMBER

- Most timbers darken with age and this can be expected with your staircase or balustrade. Exposure to sunlight will accelerate this process.

WEAR & TEAR OF THE TIMBER

- Your timber staircase will show signs of wear over time, such as small indentations from shoes.
- Finishes will wear with time and may need to be touched up to maintain an 'as new' look. Some finishes will yellow in tone.
- A good quality finish is to be expected, however, some small sanding or machining marks may be visible in certain lights. Stairs are subject to frequent use and as such a mirror finish or furniture grade finish should not be expected.

GRADE OF TIMBER

- Some timbers, such as American Oak, come in a wide variety of grades. This can range from rustic (very knotty) to Prime (almost clear of knots). If you are unsure about the grade and appearance of timber you will receive, we recommend you check this before purchasing.
- Many timbers will have natural marks visible. These could include pith (small black marks), insect marks or gum veins. These are considered part of the natural beauty of timber.
- If you wish to minimise these, you should consider selecting a higher grade of timber or including extra timber with your order, so that our team can try to select the most featureless pieces.

Timber is an excellent choice for stairs and brings a warmth and beauty to your home that imitation products may not. It is an environmentally friendly choice with all our suppliers holding FSC certification. We only purchase our timber from sustainably managed sources.

If you have any queries about the performance of your chosen timber, please feel free to discuss this with our team.

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