

Timber Guide

The timber used in your balustrade greatly affects the character of the finished installation. Certain timbers are more appropriate for certain finishing methods and the cost of the balustrade is significantly impacted by the choice you make in this area.

Both softwoods and hardwoods are available from Joinery Store, the guide below will help you choose which is most appropriate for your application.

Pine:

Overview: The entry level unfinished timber, this timber is easy to cut and sand. Can be painted or stained to a good finish. This is also the most environmentally conscious choice as all of our timber is sourced from forests certified to internationally approved environmental standards.

Characteristics: A light creamy yellow coloured softwood with a darker brown central pith. Comparatively soft and light at 510kg/m³. Its strength makes it suitable for domestic installations only.

Origins; This is a softwood that grows throughout Northern Europe and the rest of the world. Stair balustrade tends to be made from northern Scandinavian material which is slower grown and hence more stable. Latin name - Pinus Sylvestris.

Hemlock

Overview: Hemlock is an ideal choice for those looking for a polished hardwood style finish without the cost. This is achievable as the hemlock used in our production is carefully selected to exclude knots. Like pine this timber is also easy to cut and sand however it can be stained and varnished to produce an excellent finish. Hemlock can also be painted and unlike pine will not require a knotting solution

Characteristics: A pale brown coloured softwood with a subtle grain. Also soft and light at 500kg/m³. Its strength makes it suitable for domestic installations only.

Origins; This is a softwood that grows exclusively in the south western Canadian province of British Columbia. Felled along with balsa trees the commercial timber grades allow for a mix of both species hence some balsa will be found in hemlock balustrade. Latin name - Pinus Sylvestris.

Dark Hardwood

Overview: Dark Hardwood is the first of our hardwood offers and represents the entry level in this area. This is a perfect choice for the more classical balustrade design and in particular where a polished handrail is to be used with white painted balustrade. Its additional density makes it much more resilient to knocks and scratches than softwoods. Our chosen species for this offer is Sapele

Characteristics: A dark red coloured dense and uniform grained hardwood. Cuts easily and cleanly with a density of 640kg/m³. Its strength makes it suitable for domestic installations only.
Origins; This is a hardwood grown throughout tropical regions and prevalent in Western Africa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. Once unavailable as a certified offer, this timber is increasingly available with environmental credentials Latin Name - Entandrophragma cylindricum

White Oak:

Overview: Oak is one of our most popular timbers. Its pale colour makes it the most popular hardwood in the UK by some margin. Oak cuts and sands well and can be polished or stained to an excellent finish.

Characteristics: A pale hardwood with a distinctive open grain. Very dense and strong at light at 660kg/m³. Its strength makes it suitable for both light commercial and domestic installations.

Origins; This hardwood grows across the Northern American states and Europe Latin name - Quercus Alba.

Ash

Overview: Ash is one of the up and coming fashionable timbers for stairparts. Pale coloured and with a very strong grain pattern this timber makes a striking and discerning statement in your home. Ash cuts and sands extremely well and can be stained or polished to an excellent finish.

Characteristics: A pale hardwood with a very distinctive and pronounced darker brown grain. Extremely dense and strong at light at 775kg/m³. Its strength makes it suitable for both light commercial and domestic installations.

Origins; This hardwood grows across the Northern American states Latin name - Fraxinus americana