

2.14 Application of panels for staircase treads and risers

2.14.1 Selection of panels for treads and risers

The selection of wood-based panels for staircase treads and risers depends on a number of factors of which the most important are:

- high levels of strength, stiffness and impact resistance
- high level of abrasion resistance in the case of treads
- smooth surface especially in the case of treads
- moderate levels of resistance to moisture, a feature which is particularly important in the drying out of new build.

The selection of wood-based panels from the appropriate European Standard satisfying the above requirements is given in *Table 2.21*.

2.14.1.1 Manufacture

It is important in the manufacture of staircases that the treads and risers are conditioned to a moisture content close to that which they will achieve in service after the property is fully dry following construction. Once this moisture content is achieved then the finished staircase must be fully protected during delivery and throughout construction in order to maintain dimensional stability.

Table 2.21: Panel grades* for staircase treads and risers

Selection	STAIRCASE	SERVICE CLASS	PLYWOOD BS EN 636	PARTICLEBOARD BS EN 312	OSB BS EN 300	MDF BS EN 622-5	FIBREBOARD BS EN 622-3,4	CBPB BS EN 634
Treads		2	636-2	-	-	MDF.H	-	-
Risers		2	636-2	P5	OSB/3	MDF.H	-	-

* The table provides the minimum grade of panel that satisfies the particular set of requirements: panels of higher quality may be substituted, and their selection may result in a reduction in required thickness.

Although all the panels meeting the grade specifications will satisfy a particular set of requirements, the level of performance of different brands of these panels may vary considerably; some may even be endowed with high levels of properties not directly covered by the table.

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