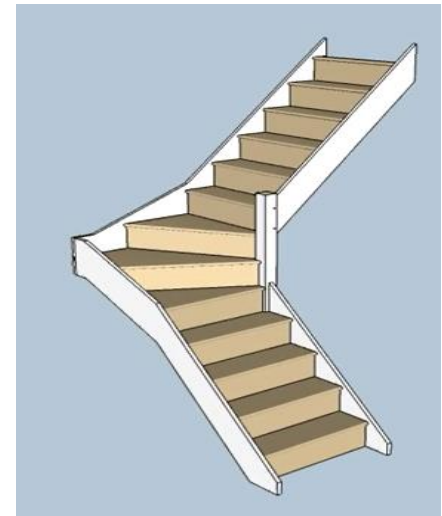


Fitting a winder flight

**From the BWF Stair Scheme
It's all in the badge....**



Before you start

Installation of a timber staircase is critical and even a well designed staircase may cause problems or present a risk to the user if incorrectly installed.

To assist you the BWF has produced a range of documents including:

[**BWF Stair Scheme Top Tips for Installing a Staircase**](#)

[**BWF Stair Scheme full Installation Guide**](#)

[**BWF Stair Scheme Site Managers Checklist**](#)

All are available to download (for free) from:

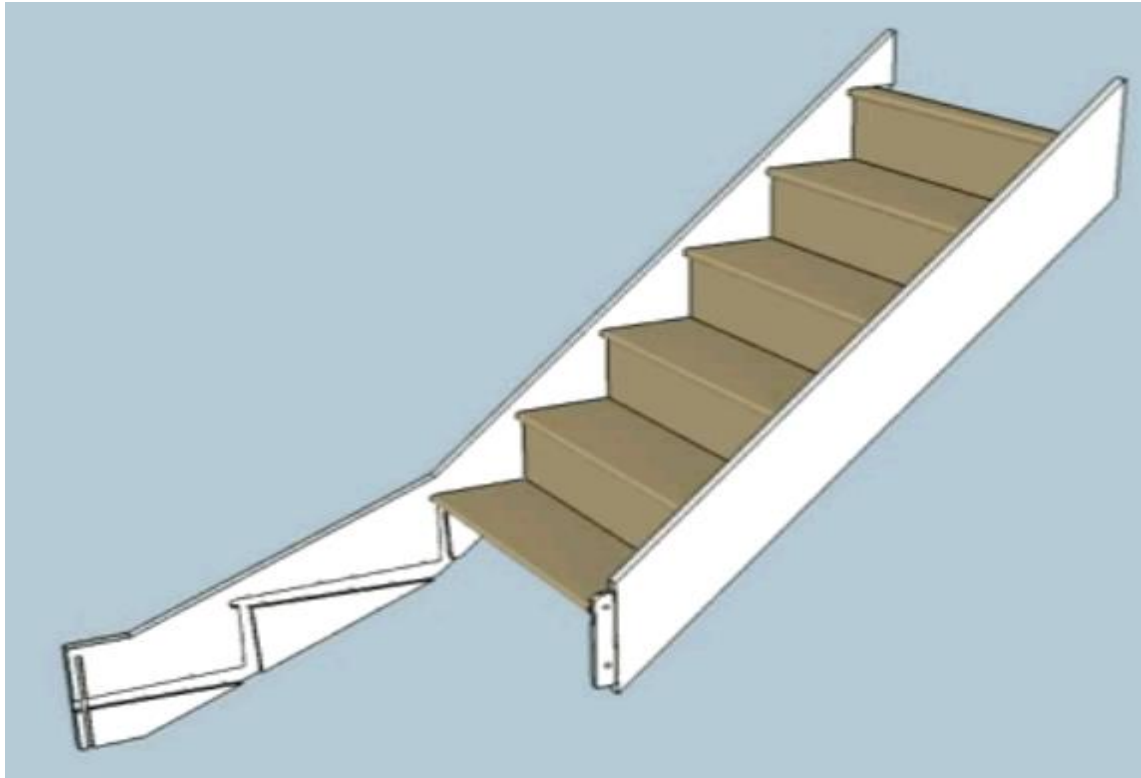
[**www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk/stair-installation/**](http://www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk/stair-installation/)



Fitting a Winder Flight

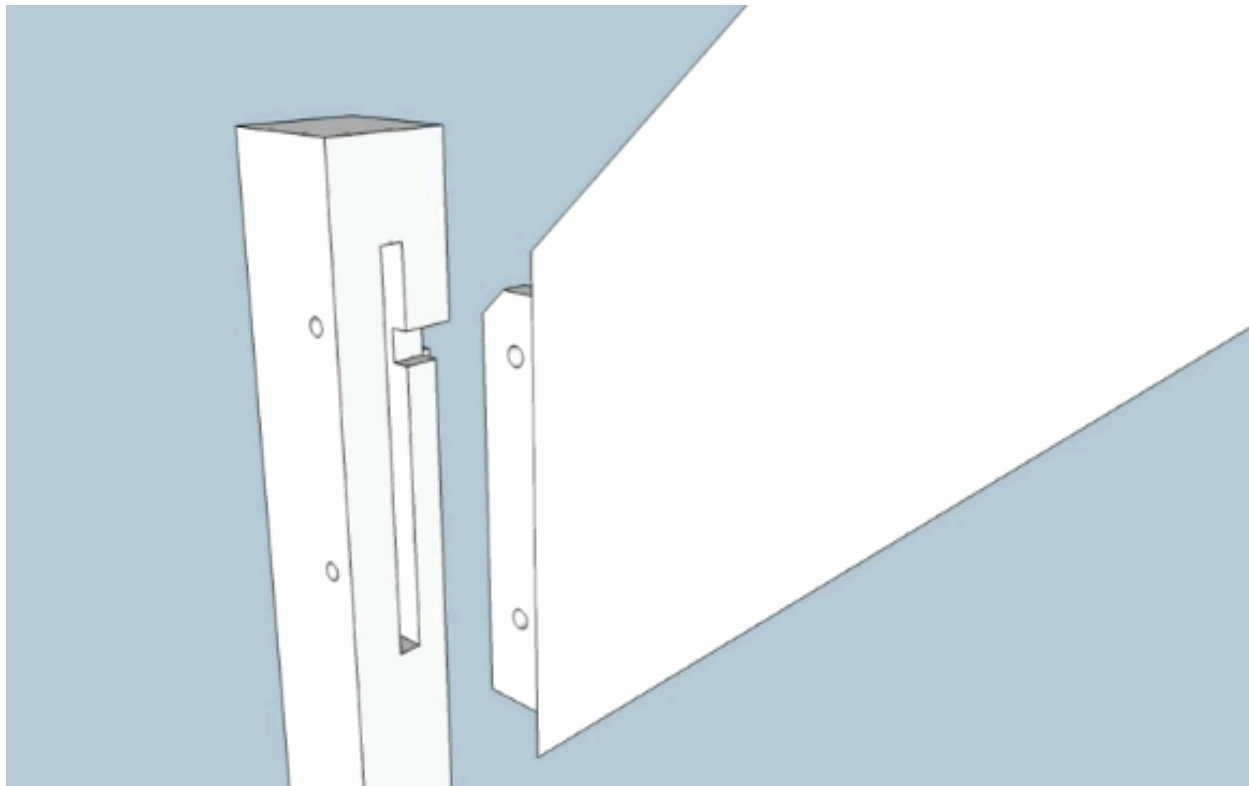
Step 1: Ensure all parts are present and correct and in good condition in accordance with guidance provided in the BWF Installation Guide.

Step 2: Assemble the upper straight flight and locate and fix the string to the wall.



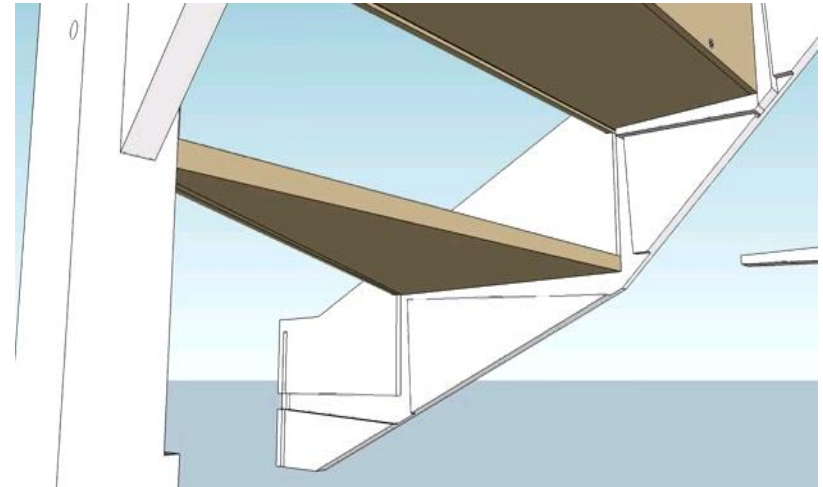
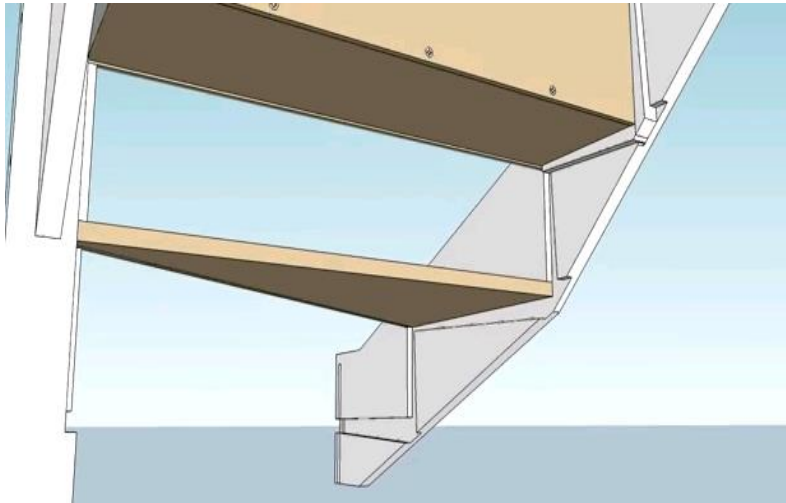
Fitting a Winder Flight

Step 3: Locate the tennon on the bottom of the upper string to its equivalent mortise hole in the newel post. The joint should have adhesive applied to all surfaces and dowels should be inserted into pre - drilled holes to secure the assembly.



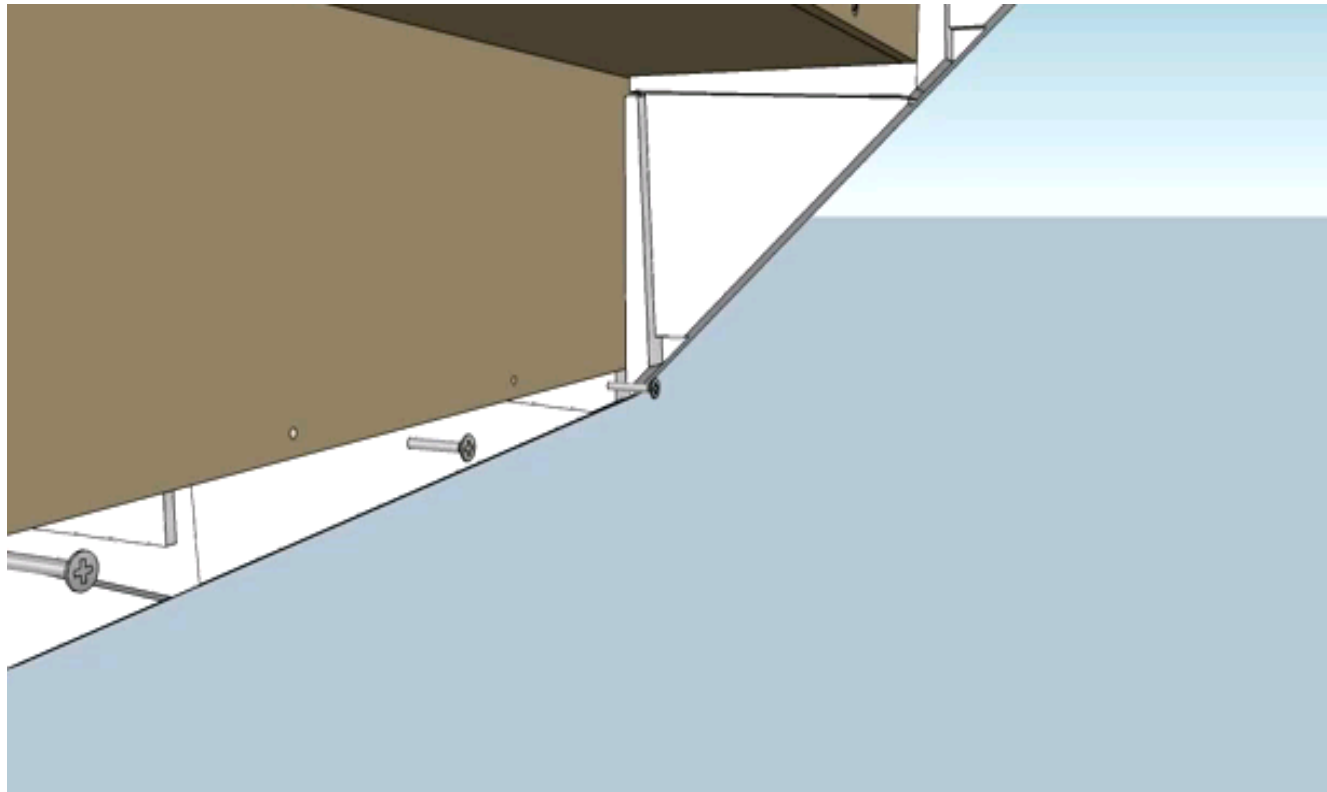
Fitting a Winder Flight.

Step 4: Slide the first winder tread into the string trenching from the back. The trenching should have adhesive applied to all faces and the wedges inserted to secure the tread. Note: The wedges should also be glued. Any excess adhesive should be removed with a damp cloth.



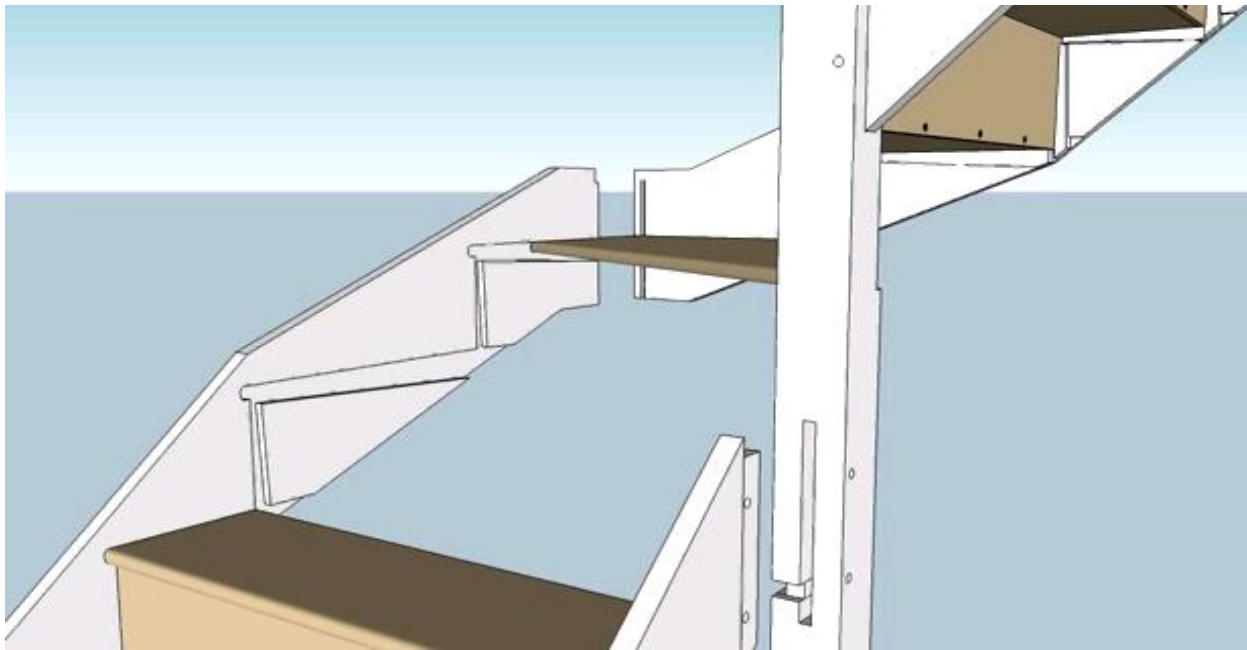
Fitting a Winder Flight.

Step 5: Slide the first winder riser up into its housing on the newel and the string. Screw through the back of the riser into the tread. Note: Glue should be applied to the grooves and all holes should be predrilled to prevent timber/MDF from splitting. Screws used should be as per the recommendations of the manufacturer.



Fitting a Winder Flight.

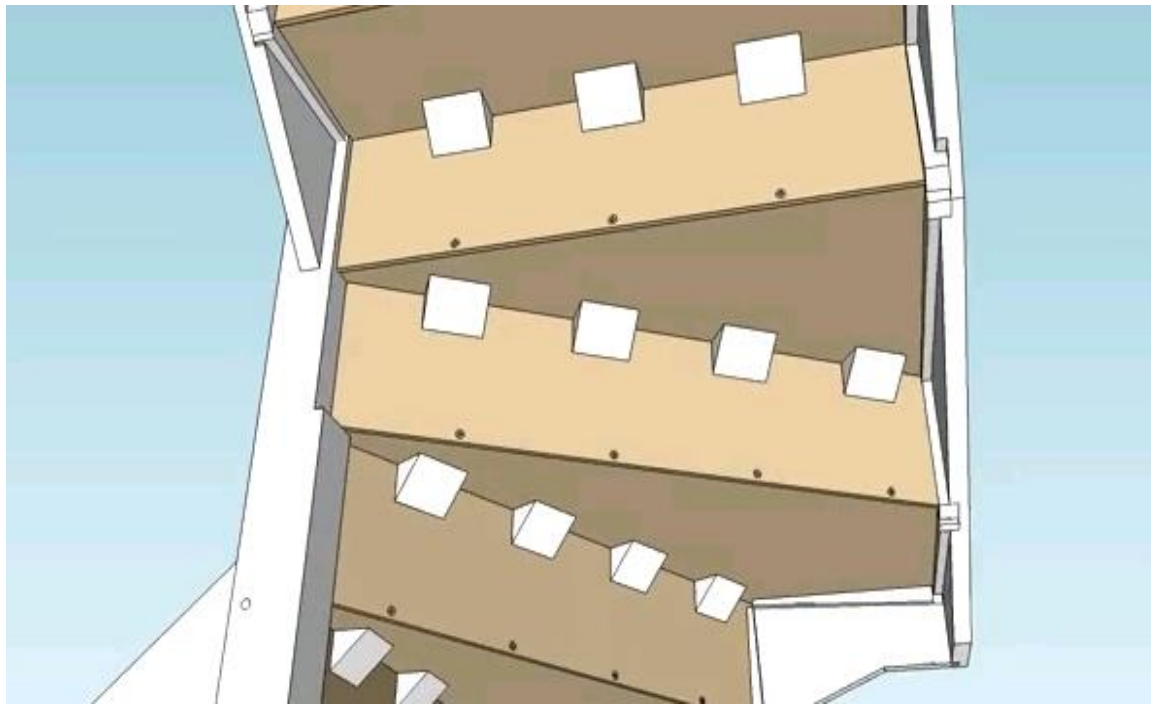
Step 6: Position the next string into the joint with the upper string. The winder tread should also be located into the trenching on the lower string. Adhesive should be applied to both trenchings. The tennon on the outer string should locate into the mortise hole on the newel post. Adhesive should be applied to both surfaces and dowels inserted through predrilled holes. Note: Dowels should be glued and excess adhesive removed with a damp cloth.



Fitting a Winder Flight.

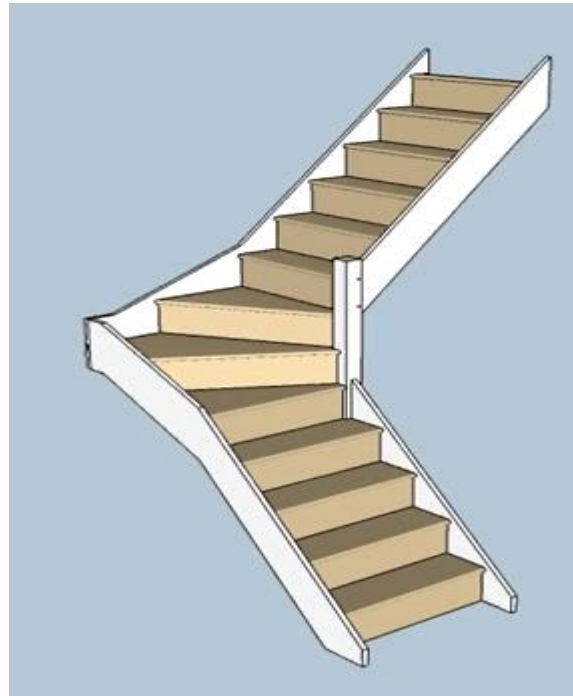
Step 7: Fix supporting glue blocks underneath treads. Blocks should be applied using adhesive and secured by a mechanical fixing as per manufacturers recommendation.

Note: On a standard private stair 4 x blocks should be applied under each of the winder treads.



Fitting a Winder Flight.

Step 8: Securely fix the winder to the adjacent supporting wall by ensuring min 1No 5mm screw fixing is installed at the end of both wall strings where they form the corner of the quarter turn/winder box.



For further information contact the BWF Stair Scheme
www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk



An ever growing range of information is available:

www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk

Eg. Top ten tips to avoid common staircase problems
1-page A4 pdf

Top tips to avoid common staircase problems



PREPARATION


- 1 Stop before you start**
Early consultation with the staircase manufacturer is vital. The critical dimensions of the site opening should be confirmed by a site survey prior to any on-site change before the manufacturer begins work on the stairs.
Check that the wall and finished floor levels should be discussed as these will make a difference.
- 2 Minor change, major impact**
Changes to the stair opening after the initial design is agreed should be in consultation with the staircase manufacturer. Even a minor movement of timbers or joists can have a major impact.
- 3 Don't touch it in transit**
Speak to your manufacturer about delivery - access issues can usually be identified if possible well enough. Assembled flights can be heavy so second lift may be advisable. Ensure the stair ends are fixed not dropped to avoid damage - correct handling can be useful.
- 4 Did everything arrive?**
Check that all the parts of the staircase have been received and report any missing or damaged components to the manufacturer as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours of delivery and before you start work). Don't be tempted to take parts from another staircase or make do as able.
- 5 Fit it now or store it carefully**
Identify storage for the staircase to be delivered when you are ready to install it. If this is not possible the staircase should be stored in well-ventilated conditions and supported as an not to distort any of the components or pre-assembled flights. It is important the manufacturer be storage advice.

INSTALLATION

- 6 Get the first step right (literally)**
Ensure that the installer has a range of and has checked the manufacturer's assembly and installation instructions if available and that they have the right equipment to complete the job. If unsure about any aspect of the installation contact the manufacturer for advice.
- 7 It might not be just a twaink**
When you are ready to install any of the components within the limitations require this to be done in.g. do not remove treads from handrails or strings. Any alterations will impact on the performance, could require your warranty and even make the staircase unsafe.

www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk

The Timber Staircase: A Procurement Guide for Housebuilders



Staircases are a common source of complaints for new home owners, they also represent the one of the most common areas for serious accident during construction visits and most generally in the home... This checklist has been produced to assist the procurement process for housebuilders in order to achieve safe, compliant, spacious and hassle free stairs.

Safe design and getting your specification right
The building regulations provide guidance for the minimum standard that should be achieved regarding staircase build. There has been much additional work done and guidance produced relating safe staircases, installed in various British and European standards and Codes of Practice. It is important to understand the classification of the staircases (limits, utility, non-domestic or fire protected) and specify correctly.

Choose a BWF Stair Scheme Member
The BWF Stair Scheme is the only staircase accreditation scheme in the UK and its members work hard to improve quality and safety standards in the timber stair industry. The products manufactured by Scheme members are built to the rigorous and proven standards defined in the BWF Stair Scheme Design Guide and the manufacturing process is regularly audited to ensure consistent quality standards are upheld. All Scheme staircases are tagged to provide ultimate traceability. The BWF Stair Scheme Design Guide details all of the factors to consider when you request your staircase manufacturer will be able to advise on any bespoke solutions required. www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk

Involve the manufacturer at the early design stages
BWF Stair Scheme members are highly experienced and have produced a range of technical guidance documents for the housebuilder. Working with a BWF Stair Scheme members brings expertise to your team - make sure you involve the Manufacturer at the early stages of the design process so that issues in design compatibility or installation can be identified and resolved earlier (and before a walk-out to the process).

Measure twice, cut once
The critical dimension that affects staircase build are important to confirm prior to manufacture to avoid installation issues. The BWF Stair Scheme Manufacturer can advise accordingly on dimensioning and checking protocols and will carry out site surveys to confirm accuracy of key dimensions such as finished floor to floor measurement. The stair manufacturer will also be able to advise on suitable tolerances required for positioning, fixing and installing the stair. Remember if the floor having and floor finishes are inaccurate, the floor heights can vary and this can have major (and costly) impact.


Consider your wall construction
Secure installation and fixing of stairs with string that are attached to walls can be dependent on wall type. Some wall types are not suitable for structural loading, highlight wall type construction to your staircase manufacturer who will be able to advise on suitability and specific fixing details required.

Materials Considerations: Structural and Aesthetic
Timber stairs are available in a very wide range of materials and finishes to suit any customer desire of budget. Consider and discuss the options for your requirements with the BWF Stair Scheme Member to understand the full range available. BWF Stair Scheme product is a manufactured using materials that have been tested to prove structural performance.

British Woodworking Federation, The Building Centre, 26 Sars Street, London WC1E 7BT
t: 0844 209 2610 f: 0844 209 2611 e: stairs@bwf.org.uk or www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk

Eg. House Builders Procurement Checklist
2-page A4 pdf

Timber Staircases The Site Managers Checklist



The following checklist has been produced to assist those managing construction sites in the correct and safe installation of timber stairs.

Preparation: Prior to delivery or installation of a timber stair pre-installation checks and risk assessments must be completed, the area of work should be cleared and other personnel should not be able to access where installation is taking place.

Timing is everything: As the site manager, you should consider timing of the stair installation. Stair components on site weeks before installation will be at an increased risk of costly damage. In addition, the actual installation should be scheduled to ensure that it does not interfere with any other key trade activities such as fitting floors or wet trade activities (remember an uncoated staircase can also absorb moisture when fitted from drying plaster or a screed).

Liaising with the stair manufacturer and installer: The stair manufacturer is likely to have provided specific installation, care and maintenance and warranty information about the stair they have supplied. It is important to contact the manufacturer before installation to understand if you have any specific guidance relating to the specific stair.
You can download "Installation Guide: Timber Stairs" free from the [BWF Stair Scheme Website](http://www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk). This document sets down all the stages of the installation process, providing key tips on delivery and storage of the stair prior to installation, H&S, Training, Assembly and Fixing methods. This Guide is also supported by **Toolbox Talks** that can be downloaded from the site.

Delivery and storage: The delivery must be checked for completeness and any damage - the stair supplier should be notified immediately of any issues. Components must be stored in a dry, well-ventilated area where they will not be damaged prior to installation.

Manual handling: Assembled stairs are heavy and cumbersome objects, it is important to ensure that your stair installation team have been adequately trained in manual handling and that suitable lifting devices or aids are used if required.

Competent and qualified workforce: Can you prove that your workforce actually know what they are doing and understands that accurate installation of a staircase is key to safety? Check your team is trained and contact the BWF for further information on competence. Some BWF Stair Scheme manufacturers will be able to offer assistance by holding pre-start meetings and toolbox talk consultations with your workforce.

Measure twice, cut once: The critical dimensions that affect staircase should be confirmed prior to manufacture to avoid installation issues. The Manufacturer can advise on dimensioning and checking protocols and some will carry out site surveys to confirm accuracy of key dimensions such as finished floor to floor measurement. The manufacturer will also be able to advise on suitable tolerances required for positioning, fitting and installing the stair. Remember if the brick having and floor finishes are inaccurate, the floor heights can vary and this can have major (and costly) impact on the staircase.

Fixings and workmanship: Guidance is provided in the [BWF Stair Scheme Installation Guide](http://www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk) regarding fixing type and location. It is important to ensure that mechanical fixings are structurally graded and tested to EN 14358 and specification and location of fixings must be as per manufacturer's recommendations for the particular stair.

British Woodworking Federation, The Building Centre, 26 Sars Street, London WC1E 7BT
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Eg. Site Managers Checklist
2-page A4 pdf



www.bwfstairscheme.org.uk



**and
remember
it's all in the
badge...**

