

FIN'S FACT ABOUT HANDRAILS

Handrails



The Queensland verandah is more than just a great place for the family to relax or entertain your friends. Architecturally, they also offer a superb opportunity to enhance the lines of your house, and add a special look that's uniquely traditionally Queensland.

The components for handrails consist of top rails, bottom rails (and perhaps mid rails); balustrades (the vertical strips that keep the kids from falling through); and feature panels, if you're using them. Handrail height is normally 1 metre from verandah floor, while bottom rail, mid rail and balustrade spacing should not allow gaps of more than 125mm.

Fin's recommended timbers for handrails are Durability Class 1 and 2 species, which include Iron Bark, Spotted Gum and Merbau. These are not seasoned, so expect minor surface checking as they dry. In time, these checks will close up, and after the first repaint will be virtually undetectable.

These species of timber have the advantage of minimal shrinkage factors, and Fin strongly recommends using the same species for posts. Finlayson's offer verandah posts in Iron Bark and Spotted Gum.

Within 48 hours of your handrail components being delivered, you should prime them – including end sections, drilled holes and feature cutouts - with an oil-based primer. Fin recommends at least two coats of primer on any end sections and within cut-outs

where end grain will soak up more moisture. He also advises that all components should be stored under cover and out of direct sunlight until you're ready to use them.

For maximum safety and support, not to mention authentic finish, rails should be connected to the posts via timber tenons. While this could sound daunting, Fin points out that tenons are available from Finlayson's, and come with fixing instructions and templates to make things easier.

Finlayson's rails come with a groove to accommodate balustrades - all you have to do is slot them in, space them correctly, and fix them. Check Finlayson's website for step-by-step instructions.

Whether you're renovating an older home, or building a new one in the traditional style - there are many advantages in belonging to Finlayson's Renovator's Club. As a member, you'll receive special deals on our products and services, as well as access to helpful workshops and seminars.

Remember - if you're looking for Brisbane's most authentic range of crafted traditional timber fittings, talk to us at Finlayson's. With our long heritage, we possibly supplied the original material for your old Queenslander - and today, we're still one of Australia's leading manufacturers of Colonial and Heritage timber products and suppliers of authentic renovation items.