

# British Woodworking Federation

## Timber Stairs Installation Guide Toolbox Talk 6

- Balustrade and handrail fitting and fixing.
- Post installation checklist

April 2014



# Assembly and Installation

## Balustrade

To provide the necessary **Protection from Falling** the balustrade **MUST** be fixed securely.

Balustrade will be delivered in 2 ways;

**Fully assembled:** Follow manufacturers instruction for fixings and installation.

**Component form:** Cut correct angle and joint to end of handrail, string capping and spindles and infill pieces.

**String capping:** achieve a tight fit by cutting correct angle and top and bottom. – Fix using appropriate wood screws.

**Screw spacing:** 50 mm from end at a MAXIMUM of 450 mm centres.

Cut spindles to length to ensure that the **FULLY** engage into the string capping and handrail grooves.

# Assembly and Installation Handrail



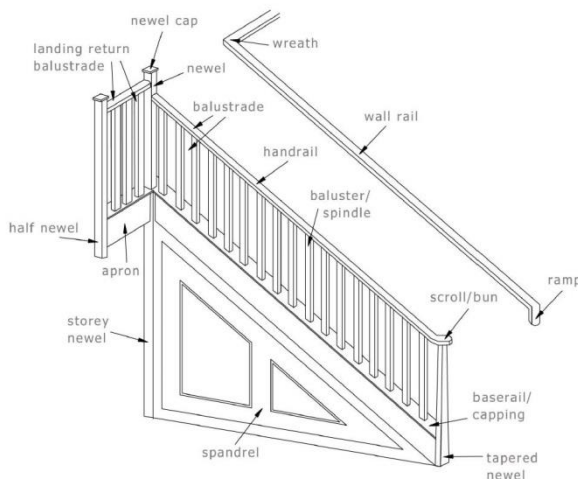
**It is essential that handrails are fitted securely**

**Mortise and tenon fixing:** Handrails are often supplied with a tenon to fix into a mortise on the handrail.

**!! DO NOT remove the TENON !!**

In this case, the handrail must be fitted at the same time as the top and bottom newel post.

**Mechanical Fixing:** Refer to manufacturers installation instructions.



**Note:** a handrail alone only **WILL NOT** act as a safety barrier.

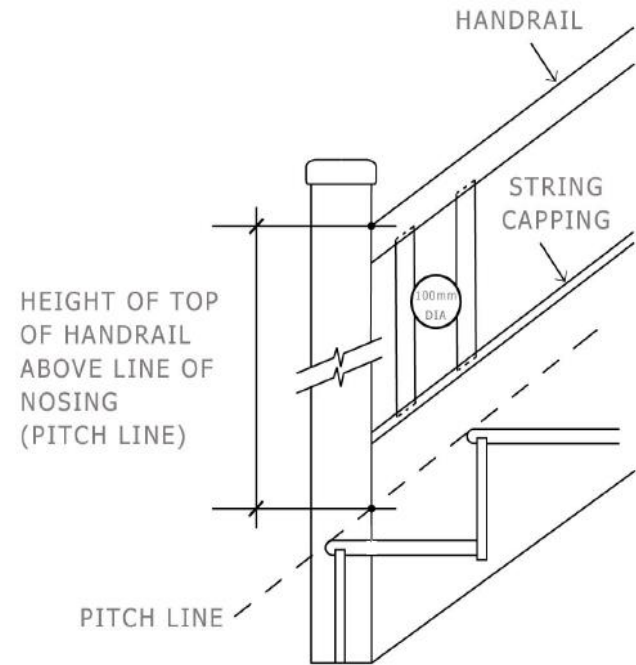
Full protection from falling can **ONLY** be afforded once the **completed** handrail assembly is fully installed. Until this time **suitable temporary guarding** measure **MUST** be in place.

# Assembly and Installation

## Spindle spacing and fixing methods



- Handrail must be located between 900 mm and 1000 mm above the pitch line
- Guarding of private stairs must be NO LESS than 900 mm above the pitch line.
- Handrails can form the top of the guarding.
- A 100 mm diameter sphere must not be able to pass between successive balusters.



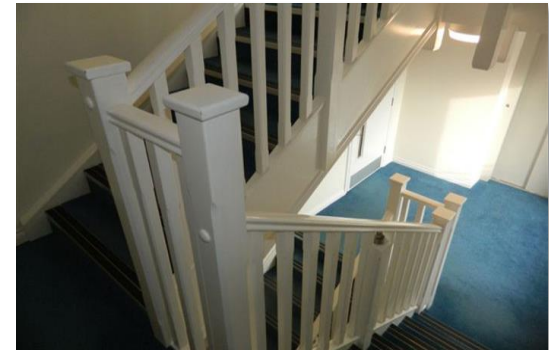
# Post installation

- Remove any temporary guarding and clean area of debris and dust created by fixing to walls.
- Check the stair for any damage that has resulted from installation and make good / remedy.
- Protect the finished surface of the stair from damage caused by other building contractors.
- Ensure the customer is in receipt of the correct Care and Maintenance and Guarantee documents relevant to the stair.



# It's all in the badge!!

- ✓ The BWF Stair Scheme - only accreditation and certification scheme of its kind in the UK.
- ✓ The standard expected of the manufacturers within the scheme is extremely high to ensure quality and safety.
- ✓ All companies within the scheme are regularly audited to ensure their products and their production meet these high standards.



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