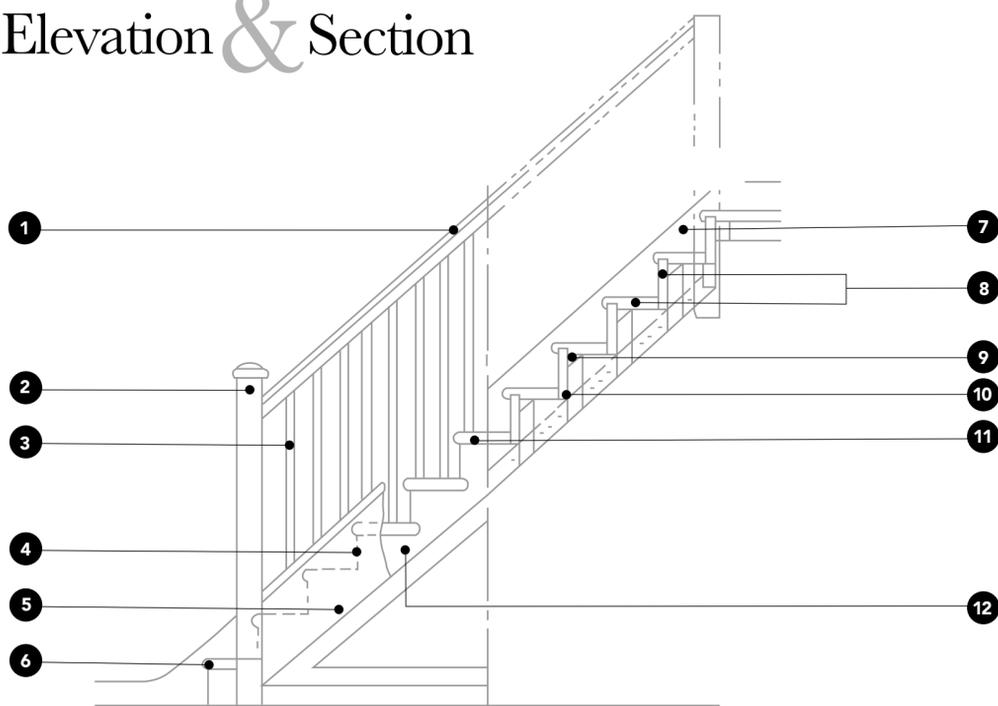


The Parts of a Staircase... Explained.

Staircase terminology



Elevation & Section



1 Handrail

Post-to-post handrail system – handrail fixed to vertical face of newel post using bracket or mortice and tenon fix

Over-the-post handrail system – continuous fix - Using straight lengths of handrail connected to handrail fittings and ramps, the handrail flows over the tops of newel turnings creating a continuous run of handrail.

2 Newel

A post, usually at the head or foot of a flight of stairs, supporting a handrail.

3 Balustrade / Spindle

Baluster/spindle - The vertical member, plain or decorative, that acts as the infill between the handrail and baserail (or tread if cut string).

Balustrade - The collective name for the complete assembly of handrails, baserails, newels, spindles and caps.

4 String Capping

Fixes to string supporting underside of balustrade/spindle.

5 Closed String

Closed string - A string with the face housed/trenched to accommodate treads and risers so their profile cannot be seen.

6 Nosing

Nosing - The edge of the tread projecting beyond the face of the riser and the face of a cut string.

7 Wall String

Wall string - The string of a staircase fixed flush with a wall.

8 Step

Step - The tread and riser combined.

9 Blockings

Support underside of step.

10 Riser

The vertical board that forms the face of the step.

11 Tread

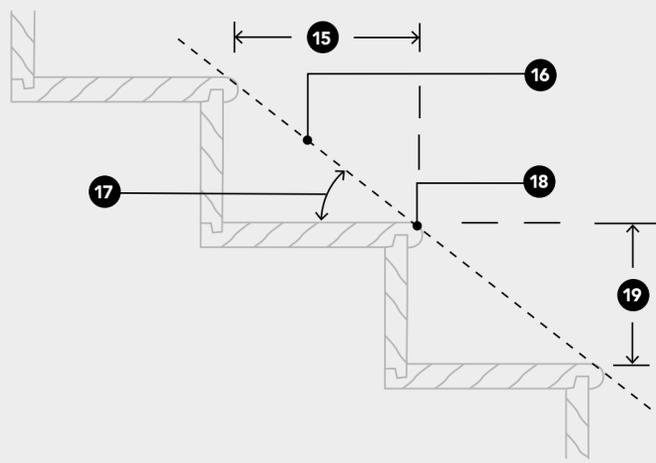
Tread - The top or horizontal surface of a step.

12 Cut or Open String

Cut or open string - A string with the upper edge cut away to the shape of the treads and risers so that their profile can be seen from the side.



Rise & Going



15 Going of a Step

The going of a step is measured from face of riser to face of riser and for domestic use should be a minimum of 220mm.

16 Pitch Line

Pitch line - The notional line connecting the nosings of all treads in a flight of stairs.

17 Pitch

Pitch - The angle between the pitch line and the horizontal.

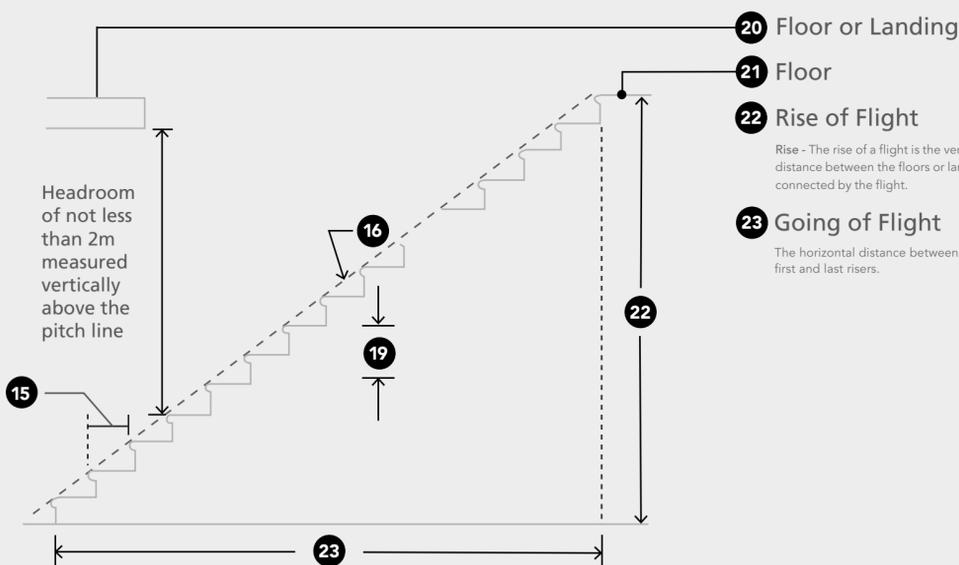
18 Nosing

Nosing - The edge of the tread projecting beyond the face of the riser and the face of a cut string.

19 Individual Rise

The individual rise is the vertical measurement from top of tread to top of tread.

Restrictions ON Flights



20 Floor or Landing

21 Floor

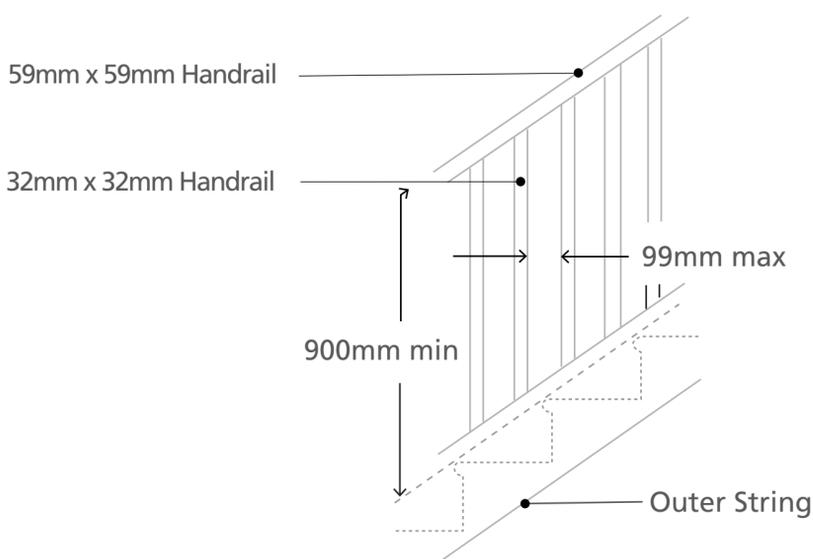
22 Rise of Flight

Rise - The rise of a flight is the vertical distance between the floors or landings connected by the flight.

23 Going of Flight

The horizontal distance between the first and last risers.

Balustrades & Handrails



Bullnose Step

Usually at the bottom of the stairs with one or both ends of the step having a quarter circle design.

Curtail Step

A decorative shaped step at the bottom of the stairs usually accommodating the volute and volute newel turning of the continuous handrail system.

Cut or Open String

A string with the upper edge cut away to the shape of the treads and risers so that their profile can be seen from the side.

Rake

The pitch of the stairs.

Staircase

The entire structure relating to a stair, comprising steps, treads, risers, strings, balustrading, landings etc.

Stairway / Stairwell

The space/void provided for the stairs.

Winders

Radiating steps narrower at one end that are used to change the direction of a stairs through 90° or 180°.

Other Terms