



2025

# Your Stair Planning Guide



# Wood Options for Your Staircase or Railing

💡 If you don't see the wood option you'd like here, just ask — we may be able to source it for you.

- 1 Walnut (Premium Investment)
- Deep chocolate brown, elegant grain
  - Strong and stable, ages beautifully
  - Best for luxury, statement staircases



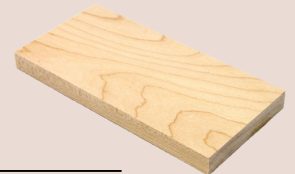
- 2 White Oak (Premium Investment)
- Light to medium beige, subtle grain
  - Extremely strong & stable (ideal for treads/railings)
  - Best for timeless, modern, or Scandinavian designs



- 3 Red Oak (Mid-Range)
- Warm reddish tones, pronounced grain
  - Strong, reliable, classic hardwood
  - Best for traditional or dark dramatic finishes



- 4 Maple (Mid-Range)
- Light, creamy, smooth grain
  - Dense and hard, clean finish
  - Best for sleek, modern stairs with natural tones



- 5 Poplar (Budget-Friendly)
- Pale with green/gray undertones
  - Softer, best for non-traffic elements
  - Perfect for painted staircases, posts, and trim





# Baluster & Post Styles & Finishes

Your choice of balusters and posts can shape the overall feel of your staircase — from clean and modern to classic and detailed. Simpler, straight styles create a sleek, understated look, while more decorative or custom-turned designs add character and elegance.

Pricing will vary depending on the style and level of detail: streamlined designs are generally more affordable, while intricate or custom features fall at a higher tier.

# What to Expect & How to Prepare for Your Staircase/Railing Measurement Appointment

## During Your Appointment

- We'll take detailed measurements of your staircase or railing area to ensure precision.
- We'll review design options and materials together.
- We'll bring our catalog to show you different wood, railing, and style selections.

This is one of our material partners' catalogs — it's a great place to explore styles and ideas:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/btfyumj5gcjjq8s4bbebd/HF-Catalog-Summer-2025-Web-FULL.pdf?rlkey=n3u106wm26puzn2exfmi7d4mm&e=5&st=71mutrx1&dl=0>

- **Material Guidance:** We'll talk through wood types, railing styles, and finishes so you can start understanding how each choice affects both look and budget.

## How to Prepare

Here are a few questions to consider before the appointment:

- **Budget:** Do you have a general range you'd like to stay within?
- **Wood Preference:** Are you leaning toward premium hardwoods (like white oak or maple) for durability and high-end finish, or do you prefer a more cost-effective option?
- **Design Style:** Do you prefer a modern, clean look (glass or cable), or a classic/traditional style (iron, wood spindles)?
- **Finish:** Would you like a light, natural finish, darker stain, or painted option?
- **Timeline:** Do you have a preferred timeframe for project completion (e.g., tied to a remodel or move-in date)?
- **Durability vs. Cost:** Is long-term durability most important, or are you primarily focused on initial cost savings?
- **Functionality:** Will this staircase/railing be a focal point of your home (a statement piece) or more of a functional element?

## Helpful Tips

- Send us any inspiration photos ahead of time (Pinterest, Google, etc.).
- Think about what you'd like the staircase or railing to say in your home — bold statement vs. subtle complement.

Don't worry if you're unsure — we'll walk you through each step and give you clear recommendations.