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“SPACESAVER” OR ALTERNATING-TREAD STAIRCASES

SPECIFICATION SHEET

This sheet has been produced to inform our customers of what they can expect from our standard specification for the manufacture of our “Spacesaver” or Alternating-Tread Staircases and shows that we produce high quality products. It also provides information which can be used when comparing quotations from different companies, to ensure that a similar product is being quoted for.

Although this gives our standard specification, customers should note that we are able to manufacture to an alternative specification if required. We do not hold stock, but manufacture to order, and it is possible to change the specification to suit the customer’s requirements. Please ask if you require something different.



The Benefits

Our spacesaver staircases are usually used to access a loft or attic where space is too small for an ordinary staircase. With ordinary staircases, the maximum legal pitch is 42⁰, whereas the maximum pitch for a spacesaver is 63⁰. Building regulations allow this because they treat a spacesaver staircase as a ladder rather than a staircase. The average width of a spacesaver is 620mm.

Because of the alternating nature of the treads, it is still possible to stand on the whole depth of the tread with one foot, even though the staircase is so steep.

Obviously, spacesaver staircases do look different and are not suitable in all situations, but they do provide a permanent alternative to a loft ladder, and enable you to walk down forwards as on a staircase rather than backwards as on a loft ladder.

Spacesavers can be supplied in kit form for you to assemble on site if access is restricted.

Disadvantages

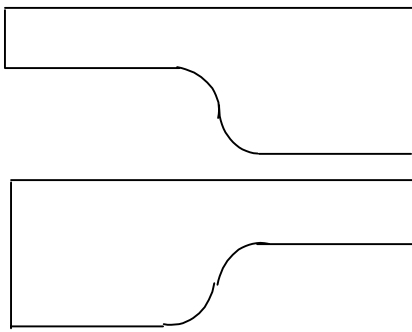
A spacesaver may not be suitable for young children, the elderly or the infirm, as it is essential to start your climb or descent on the correct foot. Generally they are not suitable for carpeting due to the shape of the treads.

Timber

The treads are manufactured from 25mm MDF (medium density fibreboard) for stability and the strings are manufactured from ex 225mm x 38mm high quality Scandinavian redwood (softwood or pine). 6mm MDF sheeting can be applied to the back of the staircase to prevent it being “see-through”. This is essential if the staircase will be used by children under the age of five.

It is possible for spacesavers to be manufactured entirely from real timber with no MDF, and also with half or full risers. Please ask if you require this.

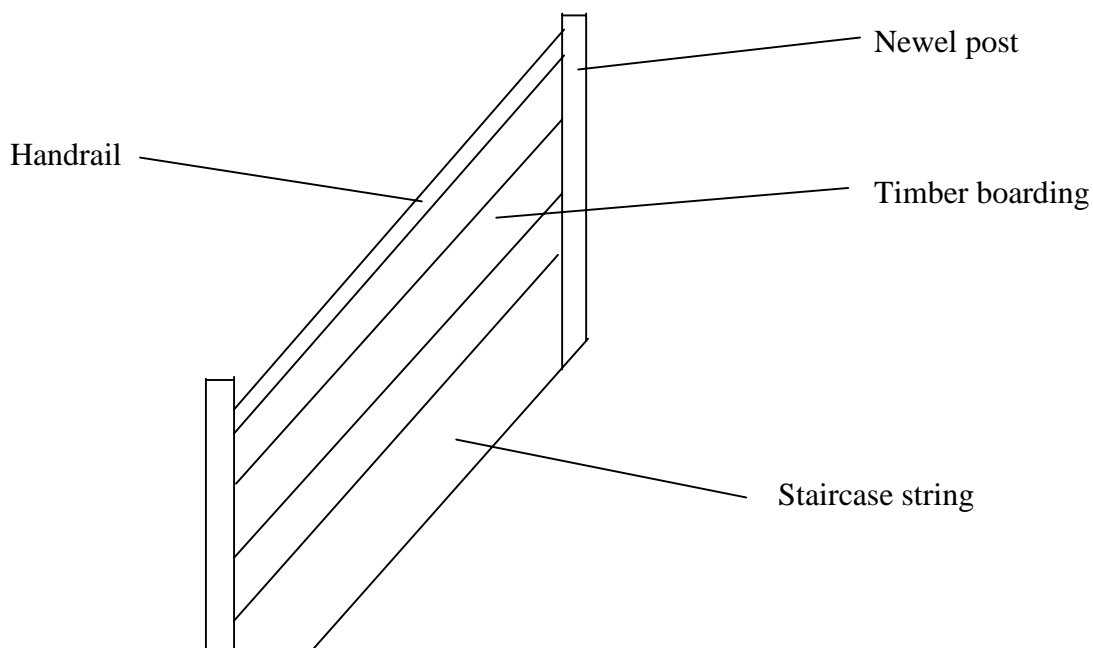
Shape of the Treads



These two shapes alternate up the length of the staircase

Handrailing

We find that handrailing with spindles does not look right with spacesaver staircases. However, it is possible to use normal newels with a ranch-style handrail, i.e. a handrail with timber boarding below it running parallel to the pitch of the staircase:



If your spacesaver is to be installed between walls, another option would be a handrail fixed on brackets to one of the walls.