

Buy Your Timber Joinery with Confidence

Deciding on your new timber joinery, whether for a new or existing home, is a complex decision. Timber joinery is timeless in appearance and will suit modern architectural or traditional building methods.

But not all timber joinery is created equal. There is quality timber joinery and there is cheap timber joinery, but there is **NO** cheap, quality timber joinery.

So choosing the supplier of your new timber joinery is very important

ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE

Timber joinery is manufactured from a renewable resource, is low in energy to produce and has thermal insulation qualities better than most alternative products.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

DO check that your joinery supplier is a member of a recognised trade body such as Registered Master Joiners. Registered Master Joiners ensures high standards of craftsmanship and guarantees the warrantee under the Consumer Guarantees Act.

Don't assume your supplier is a member. Check on the website www.masterjoiners.co.nz or by phoning Registered Master Joiners to confirm their status.

WARRANTY

DO check what, if any, warranties are offered. A Registered Master Joiner will offer a warranty on materials and workmanship. Well made timber joinery has no major warranty problems. You can check the reputation of the supplier by asking for names of previous customers, or by checking with Registered Master Joiners.

Don't accept a verbal promise or take it for granted. Some suppliers make warranty promises and don't back them up.

PRODUCT CHOICE

DO be as well informed as possible on product choice. Be sure you are choosing the best product for the circumstances. For instance, if you require a natural finish, are you prepared for annual maintenance? General wear and tear, abuse and neglect, are not covered by any warranty.

Don't accept or choose a product until you have considered all the alternatives.

CONSTRUCTION

DO check timber profiles. Registered Master Joiners manufacture to NZ Standards or have had their own profiles tested. These profiles will ensure joinery withstands the pressure of the elements. Doors & sashes should be mortise and tenon jointed and frames housed together and joints primed.

Don't assume construction techniques comply with standards, make sure only tried and proven systems of construction are used.

GLAZING

DO seek advice on glazing. All glazing must comply with NZ Standards to ensure it is fit for the purpose and provide a safe environment. Double glazing may be required to bring building up to the required 'R' value for insulation; this will need clarifying to receive accurate quotations.

Don't assume your glazing will comply, ask if in doubt, as glazing is a major cost factor in timber joinery and must be installed to a recognised system.

PAINTING / STAINING

DO use a recognised system. Surface coating can be your downfall for timber joinery, as it is important to provide adequate protection. Getting joinery pre primed prior to delivery is a good option as the joinery can be fitted straight in, but remember primer has a limited life. Light colour based paint system with give long life and should only need repainting every 10 years. A natural finish will need regular ongoing attention to avoid irreversible deterioration.

Don't paint joinery in dark colours as the heat generated will cause bowing and could void warranty.

TIMBERS

DO ask what timber is best for your situation. Not all timber is suitable for exterior joinery. Some may also need treatment to make it more durable. If paint quality, finger jointed Cedar or treated Pine would be a cost effective and environmentally good choice. Door sills may need to be a hardwood if in a high use area.

Don't use timbers unfit for the purpose, your Master Joiner will have available, historical knowledge of what is and isn't suitable and will not want to manufacture in troublesome materials.

HARDWARE

DO check whether hardware is or isn't supplied in the quote. Use only quality hardware and consider stainless steel, especially if in a coastal area. Also check if replacement parts are readily available. Check with your Master Joiner if advice is required.

Don't use cheap hardware, as a rule you get what you pay for.

FINANCE

DO check thoroughly the financial and payment terms required. Deposits are usually requested by the joinery supplier.

Deposits are used to secure your commitment to the job and to pay for materials such as timber.

Do compare quotations carefully. The cheapest price may not be the best price, check the notes to compare what you are getting or not getting for your money.

Don't assume your supplier is financially sound.

Deposits can be lost if the suppliers' business fails and goes into liquidation, How can I tell?

Be wary if one quote is far lower than the others. Struggling suppliers may discount heavily to attract business.

The Quality and continuing good looks of your timber joinery will be remembered long after the price is forgotten.