

PRESS RELEASE

Timber-likes

We speak to Elouise Steyn, the in-house architect of leading windows and doors manufacturer, Swartland, about the best practices for the installation of wooden windows and doors.

24 May 2019, Johannesburg: When specifying or choosing wooden windows and doors, it is imperative that you select the best possible quality that you can afford. So says Elouise Steyn, the in-house architect for leading window and door manufacturer, Swartland, who goes on to add: “Fenestration and doors make up a sizeable investment, and therefore, you should select the best quality possible. This choice will not only help in the overall aesthetics, general build quality, and functionality of the building in question, but it will also have a big financial impact in the long-term with regards to insulation and maintenance costs.”

She notes that timber ticks a lot of boxes – it is an eco-friendly choice due to it being a renewable resource and an excellent insulator, and aesthetically, its rich good looks can’t be beaten. However, she says not all timber windows and doors are equal, and there are a number of best practice procedures that need to be followed from the outset to ensure their longevity and optimum functionality – she lists them below:

Sealing and finish

Any kind of timber window and door must be sealed prior to installation or glazing, says Elouise: “Leaving raw timber products outdoors on-site puts them at the mercy of the elements. Whether being stored or even when they are installed, any exposure to rain or damp conditions could lead to serious long-term damage of the timber. As such, all wooden products need to be properly sealed before being exposed to the elements, before being installed, and prior to the glazing being fitted.”

She says that this fact makes the Ready-2-Fit range of windows and doors from Swartland an ideal choice: “The Ready-2-Fit range of wooden windows and doors are professionally sealed and glazed before they leave the Swartland factory, so that when they arrive on the building site, they are ready to be installed with no further labour required to seal or glaze them. This not only saves the builder and homeowner time and money on installation costs, but it also ensures that the windows and doors are adequately protected against exposure to any damp or wetness. It also vastly increases the overall build quality – ensuring that the windows and doors are finished to Swartland’s exacting standards and therefore, ensuring that any warranties are upheld.”

Hardware matters

Although it might seem like any choice will do when it comes to handles, bolts and locks for your windows and doors, the hardware that you choose makes an enormous difference to their aesthetics, functionality and durability. It will also

impact the overall security of your home. Says Elouise Steyn: “The hardware is crucial to the window or door’s mechanics – it is how they open, close and lock. As such, it impacts the use of the product in question – it needs to be really strong, weather- and corrosion-resistant, it needs to be durable, and it should look good aesthetically. To this end, Swartland uses high-end slid brass hardware, including pulleys, fasteners, lifts, pivot mechanisms and hinges on all its windows and doors, and ultra strong stainless steel barrel locks on its doors.

However, Elouise adds that the hardware is not just for security and aesthetics: “Since timber is a natural material, it dries and swells as it adapts to the equilibrium of the climatic moisture content. Movement can be expected on the timber, depending on the ecosystem where the door is installed – for example, regular exposure to harsh sun, heat or rain. As such, it is best practice to install bolts on both leaves of any double doors for a minimum of two to three seasonal changes in order to prevent warping and movement until the natural balance of the wood has been achieved.”

She says that on patio doors that are not used as entrance doors, two barrel bolts on each leaf is recommended. For Traffic doors, Elouise says that it is advisable to fit a roller catch on the traffic door in question. “The practice of securing both leaves may seem like an inconvenience, but it is a vital necessity, and will go a long way to minimise the risk of future movement and warping.”

Roof overhang

Says Elouise: “It is always advisable to keep direct rain and sun away from any natural product. Just like you will put a hat on in the sun or use an umbrella in the rain – timber needs to be protected in the same manner. It is for this reason that installing overhangs is a standard best practice internationally. An adequate overhang is a critical addition with regards to safeguarding the longevity and functionality of any timber product by protecting it from the elements. If the roof’s eaves don’t cut it, a separate overhang should be installed.”

In most climate conditions, the following formula can be used to determine the appropriate amount of overhang: $A = \frac{1}{2}B$ (where A is the length of the overhang required, and B is the distance from the bottom of the door or window to the base of the overhang.) With regards to the width of the overhang, the general formula that is used is $C = (2 \times \frac{1}{3}D) + E$ (where C is the width of the overhang required, D is the distance from the bottom of the door or window to the base of the overhang, and E is the width of the door or window).

So, for example, if the measurement from the bottom of the door to the base of the overhang is 3m and the width of the door is 0,813m, then the depth and width of the required overhang will be 1,5m x 2,813m respectively.

ENDS

Released on behalf of Swartland (www.swartland.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za).

