

Why is wood the first choice for windows and doors?

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**Why is wood the first choice for windows and doors?**

**By Christine Anderssen**

Wood has an aesthetic beauty and ambience unequalled by any other material and has unique qualities that only nature can provide. Homeowners increasingly appreciate the environmental benefits and the design potential afforded by wood. Celebrity architects constantly endorse wooden windows over other alternatives for cutting edge designs.

~ Timber is environmentally friendly ~

Every country is urged to support sustainable development and when this refers to window and door products we can safely say that the only material available that meets this criterion for their manufacture is timber, unlike all other extracted or mined materials. According to ENGOS, (environmental government organisations) The WWF (World Wildlife Fund), and Greenpeace, wood is "by far the best environmental choice for windows" as it is a totally renewable resource. With forests representing the single most important stabilising feature in the world's land mass, an international organisation, The Forest Stewardship Council requires its members to ensure that forests are replenished at least as much as they are harvested. As trees become older their ability to absorb CO2 reduces significantly and that is why these trees can be harvested and replaced by young ones.

When we compare timber windows with other types we find that much less energy is needed to manufacture wooden windows than those made with other materials. Also, in terms of CO2 emissions, a greenhouse gas linked to climate change, timber is neutral whereas aluminium would produce up to 4 tonnes of CO2 per 10 windows according to the BWF (British Woodworking Federation)

~ Timber is energy efficient ~

Timber is a natural insulator and if you want to save money it is a good idea to make sure you are not paying for warmed or cooled air that is seeping through the cracks of your doors and windows. Weather stripping is the best way to make significant savings on your energy bill. When you've checked your house to see where the air is going you will find there is no substitute for quality, energy-efficient doors and windows. These can be acquired at very affordable prices.

~ Timber is perceived to be a sign of high quality. ~

Stylish timber windows and doorsets are ideal for luxury living and modern production methods means manufacturers can supply quality products, made to the highest standards, to meet this need. If care is taken to treat the finished product correctly their clients have the assurance and guarantee of

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long-lasting pleasure. Wooden windows are perceived to be a sign of high quality so the value of property will always remain at the highest level.

~ Timber has a lower whole life cost than any other material ~

Research has shown that wood is the least expensive when it comes to looking at the whole life cost of all available materials used for the manufacture and installation of windows and doorsets. Wooden windows and doorsets are repairable and maintainable. If damage occurs to the timber a carpenter can repair it. If hardware is broken it can be replaced in the same position without needing a new sash. If maintained properly there is no reason why wooden windows and doors should ever fail.

K Parker Joinery is one of the premier manufacturers of quality

wooden windows, timber doorsets and solid wood doors

in South Africa

## **Choosing The Right Front Entry Door For Your House**

**By Jason Scott**

When deciding on a new entry door, a certain amount of planning must be made. After all, your front door is the focal point of the entire house and it creates a statement. Your front door should compliment your personal character and your home in the best way possible. The increased value of your home depends on the material, design, and hardware you select. By focusing on door material, size, style, and applied finishes the front door can reflect both your personality and the period of the home.

Wood doors offer the most traditional look. However, they do require a certain amount of maintenance, but many homeowners agree that wood will always be the beauty queen of doors. You can choose between several species of wood ranging from mahogany or maple, to oak or pine. Other favorites include cherry wood and fir. Furthermore, you have the option of selecting the glazing configuration for the species you choose. However, let it be known that solid wood doors are the most expensive type, especially when purchasing an entire entry door system. If budget is a concern, consider a composite wood door instead.

Fiberglass composite doors are maintenance free and usually come with a long limited warranty. If your heart is still set on wood, but you like the sound of maintenance free, then look into fiberglass composite doors that resemble the look of wood. They are typically less expensive, but still offer the durability found in wood. Their high quality composite makes these doors resistant to all sorts of weather as well as scratches and dents. Fiberglass is an excellent choice for extreme climates and high traffic entrances.

Steel doors are your source of security and stability. They are also less expensive than wood and fiberglass, but you still have the option of giving steel a wood-fiber coating. Certain steel doors can even be laminated with real wood veneer. They do require some maintenance which includes episodic

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repaints and special coatings to protect against weather. However, steel doors are not affected by sunlight the way wood doors are, but they can be damaged by dents. Lastly, steel doors consist of energy efficient foam core insulation and are fully weather-stripped by the manufacturer. They are highly resistant to shrinking, swelling and warping.

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