

SPINDLE FACTORY

RENOVATION REVELATIONS



*Photo Courtesy: Kimberley Homes

RENOVATION REVELATIONS

Spindle Factory has been in the stair and railing business for over 30 years. Based on our experience here is the 'real scoop' on renovating your home's stairs and railings.

If you have completed any renovations in the past you will know they never seem to end! Once you start replacing items in your home it can often be the start of a chain reaction. A simple tiling job can expand to a new tub, then a new vanity, and then on to a new floor! The same phenomenon can happen with stair or railing projects.

If you have watched any home renovations shows you will know that once you start taking things apart you can never tell what lies beneath. Even with all the gadgets the experts have at their disposal they can still be surprised once the renovation has started.



Renovating someone else's work can lend itself to a more complex installation than a new build, so be prepared for some potential unforeseen work. However, don't let this deter you from renovating your stairs or railings. Our experienced team of professionals will guide you through every aspect of the process ensuring your project is a success.



BE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S INVOLVED

Installation can be a very messy and noisy affair. The Spindle Factory installers cut, miter, and shape their rail components onsite whenever possible. This ensures that the best fit and finish is obtained. It is best for the installer to work as close as possible to the installation location in your home. This ensures that the material is not being transferred from one climate to another, like damp and cold to dry and warm. Going back and forth from 22c to -22c is not good for the wood or the installer.

For the installer to work efficiently please ensure they have adequate work space. No furnace rooms please! The area must be large enough to maneuver the parts, so a 9ft rail in a 6ft space won't work for us. We have tried! We also have to bring in the required tools for the job at hand. Winter installations require a heated workspace. The farther the work space is from the installation area the more time is consumed this lengthening our stay.

When work is done in your home dust will be generated and can travel through the duct work or be blown around even when the work area appears to be sealed off. We of course try to minimize this as much as possible. Another important note is that there is an extremely high possibility that flooring and wall surfaces can be damaged. Tools and materials can drop and fitting stairs and railings can cause damage. We highly recommend that any new flooring materials and the final coat of paint be installed after stair and railing installation.

Plan to have the stairs or railings finished with stain or paint 'as soon as possible' after installation. It is very important that the wood not be contaminated. Greasy fingers, inadvertent fluid splashes, and other contaminants can affect the staining process and reduce the quality of the final finish. If you have to delay the finishing for any reason try and keep the climate consistent and cover the stair and rail components with a protective layer, until the finishing can be completed. Warm, dry environments can cause wood to crack due to moisture loss, hence the need to seal the product promptly after install. Avoid temperatures under 17C and over 23C.

STAINING AND FINISHING

Staining your stairs and railings provides not only a beautiful look but a durable finish. The process involves chemicals that can be harmful to people and pets when they are being applied. Plan to be away from your home during the staining process and for as long as possible afterwards. We recommend a bare minimum of 24 hours after the stain and lacquering is completed. The 'curing' process can produce slight to moderate odors for up to 3 weeks after application. Stains and lacquers can be slow to dry in damp and cold conditions and thus lengthen evaporation and curing times. Try not to cover any part of the finished wood during this period as it may cause uneven curing and can show as color variations.

Some species of wood stain better than others. For instance cherry and oak take a stain far easier than maple. For the best results we recommend that you employ a professional stainer to finish your stair and railing project.

So after all that's been said: Don't put off your dream renovation project. We pride ourselves on the high standard of our products and services and look forward to working with you!

