STAIRCASE RENOVATION

Staircase Specialist, Interior Designer or Builder: Who to Hire?

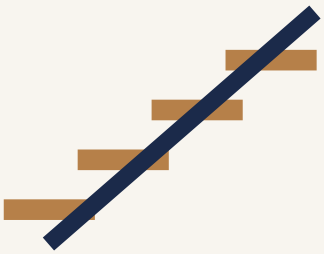
By DirectHome Team Updated 16 September 2026 6 min read Explore our staircase renovation service ↗

A staircase specialist, interior designer and builder can play different roles in the same renovation. A specialist may fabricate the stairs, a designer may coordinate their appearance with the room, and a builder may handle wider structural work. Choose the arrangement that gives someone clear responsibility for the complete job, including the points where trades meet.

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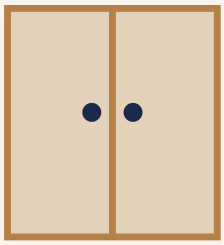


Match the team to the work



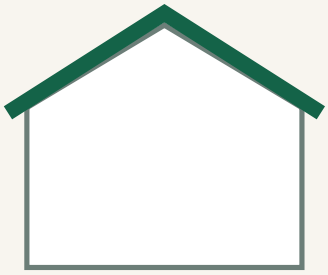
Fabrication

New support, tread and guarding details.



Carpentry

Timber work and fitted finishes.

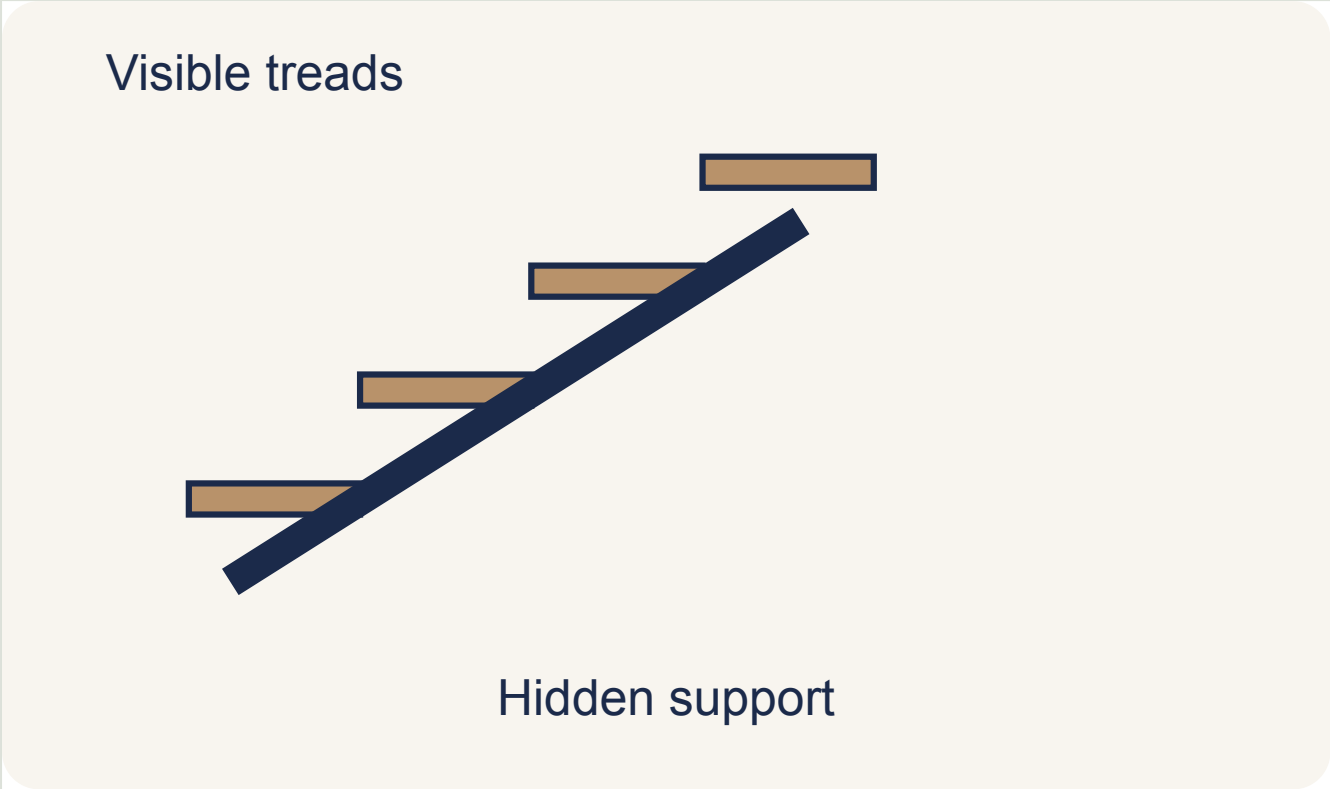


Whole-house coordination

Flooring, structure and lighting together.

Fabrication: New support, tread and guarding details. Carpentry: Timber work and fitted finishes. Whole-house coordination: Flooring, structure and lighting together.

Why Design and Construction Need to Work Together

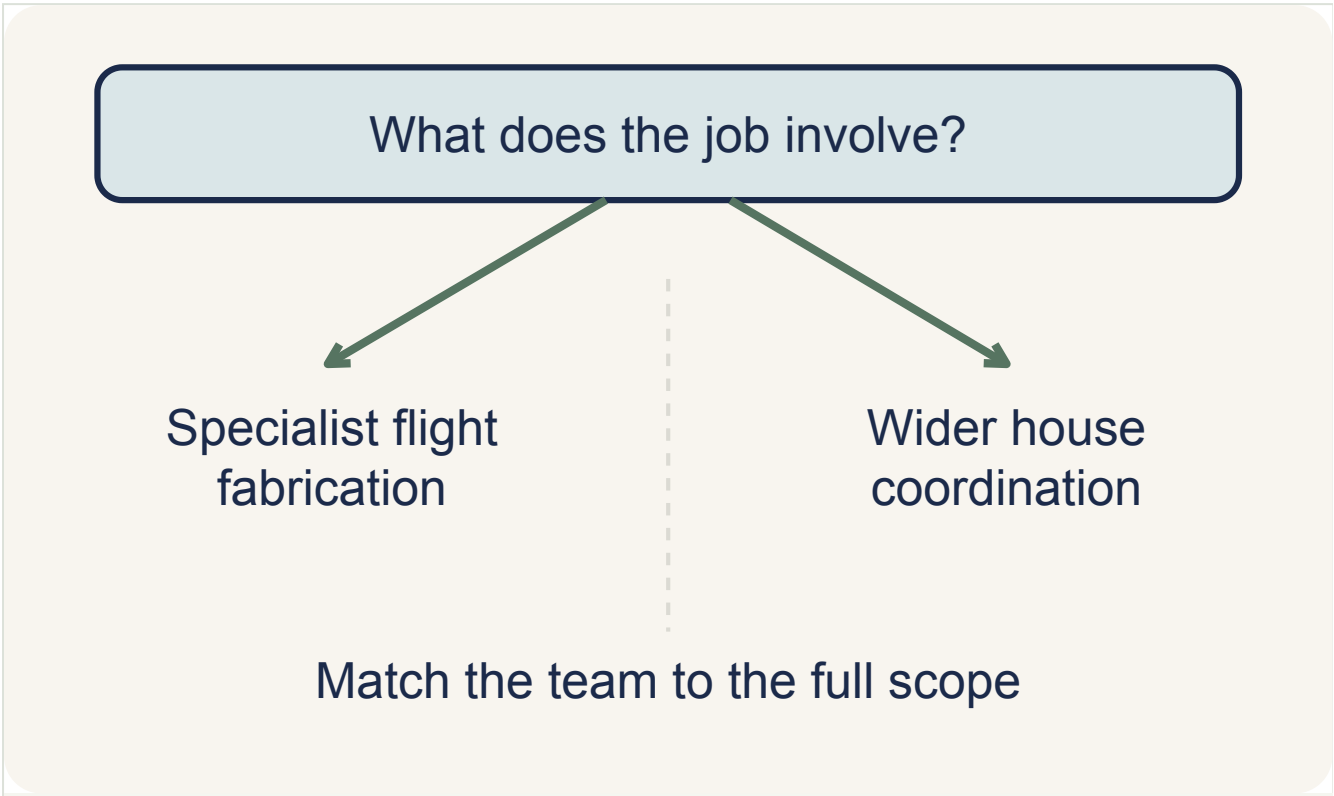


The visible finish depends on fabrication and support that may be hidden below it.

A staircase combines structure, safe movement and visible finishing. A poor layout can be as difficult to correct as loose treads or inadequate supports. Choose a contractor who can explain both the construction details and how the finished staircase will work in your home.

In Singapore, staircase work usually falls to one of three groups: specialist staircase fabricators (typically metal and glass), carpentry firms (timber treads and risers), or full-service interior contractors who subcontract the fabrication. Each has its place, but the right choice depends on what your project actually needs.

Specialist Fabricators vs Interior Designers vs Main Contractors



Match specialist fabrication and wider house coordination to the actual scope.

The lead appointment follows the physical work; one company may cover more than one role.

The job you need	Who can lead it	Boundary to resolve before appointment
Refinish sound existing timber treads	A timber-finishing specialist	Repairs, coating system, drying time and upstairs access.
New treads or balustrade on retained supports	A staircase fabricator with the responsible designer	Connection details, finished stair geometry and adjoining floor levels.
Move the staircase or change its supporting structure	A building team with the required Qualified Person	Design, approvals, temporary support, construction and finishing.
Staircase within a whole-room renovation	An interior designer or main contractor coordinating the specialist	Lighting, flooring, joinery and who puts each interface right.

For work requiring a licensed builder, use the BCA directory's General Builder or Specialist Builder categories to verify the proposed company. This is separate from assessing a fabricator's finished joints or a designer's layout. Have the Qualified Person establish the requirements for the actual scope; routine refinishing and structural alterations are different jobs.

A specialist fabricator can suit a staircase with demanding metalwork, glass barriers or custom treads. Review comparable completed details: tread-to-stringer joints, weld finishing and barrier fixings. Confirm which design, engineering and finishing tasks sit outside the fabrication price.

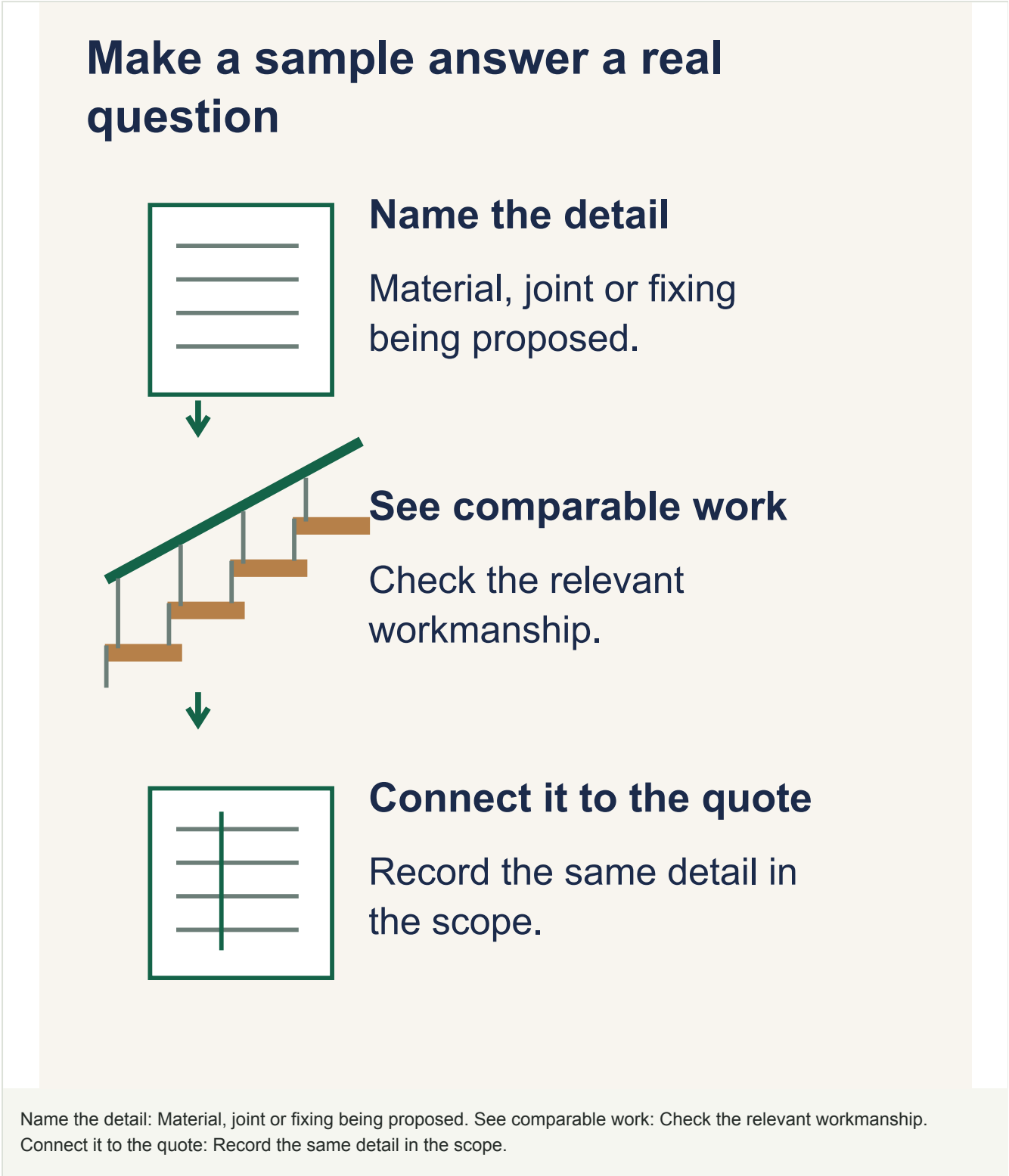
An interior designer or renovation firm can coordinate the staircase with flooring, lighting and adjacent joinery. A main contractor can coordinate demolition and building work where the scope is wider. Either may subcontract fabrication; identify the actual fabricator and who coordinates the adjoining work and puts defects right.

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What to Check Before You Sign Anything



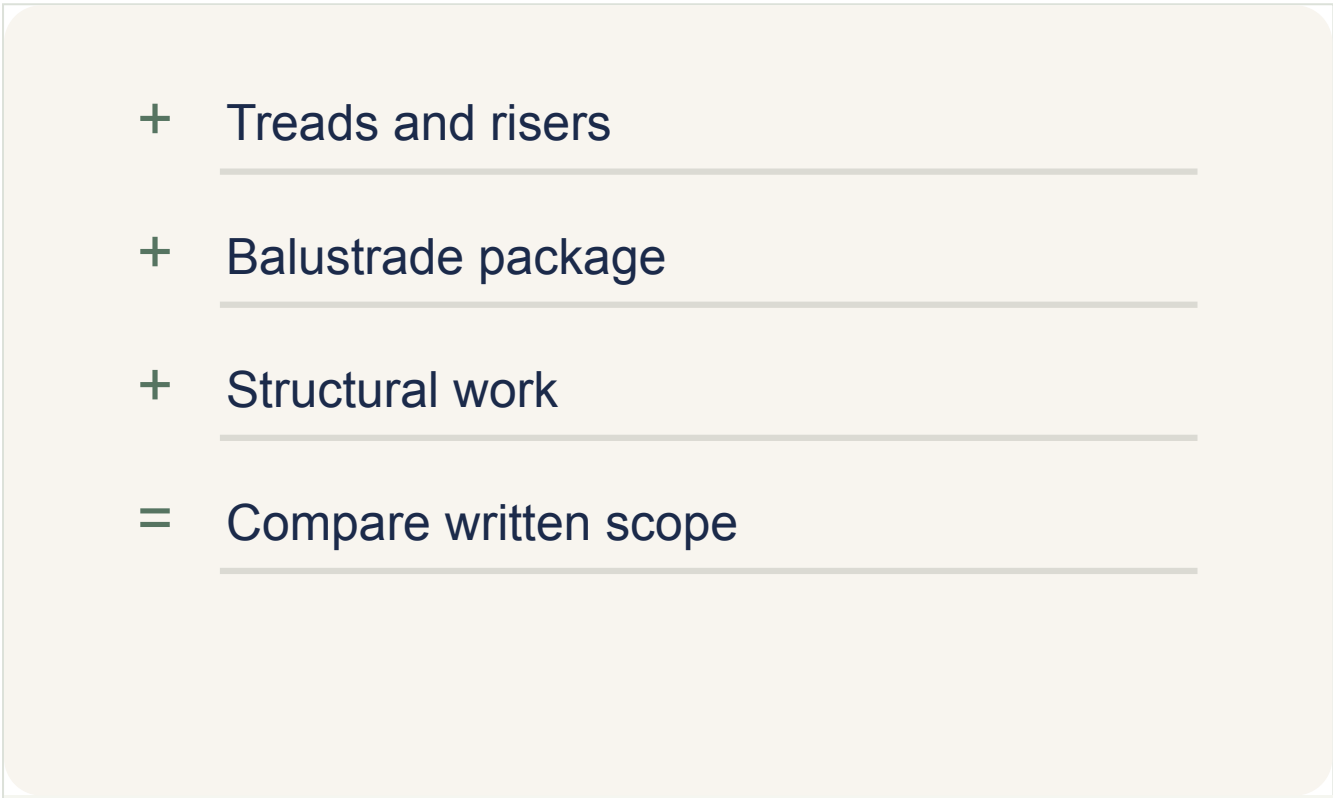
Name the detail: Material, joint or fixing being proposed. See comparable work: Check the relevant workmanship. Connect it to the quote: Record the same detail in the scope.

Ask for completed projects or detailed close-up photographs, with references where past clients consent. Renders cannot demonstrate alignment, smooth joints or the quality of weld finishing. A contractor may protect a client's privacy, so assess the available evidence rather than treating refusal of a home visit as proof of poor work.

Check whether they have done staircases in your house type before. A semi-detached with a 3.6m floor-to-floor height is a different problem from a conservation shophouse with a 4.2m double-volume void. Ask specifically about projects with similar dimensions, similar materials, and similar finishing standards.

On paperwork, identify the designer, fabricator and any Qualified Person responsible for approvals. BCA explains the QP's role in assessing required clearances. The written scope should name timber species, glass build-up and steel grade, and include demolition, disposal, making good and finishing.

How to Compare Staircase Quotations

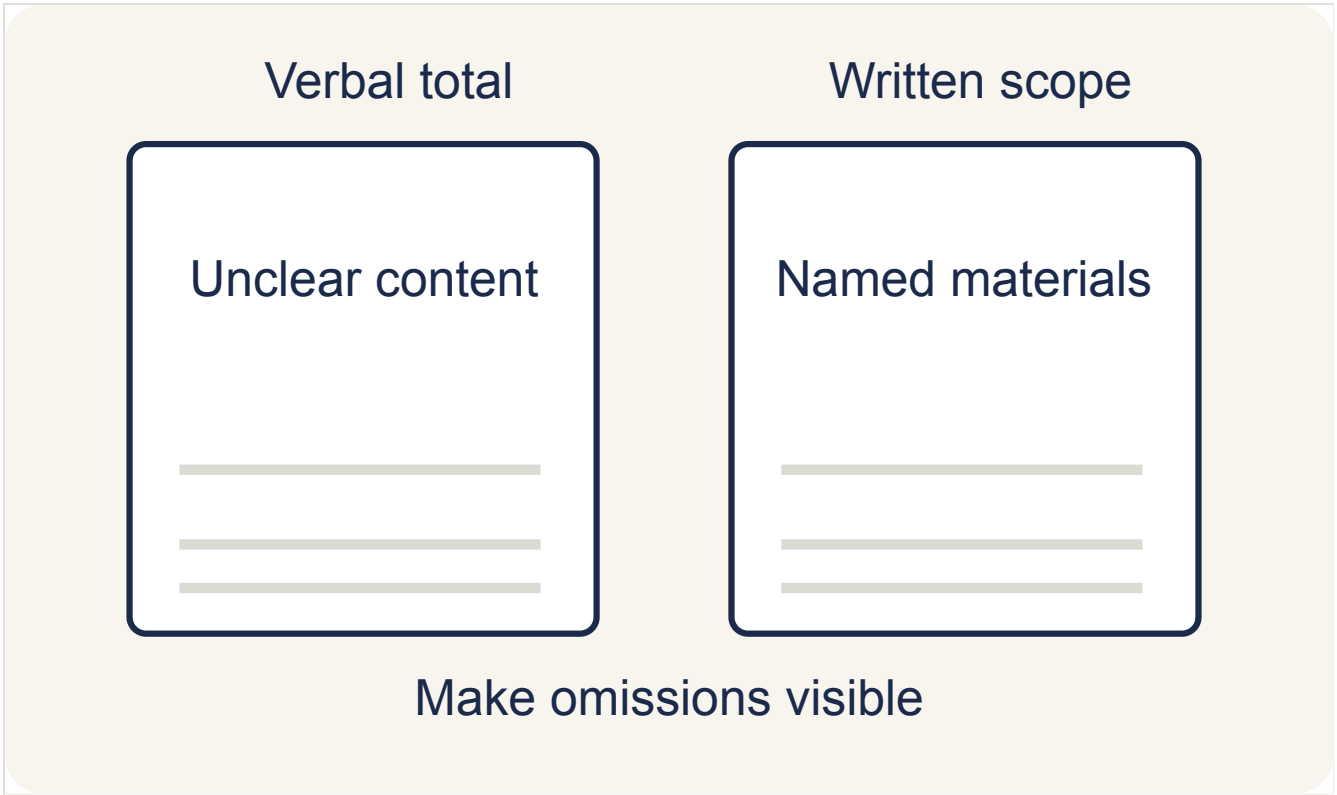


Compare the tread, balustrade and structural work included in each quotation.

Separate a finish replacement from a new structural staircase before comparing prices. A useful quotation lists tread quantity and size, retained supports, new steelwork, balustrade length, handrails and surface finishes. It should also show engineering, submissions and site protection where those are part of the job.

A low quotation can reflect a smaller scope, a different material or a simpler fixing detail; a high quotation may include coordination and building work that another excludes. Obtain comparable written quotations and resolve those differences before treating the total as a saving. Unmeasured headline ranges cannot price your staircase reliably.

Red Flags



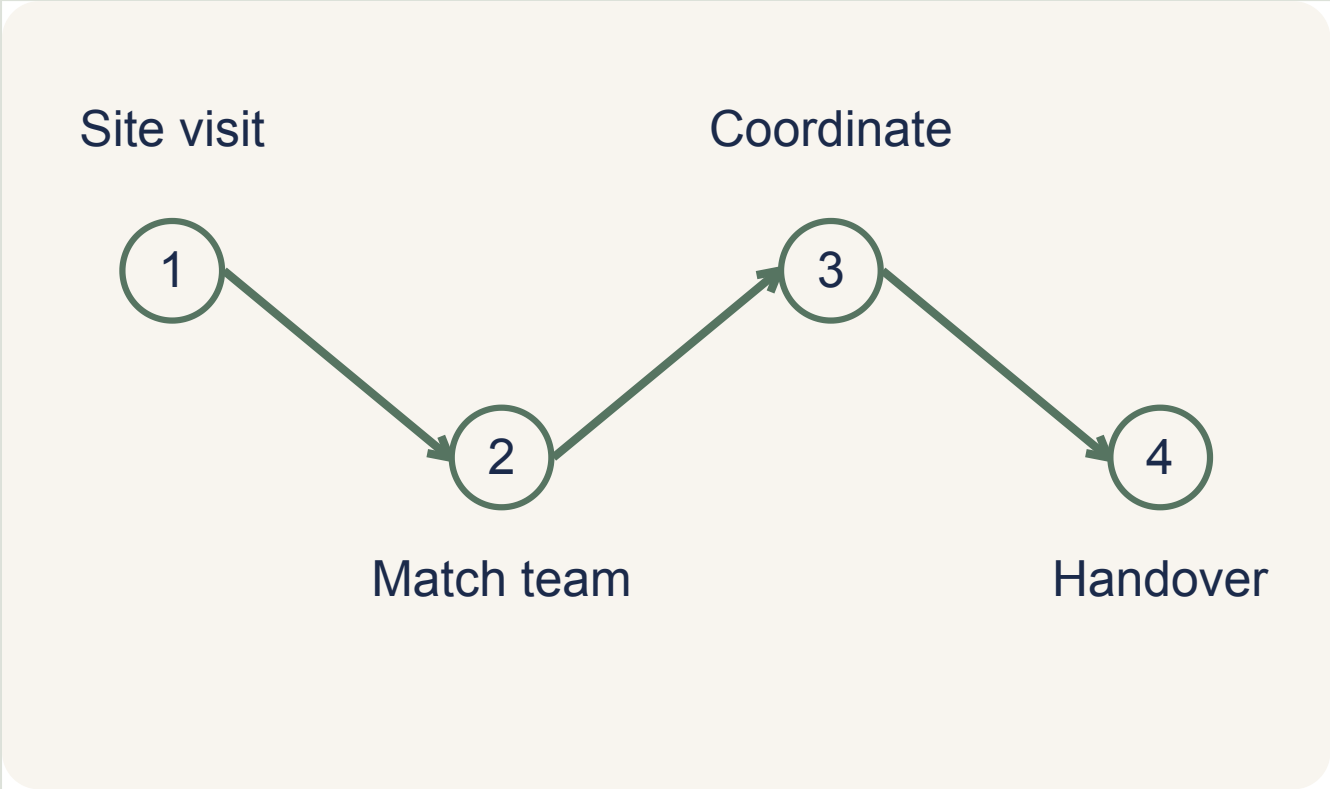
A written specification makes the contents of a headline price easier to assess.

A verbal price without a written scope leaves material substitutions and exclusions unresolved. Set out dimensions, finishes, approval responsibilities and how changes will be priced before making a payment.

A claim that approvals are unnecessary needs to match the actual work. Replacing finishes and altering a supporting wall are different scopes; unexplained assumptions at this stage can leave the owner arranging redesign or remedial work later.

Payment milestones should identify what has been designed, ordered, fabricated or installed. A deposit percentage alone does not prove misconduct, especially for custom fabrication, but a large advance with no delivery terms or refund provisions gives you little protection if the work stalls.

Preparing Your DirectHome Enquiry



Confirm who handles the brief, design, site work and handover in the appointment.

Send DirectHome photographs of the staircase, the floors it connects and any available plans. State whether you want to refresh finishes, replace the balustrade or change the structure. Include access constraints and any need to keep part of the home occupied so the proposed scope reflects the household.

Before appointing a provider, confirm who contracts with you, who handles design and submissions, and who rectifies defects. Put those responsibilities alongside the written scope and payment milestones so you can assess the proposal on the same basis as other quotations.

Frequently asked questions

What should a staircase renovation quotation include?

Start by separating retained-staircase refinishing from a replacement flight and its building connections. Compare itemised prices for tread quantities and dimensions, materials, supports, barriers, demolition, engineering and making good, with exclusions stated. Send DirectHome photographs and available plans through the WhatsApp button on this page, stating whether you want new finishes, a new balustrade or structural changes, so the site assessment covers the intended work.

Should I use a specialist fabricator, an interior designer, or a main contractor?

An interior designer or renovation firm can coordinate the staircase with flooring, lighting and adjacent joinery. A main contractor can coordinate demolition and building work where the scope is wider. Either may subcontract fabrication; identify the actual fabricator and who remains responsible for interfaces and defects.

What are the red flags when hiring a staircase contractor?

Payment milestones should identify what has been designed, ordered, fabricated or installed. A deposit percentage alone does not prove misconduct, especially for custom fabrication, but a large advance with no delivery terms or refund provisions gives you little protection if the work stalls.

What should I check before signing the contract?

Review comparable completed details and obtain a written scope covering materials, dimensions, demolition, disposal and finishing. Identify the actual fabricator and any Qualified Person responsible for required submissions; a company registration alone does not establish that your proposed work is approved.

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