

The building and construction industry has a lot of terms of the trade or jargon. The glossary of terms has been put together to help take away some of the mystery. If there is something that you don't understand, please ask -we will be more than happy to explain anything that causes confusion.

TIMBER JOINERY

Awning or Top Hung:

Open out window sash, top hung on butt hinges or fitted with friction stays to push outwards. Friction stays used if lower sashes are opening

Bay Window:

A window that projects outwards from a wall. Various shapes exist, such as : Splay Bay, Square or 90° Bay, Segmental Bay (maybe termed as a Circular or Bow Window if sill front is curved.

Borrowed Lite:

A window or glazed area situated in an internal wall to admit daylight from an adjoining room , corridor, hallway or an enclosed lightwell.

Casement or Side Hung:

Open out window sash side hung on butt hinges or sometimes fitted with friction stays top and bottom.

Clerestory Window (clear-storey window):

A window placed high in a wall that projects above the roof line of an adjoining part of the building.

Door:

The inner component of a door unit which is glazed or paneled and hung.

Dormer Window:

A window projecting through the plane of the roof, set vertically with cheeks (side walls) and its' own roof

Double – hung:

Vertically sliding upper and lower sashes counter balanced by weights or spiral (spring) balances. A more economical option is a single hung which has one sash fixed in place.

Drip Groove:

A groove cut into the underside of a projecting moulding or sill to cause rainwater to drip to the ground.

Fanlight Sash:

Also known as "top-light" or "vent-light". Top hung and open outwards usually above casements, fixed glazing or doors for added light and ventilation.

Frame:

The outer part of a window or door unit that consists of Jambs, Head and Sill, and is fixed to the building. An internal door unit generally has no sill.

Glazing Bar:

Divides panes of glass within a sash or door generally up to 35mm in width. Sometimes Called an Astragal.

Head:

The top member of a joinery frame fixed to a lintel or building.

Horizontal sliding:

Horizontal sliding sashes or doors within a joinery frame generally on sill tracks and head guides. In some cases sashes and doors slide over the outside faces of the building.

Horn or Joggle:

Decorative shaped extension to the bottom of the stile of upper double hung sashes.

Jamb:

The side member of a joinery frame fixed to stud framing or the building.

Mid Rail:

Horizontal member of varying widths within a door.

Mortice and Tenon Joint:

A recess formed in one member to receive a projection or tenon in another member.

Mullion:

Intermediate vertical member of a joinery frame dividing sashes, doors and sidelights.

Muntin:

A vertical member within a door or wall that divides panels.

Pivot hung:

Pivoted sash on a horizontal axis at centre of height. Top half opens inwards, bottom half opens outwards.

Sash:

The inner or working part of a window which is glazed and hung or fixed.

Sliding – folding:

Commonly known as Bi-folding. One or more sets (pairs) of doors or sashes hinged together that slide and fold within the frame supported by overhead rollers and bottom guides.

Stile:

Vertical side members of a door or sash.

Top Rail:

Horizontal top member or a door or sash.

Transom:

Intermediate horizontal member of a joinery frame generally above doors or casement hung sashes and fanlights or top-lights.

Window Sill-Board:

The internal top member of a Window Sill and is fitted after window installation.

Window Sill:

The bottom member of a joinery frame fixed to the building that the sash closes onto.

MOULDINGS

Architrave:

A moulding surrounding a door or window opening.

Architrave block:

Square block with turned centre used at the intersection of head and jamb architraves as an alternative to a mitre finish.

Bevel:

A surface that meets another at an angle less than 90°.

Bolection Moulding:

A moulding rebated to cover the edge of a frame.

Ceiling Batten:

A colonial profiled timber strip covering ceiling board joins generally 300mm or 1 foot apart

Chamfer:

A corner or angle cut at 45°. A stopped Chamfer is stopped with a splayed or moulded cut leaving the portion not chamfered of rectangular form.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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Cornice / Scotia:

A moulding at the junction of a wall and ceiling of timber, plaster or pressed metal. Also on the exterior of a building as a projecting moulding marking the junction of wall and roof.

Label Mould:

A projecting moulding on the face of an exterior wall over the head of a door or window.

Rebate:

A stepped recess along the edge of a workpiece or component. Also known as Rabbet.

Skirting:

Decorative or plain dressing board used to cover the junction between an interior floor and wall.

FRET / TURNED & DECORATIVE PRODUCTS

Acorn Top:

Top of a picket or post, cut or turned to the shape of an Acorn.

Baluster:

A short post, one of a series supporting a handrail. (series of balusters called a Balustrade).

Dentil:

One of row of small tooth like blocks that form part of a classical cornice.

Eaves Bracket:

An ornamental bracket used on the underside of boxed eaves.

Finial:

A formal ornament at the top of a Canopy, Gable, Pinnacle etc.

Fretwork:

A carved or cut ornamental feature or pierced ornamental grille.

Fretwork Lace:

Detailed fret cut boarding over head at verandah boundary.

Newel:

An upright post forming part of the balustrade at the foot or head of a stair or at a point of change of direction.

Spindle:

Ornamental turned spindle used in overhead verandah dressing (sometimes in place of cut fretwork)

Tear / Acorn Drop:

Ornamental turned spindle used in conjunction with fretwork verandah details.

Verandah Paling:

Flat decorative fret cut boarding used in exterior (sometimes interior) balustrade between handrail and bottom rail.

Wainscoting:

Wood lining, usually paneled, applied to interior walls.

HARDWARE

Escutcheon:

A decorative cover plate for key holes, generally round or oval, and in some cases has an additional swinging cover plate to hide the key hole.

Fitch Fastener:

Catch used to secure double-hung sashes at meeting rails.

Flush Bolt:

Slide or lever action bolt recessed flush into face of a door, sash or gate to secure in place.

Mortice Lock:

Latch and keyed lock that fits into a mortice in the edge of a door. Has varying levels of security depending upon locking mechanism i.e levers or pins.

Quadrant Stay:

Crescent shaped stay with a wing nut for locking. Used mainly on fanlight or top-hung sashes.

Rim Lock:

Lock fixed to face of door at edge with striker on the jamb.

Sash Lift:

A shaped metal bracket that is fixed to the inside bottom rail of a double-hung window's lower sash to aid lifting of the sash.

Spur Fastener:

Hook and Strike type catch to latch awning hung type sashes.

Barrel bolt or Necked Bolt:

Straight or necked sliding shoot type bolt for fixing door, sash or gate into place. Face fixed to door, sash etc.

Flush Slide Bolt:

Same format as the Barrel / Necked Bolt but barrel portion on reverse of face plate.

GLASS / GLAZING

Annealed Glass:

Standard float glass with no extra treatment given.

Toughened Glass:

Annealed float glass that is heat tempered for strength and equal to Grade A safety glass.

Laminated Glass:

Grade A safety glass or acoustic glass. Two layers of glass laminated together by a PVB interlayer. Also can be a feature or coloured glass (that cannot be toughened) But needs to be rated for safety in accordance with the relevant standard.

Obscure:

Glass that one cannot see thru. For privacy, bathrooms etc.

Putty faced:

The term used for Glass held into a glazing rebate in door, sash or frame by putty. " Faced Off " meaning finished or tooled off with a putty knife.

Fixed Glazing or F.G:

Glass that is glazed directly into a joinery frame, where no sash or door is present. Usually the glass is held in by a timber bead but in some cases can be putty faced.