



# Traditional Doors & Windows

Guide to joinery & timber



THE SASH  
WINDOW  
WORKSHOP

## Traditional joinery

Quality windows and doors should be made to last a lifetime, therefore the joinery should be made to the highest standards and the timber should be top quality.

Nowadays there are many different methods for manufacturing windows and doors, some for mass produced windows some for bespoke products. However, joinery manufactured using traditional methods and techniques is still considered superior.

Although there are machines and materials available to help with the process of making traditional windows, the best windows are still put together by hand by an experienced joiner on a woodworking bench.

Don't forget that windows can always be repainted and glass can always be re-glazed, but if the base product (the joinery) fails it will almost certainly need replacing. A superior base product will forgive any temporary lapses in maintenance or neglect over the years.



**When buying traditional windows and doors, the quality of the joinery is paramount to the long term durability of your windows and doors.**

## Timber advice

Timber selection is probably the most important element in quality window manufacture. Windows built using the best timber should last a lifetime and beyond. Timber should be chosen for strength, durability and stability. Marry this with high quality joinery and you have a winning combination. Accepting inferior joinery or using inferior timber will almost certainly be a false economy.

The Sash Window Workshop recommends that for quality windows hardwoods or Accoya should be used. The quality of ordinary softwood has deteriorated over the years and is not suitable for top quality windows.

The stability of the timber or the amount the timber moves when exposed to the elements e.g. hot, cold, wet and dry is very important to the long term durability of any window or door product. Movement in the timber affects the paint finish and the adherence of the paint to the timber. Where stability is poor painting will need to be carried out more regularly.

If you have windows that are very exposed to sun and rain, heat and cold, you should choose the highest specification of timber possible for durability. Any inferior timber will almost certainly prove expensive in the longer term.



**Windows built using the best timber should last a lifetime and beyond.**

# The right timber for you

## European Oak

Otherwise known as the 'king of woods' is an excellent timber from which to make windows and doors. It is both stable and durable and most European Oak now comes from sustainable sources, so is also environmentally friendly.

The downside to oak is that it is very expensive and is likely to continue to become more expensive into the future.

Please note, that if you are offered American White Oak for external windows or doors, it is not considered suitable for manufacturing external joinery. You are being wrongly advised.

## Utile

This far eastern tropical hardwood is an excellent joinery timber, both stable and durable. It finishes very well and is good to work with. Utile is less expensive than oak.

The downside to Utile is that it not easily available from fully sustainable forests and more often comes from 'managed forests'. The Sash Window Workshop has used Utile as its primary timber over the past 5 years, but in order to move to a more sustainable alternative, is using fully sustainable Oak or Accoya.

## Accoya

This is a brand new man made timber which has been designed to meet and maintain the characteristics of the best hardwoods. Accoya is essentially an engineered, knot free, plantation grown, Radiata Pine treated throughout under high pressure with Ascetic acid (strong vinegar). This process stabilises and preserves the timber, leaving the Accoya with durability and stability characteristics better than Oak.

Accoya is roughly the same price as tropical hardwoods, less expensive than Oak and is fully sustainable. It also comes with a predicted 60 year service life, and has better coating performance than other timbers.

If you require more information on timber visit [www.trada.co.uk](http://www.trada.co.uk) (Timber Research and Development Agency) or call The Sash Window Workshop on 0800 597 2598 and we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.



## Window types

### **Traditionally hung windows**

These are hung on pulleys, with cords and weights. They have a deep frame, more often than not these are set back behind the outer brickwork into a 'reveal'.

### **Spiral hung sash windows**

These were introduced just after the Second World War. These windows are hung on mechanical springs instead of cords and weights. The advantages of this type of sash window is that the frame is narrower than a traditional box sash. A reveal to hide the frame is not required. The disadvantage to this type of window is that the spring mechanism is sometimes unreliable.

### **Yorkshire sash windows**

These are the predecessor of the vertical sliding sash, sliding horizontally in the frame. They are not often seen.

### **Casement windows**

These come in many types. They have solid frames, with sashes either fixed or hinged. Sashes can be top hung, side hung or centre pivoted. Casement windows without a centre mullion are known as French casements. In the United Kingdom casement windows open outwards, whereas most Continental casements open inwards.



For The Sash Window Workshop's full range of timber window types plus additional information please visit [www.sashwindow.com](http://www.sashwindow.com)

## Door types

The Sash Window Workshop have the expertise and facilities to manufacture any type of timber door to your specific bespoke requirements.

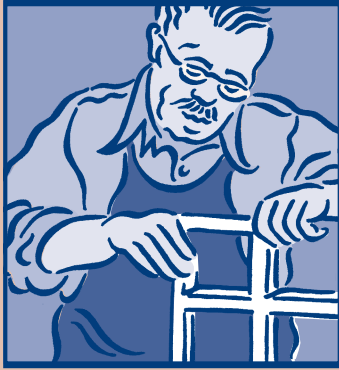
Depending on the age and style of your property we are able to combine traditional joinery methods with modern technology to produce doors that meet building regulations, as well as providing superb security, practicality and comfort to your home.

Our experienced surveyors will discuss your requirements and produce detailed drawings on receipt of your order so that you can see how your doors will look prior to manufacture and installation.

You can view many examples of doors we have manufactured for our customers on our website at [www.sashwindow.com](http://www.sashwindow.com) Alternatively why not visit our workshop where you are able to see our craftsmen at work and view the finished product in our showroom.



Working with our team of experts you can specify the exact doors that are right for your home and your budget without compromising on quality.



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