UNIQUE
WOOD PRODUCTS

INSTALLATION GUIDE · STAIR PARTS

Stair Tread & Riser *Installation Guide.*



A field reference for installing Unique Wood Products solid hardwood stair treads, risers, and stair mouldings — from substructure prep through measuring, cutting, glue-up, fastening, and finish. Written for the builders, remodelers, and finish carpenters who expect every tread to drop in clean.

1. PLAN
2. PREPARE
3. SET & FASTEN
4. FINISH

(713) 462-5045 · uniquewoodproducts.com

WOOD — A NATURAL PRODUCT

Real wood means *real variation.*

Every UWP tread, riser, and stair moulding is solid hardwood — edge-glued for strength, never a veneer over a core. Because no two boards come off the same tree, expect natural variation in color and grain from piece to piece, and lighter and darker tone within a single tread. That contrast is the signature of genuine solid hardwood, not a defect.

Open every carton and dry-lay the treads, risers, and mouldings before you cut. Arrange them for the best grain and tone across the finished stair — the run reads as one staircase when the pieces are blended, not installed in carton order.

> **ACCLIMATE BEFORE YOU INSTALL**
> Let treads and risers rest in the installed environment for several days so they reach the home's normal temperature and humidity before cutting. The substructure must be clean, dry, free of paint and debris, and structurally sound — no squeaks, no movement — before any finished wood goes down.

- Confirm species and finish match across treads, risers, and nosing.
- Stage mouldings (cove, shoe, quarter round) with the run.
- Check counts against your order before the first cut.
- Plan rugs and runners knowing covered wood ages differently.



SOLID RED OAK 8070 BULLNOSE TREAD — EDGE-GLUED, NEVER VENEERED, MILLED IN-HOUSE

WHAT YOU'RE INSTALLING

One species, *the whole staircase.*

A complete stair from a single source, milled in-house from US-domestic hardwood and species-matched end to end — so treads, risers, nosing, landings, and trim read as one staircase, not parts from three suppliers.

8070 / 8072 Stair Treads

Solid 1" × 11-1/2" treads, edge-glued. 8070 carries a full bullnose; 8072 a clean square / eased edge. Stocked in Red Oak & White Oak, 42"–60" plus long Red Oak runs — square ends or a reversible mitered return for open stringers.

8071 / 8073 Retro-Fit Treads

Renovation overlay — a 5/8" body with a built-up 1" nose (bullnose 8071, square 8073) that caps an existing stair without demolition.

8075 Stair Risers

Species-matched riser stock for the vertical face — the "toe-kick" between treads. Sized to the run and finished to match the treads.

8090 Stair Nosing

Bullnose nosing strip with a built-in back rabbet for the top step, where the run meets the upstairs floor. Square-edge 8092 also available.

Landing Platforms

Edge-glued solid platforms for L- and U-shaped landings — 48" × 48" × 1", bullnose or square edge, species-matched to the treads.

Stair Mouldings

Cove under the bullnose, UW106 Quarter Round and UW126 Base Shoe at the riser-to-floor transition — the trim that finishes the install.

OPEN STAIRCASE?

Order treads with a reversible mitered return so the bullnose wraps the open end — finished, no exposed end grain, and no left- versus right-hand confusion on the jobsite.

SET UP FOR A CLEAN INSTALL

The right tools — and a *smarter measure.*

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Sliding compound miter saw — new, fine-tooth finish blade
- Table saw with a sharp blade for ripping to depth
- Finish / brad nailer + air compressor (or hand finish nails)
- Polyurethane construction adhesive — non-water-based
- Clear penetrating sealer for freshly cut edges
- Utility knife + straightedge for scoring the finish
- Drill and bits — pre-drill for hand nailing
- Level, shims, tape measure, pencil, square
- Pry bar, hammer, wood filler, broom & dust pan

Use a polyurethane adhesive (e.g. Liquid Nails Ultra / PL Premium). Never a water-based adhesive on solid hardwood treads.

FIELD SERVICE

Skip the guesswork — let us template it.

Curved, pie-shaped, winder, and double-circle stairs don't have flat geometry a tape can describe. Our Precision Templating service pulls a physical template off your actual stair on site; we mill every tread and riser to that template in-house, and the parts arrive ready to drop in.

$125–$175 field-service fee

uniquewoodproducts.com 'Stair Treads 'Precision Templating

TEMPLATING IT YOURSELF?

Make a pattern for each individual step — walls are rarely square and every tread can read a different angle. Account for the nosing overhang, and measure twice before any cut.

PLAN & PREPARE

Understand the stair *before you cut.*

1 *Plan & lay out the run*

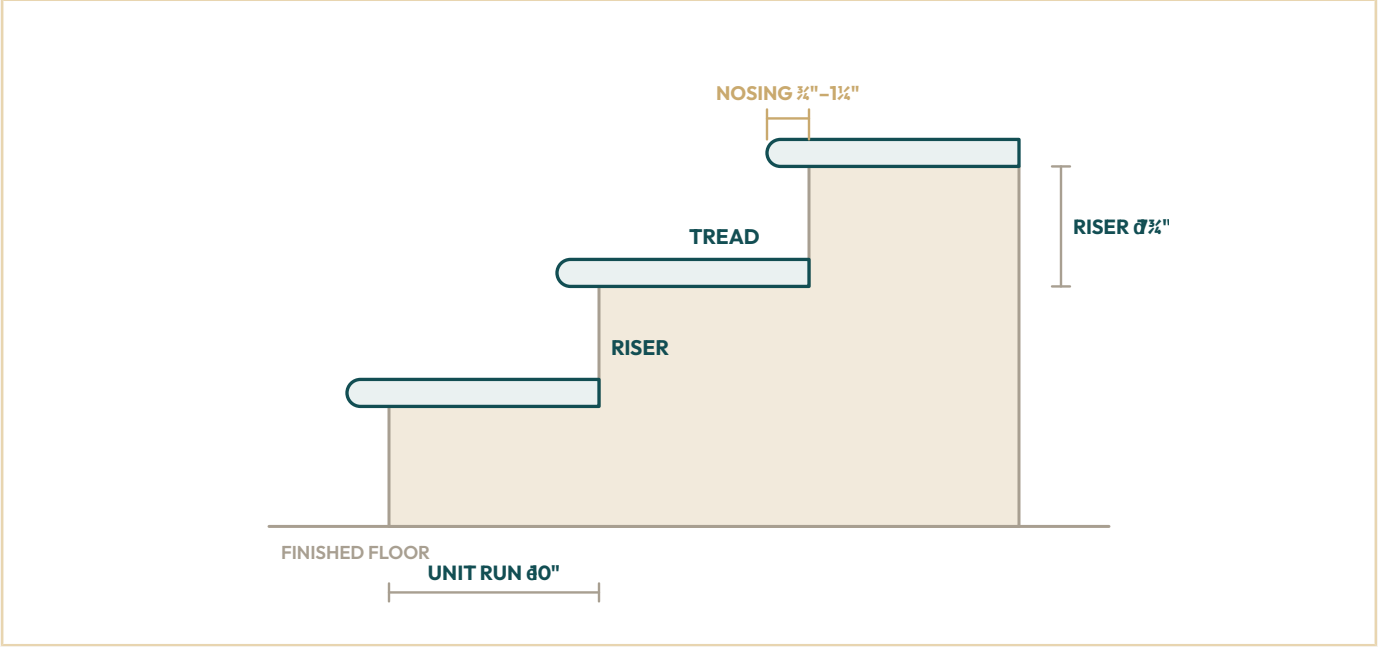
Review every component against your order. Open the cartons and dry-lay treads, risers, and mouldings on the stair before cutting.

Arrange grain and tone for the best finished appearance — each piece is unique, so blend them across the run rather than installing in carton order.

2 *Prepare the substructure*

The rough staircase must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of paint and debris so the adhesive bonds. Eliminate any squeaks or movement now — not after the treads are down.

Know your geometry before the first cut: rise, run, and the nosing overhang drive every measurement that follows.



STAIR ANATOMY — RISE, RUN & NOSING OVERHANG

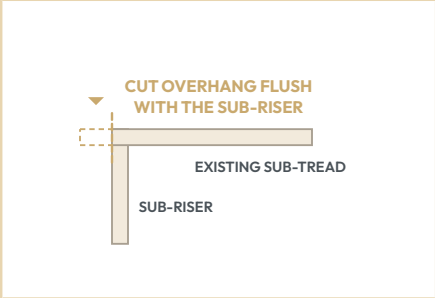
CODE RULE OF THUMB (IRC)

Keep riser height at 7¾" maximum and tread run at 10" minimum, with the nosing overhang between ¾" and 1¼". Always confirm against your local building code — try the rise-and-run calculator at uniquewoodproducts.com/resources/stair-calculator.

BUILD A SOUND BASE

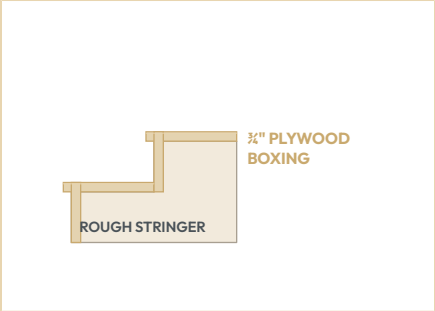
Three ways to *set the structure.*

How you prepare the carriage depends on the existing stair, your layout, and local code. These are the three common approaches — the installer chooses the method, dictated by jobsite conditions.



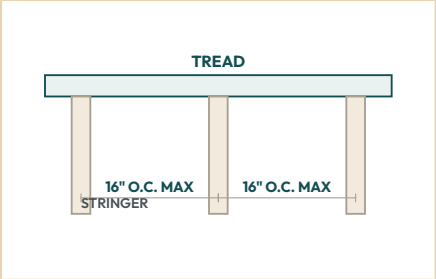
Option 1 · Keep the sub-treads

After carpet removal you may keep sound sub-treads in place — but cut the front overhang flush with the sub-riser so the finished tread seats correctly.



Option 2 · Box out in plywood

Finish the stringers with ¾" plywood over the rough carriage for full, consistent support. The recommended path for most installs.



Option 3 · Direct to stringers

Only where code allows. Keep stringers at 16" on center maximum; the installer owns the deflection rating. Box out in ¾" plywood if in doubt.

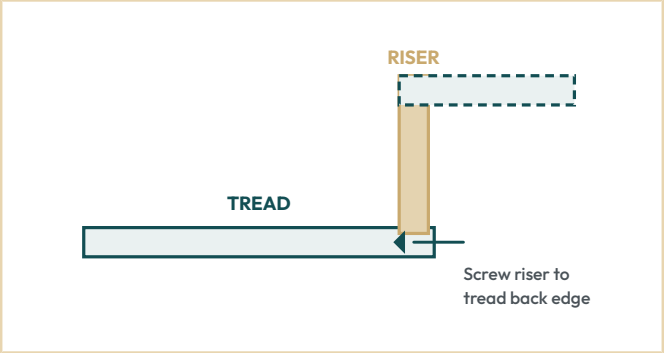


RENOVATION START — EXISTING CARPETED CURVED STAIRCASE, STRIPPED BEFORE TEMPLATING

STEP 3 · RISER & TREAD SEQUENCE

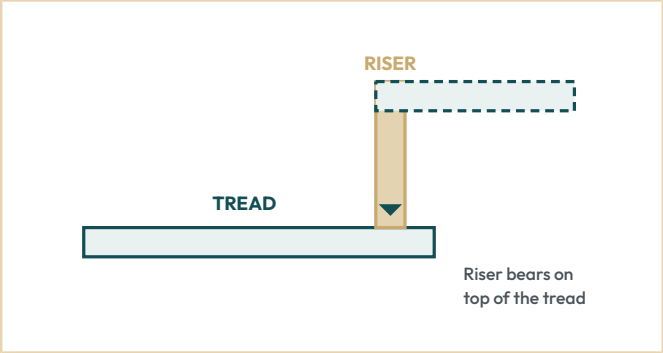
Work up the stair, *one step at a time.*

Most installers start at the bottom riser and work up, alternating riser and tread. A common jobsite rhythm is to set all the risers first — dry-fitting the treads — then come back to glue and fasten each tread. There are two accepted ways to join a riser to a tread:



A · Riser behind the tread

Set the riser first and bring the tread up against it, then fasten the riser to the back edge of the tread with screws. Keeps fasteners off the tread face.



B · Riser on the tread

Place the tread first and set the next riser on top of its back edge, for additional bearing under the riser above.

> *Either joint is correct — the method is the professional installer's call, dictated by jobsite conditions, access, and local code. Keep it consistent up the run.*

BOTTOM RISER UP · ALTERNATE RISER & TREAD · CONSISTENT TO THE TOP

MEASURE, CUT & SEAL

Cut clean. *Seal every edge.*

4 *Measure & cut*

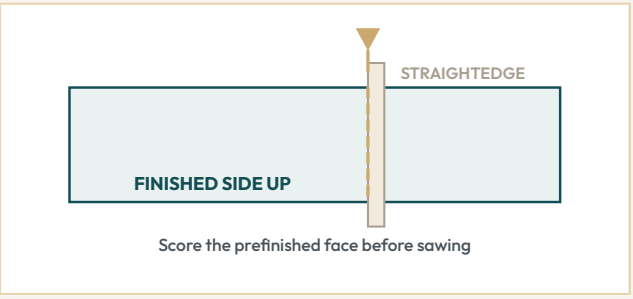
Dry-fit each tread and set a consistent overhang. Scribe the tread to the walls and skirt boards so it seats tight with the same nosing all the way up.

Score the prefinished face along a straightedge before you saw — it breaks the topcoat and stops tear-out. Cut with the finished side up, and run a new, sharp blade for each staircase.

5 *Seal the cut edges*

Brush a clear penetrating sealer onto every freshly cut edge before installing. Raw end grain left unsealed wicks moisture and moves.

Keep the sealer off the prefinished face — apply it only to the cut edges.



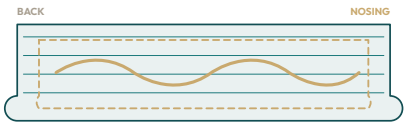
SCORE BEFORE YOU CUT

MEASURE TWICE

Walls are rarely square. Confirm the length, depth, and end angles on each step before cutting — a re-cut tread is a wasted tread. For curved and complex stairs, our Precision Templating service removes the guesswork entirely.

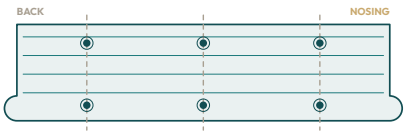
SET IT DOWN FOR GOOD

Glue, level, *and fasten home.*



Perimeter bead + serpentine pattern

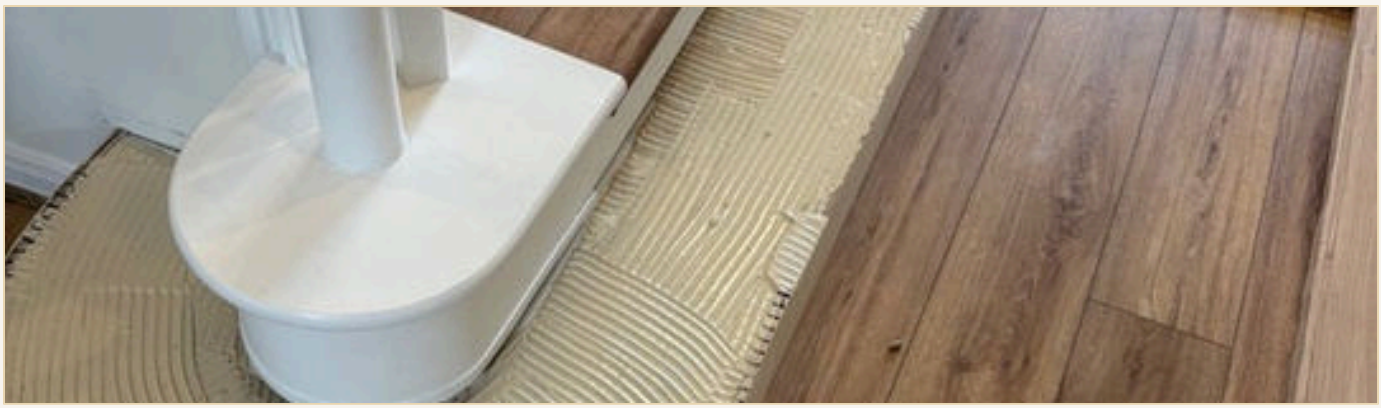
ADHESIVE PATTERN



Fasten into each stringer, front & back

FASTENING PATTERN

- Shim the tread level — front to back and side to side — before the adhesive grabs.
- Run a polyurethane construction adhesive: a perimeter bead plus a serpentine pass across the field. Never water-based.
- Set the tread, press it home, then fasten finish nails or brads into each stringer. Nail the riser face into the stringers too.
- Pre-drill nail holes when hand-nailing to avoid splitting the tread or riser. Where access allows, screw from behind to keep the face clean.
- Continue alternating riser and tread to the top. Set 8090 nosing at the landing transition, then add cove and shoe / quarter round to finish.



TROWELLED ADHESIVE ON A CURVED STARTING STEP — THE CUSTOM-MILLED TREAD STAGED TO DROP IN

FINISH THE JOB

The trim that *completes the stair.*

Mouldings turn a set of treads and risers into a finished staircase. Match them to the species you installed and the change of plane reads as intended, not abrupt.



Cove
CROSS-SECTION

Tucks under the bullnose for a finished shadow line between tread and riser.



8090 Nosing
CROSS-SECTION

Caps the top step where the run meets the upstairs floor — built-in rabbet.



Quarter Round (UW106)
CROSS-SECTION

Transitions the bottom riser down to the existing floor.



Base Shoe (UW126)
CROSS-SECTION

A narrower transition where quarter round is too heavy for the space.

CARE ONCE INSTALLED

Clean finished treads with a non-abrasive hardwood cleaner only — never an abrasive or excess-water product. Wipe spills promptly and use felt protectors under anything that drags.

THE UWP COMMITMENT

Every tread, riser, and moulding is solid hardwood, edge-glued and milled in-house. If a component doesn't match what we shipped or what a field template called for, we make it right.

SOLID HARDWOOD · EDGE-GLUED, NEVER VENEERED · CRAFTED IN-HOUSE

BUILDING A STAIRCASE?

Treads, risers & trim — *milled to match.*

Stocked Red Oak and White Oak ship from our NW Houston branch (9915 Tanner Road); any species, length, curve, or template is milled to spec in-house. Send us the stair and we'll quote the parts.

CALL

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SHOP

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