## **Stairs**

Stairs in multi-storey buildings are of wood or concrete.

Wooden stairs appear as both so-called main stairs and side/kitchen stairs. Exceptionally, and only in low-rise multi-storey housing, can a solitary staircase of wood be found.

Concrete stairs were used from the early 1930s and, as non-combustible structures, were approved for use in solitary staircases. Main stairs of this type are predominantly two-flight stairs – stairs with more flights and made of wood occur before this time but not in standard (multi-storey) housing.

Concrete stairs of more than two flights reappear in later multi-storey housing, but to a lesser extent.

Two-flight wooden stairs are either mortised or open string – the latter are found only in more lavish (expensive) buildings.

Side or kitchen stairs have both higher risers and narrower treads than main stairs. They are also allocated less space and are generally constructed in a single winding flight from floor to floor.

Concrete (main) stairs are rarely found as situ-cast and are more or less prefabricated. Up until the period of crane-served construction sites, the size/weight of prefabricated units was determined by the limits of manual handling.

Typical concrete stairs from this period are therefore constructed as factory-made steps, partly laid out between staircase walls, partly on underlying steps/landings. Landings are cast on site – possibly using a prefabricated edge beam matching the step.

In later crane-served buildings, flights and landings come as fully finished elements.





