Stair Nosing Guidelines

A quick-reference specifier’s guide to compliance with Approved Documents K & M, BS 8300, and BS 9266.



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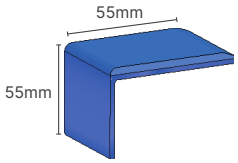
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Stair Nosing Guidelines

This advice sheet outlines the critical design, visual contrast, and slip-resistance requirements for specifying stair nosings in commercial and public buildings. Adhering to these guidelines ensures compliance with Approved Documents K & M, BS 8300, and BS 9266, creating safer stairways by highlighting step edges and reducing slip/trip risks for all users.

Nosing Dimensions Approved Docs K & M | BS 8300 | BS 9266

The recommended contrasting tread profile must measure up to 55mm on the tread and 55mm on the riser. This ensures a consistent, high-visibility visual band along the nose of every step.



LRV & Visual Contrast Requirements Approved Docs K & M | BS 8300 | BS 9266

The colour of the Stair Nosing must visually contrast with the surrounding floor covering. Every colour has a Light Reflectance Value (LRV) measured from 0 (Black) to 100 (White). There must be at least a 30-point LRV difference between the nosing and floor covering (e.g. if the floor LRV is 50, the nosing LRV must be 0–20 or 80–100).

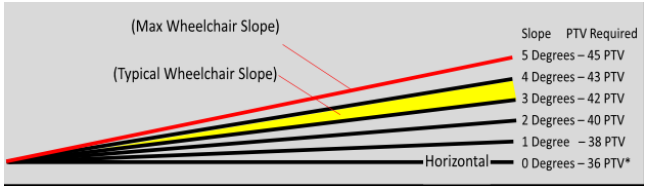


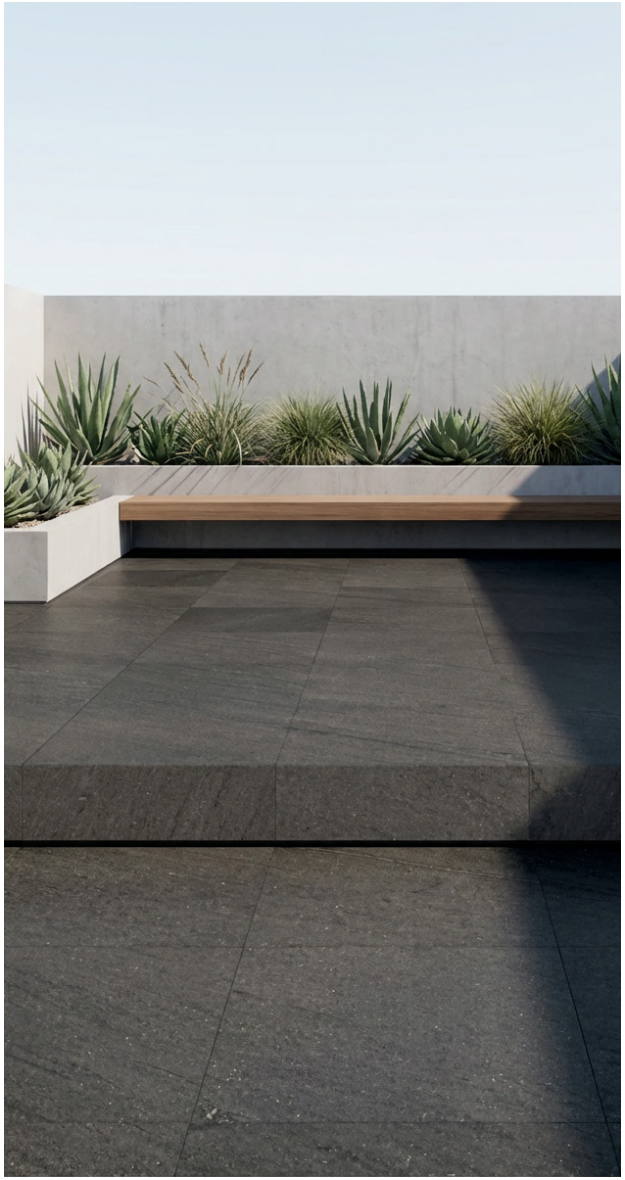
Slip Resistance & Slope Adjustments Approved Doc M | BS 8300 | DIN 51130

Testing Metrics: Evaluated using the Pendulum Test (PTV) and Shod Ramp Test (DIN 51130).

PTV Rating	Classification
0-24	High Slip Potential
25-35	Moderate Slip Potential
36+	Low Slip Potential

Incline Adjustments: A horizontal surface requires a minimum of 36 PTV in wet conditions. For every 1° of slope, PTV must increase by 1.75 PTV:





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Tread Material Coverage CIRIA IP 15/06

The tread material must extend fully to the front leading edge of the nosing up to where it meets the vertical face, preventing slip hazards during step descent.

Approach Tactile Surfaces Approved Doc M | BS

Corduroy hazard-warning tactile paving must be installed at top and bottom approach landings to warn visually impaired pedestrians of an approaching staircase.

Design Hazards to Avoid & Refurbishment Guidance

- Bull-Nosed Steps
  Creates trip hazards for partially sighted users feeling for the step edge.
- Open Risers
  Distorts visual perspective and introduces foot trap hazards.
- Shiny Metal Edges
  Produces severe glare under direct natural or artificial light.
- Double-Channel Profiles
  Exceeds the maximum 55mm visual dimension limit.

*Where existing step structures cannot be altered during refurbishment, specifiers must prioritise installing high-contrast nosings to ensure a clear visual ladder effect.



Stoneveil Anti-slip Rz 56.38µm

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