

Technical Information Stair Nosings and Edgings

LRV Light Reflective Value

LRV is a measurement which expresses the percentage of light that is reflected from a surface with lighter finishes at the upper end of the scale and darker finishes at the lower.

Designers of buildings need to comply with the building regulations applicable to the structure under consideration. Since 2004 guidance has existed on access to and use of buildings. The guidance is particularly concerned with provisions to assist the disabled, including those who are visually impaired.

The guidance highlights the need for certain surfaces and features to “contrast visually” with their surroundings.

This is relevant to a wide range of non residential buildings including hospitals, schools, hotels, theatres etc.

The current guidance in the regulations and in the relevant codes of practice BS8300:2009 is that adequate visual contrast is provided if the Light Reflective Values (LRV) of the contrasting areas exceeds 30 points, “ie the contrast between the stair edging and the floorcovering”.

The testing equipment used to assess the LRV values on C.A.T. product finishes is a intergrating sphere spectrophotometer.

Metal Finishes	LRV
Aluminium Mill	35
Aluminium Satin	57
Aluminium Polished	75
Aluminium Matt Silver	57
Brass Mill	61
Brass Satin	67
Brass Polished	65
Antique Brass	
Antique Bronze	
Stainless Steel Brushed	43
Stainless Steel Bright	58
Bright Chrome	56
Satin Chrome	41
Nisheen	39

PVC Infills					
Colour	LRV	Colour	LRV	Colour	LRV
Black	6	Mid Blue	11	Spruce	12
White	87	Nimbus	28	Jade	31
Light Grey	30	Peat	7	Yellow	83
Flint	10	Rustic	19	Poppy	26
Granite	7	Fawn	22	Claret	8
Regency	14	Ivory	50		