

**Pride in
the Job
Awards**



Best practice guide

Section 7

Surface finishes

Best practice guide

Our series of Best Practice Guides take you through what the Pride in the Job judges look for at each stage of construction and when considering the site manager's overall organisation and management skills.

The Pride in the Job marking sheet used by our judges has 43 marking lines split across 10 sections. The judges will give a score for each line – where there is no work to mark, that line will be left blank and no mark given. A mark of four indicates compliance with NHBC Standards. A mark of five indicates extra attention to detail over and above compliance standards. A mark of six would indicate that much of what the judges have seen cannot be improved upon. A mark less than four would indicate varying issues relating to workmanship and non-compliance with NHBC's Standards – the greater the issue or number of the same issue, the lower the mark. The final score will be all the marks awarded expressed as a percentage.

These Guides set out what the judges are looking for with clear hints and tips on the sort of practice that will lead to higher marks.

Clearly it is impossible in these short guides to cover every single point of construction – we try here to cover the main issues that are taken into account when considering a mark for each score line.

When looking at the photographs, consider each one in the context of the score line heading – don't be distracted by something else that isn't as good – that will be marked accordingly elsewhere.

Section 7 Surface finishes

This is another section where the aesthetic finish is what is seen by the homeowner and can have a significant effect on customer satisfaction.

As with Section 6, a significant proportion of this work can be affected by works undertaken at earlier stages of the build. It's the mark of a site manager in full control of a site who can anticipate problems later on in the build and solve them by having processes, templates or systems in place. The judges will reward this behavior in Section 9 of the marking system.

Internal finishes

Floor finishes

External finishes

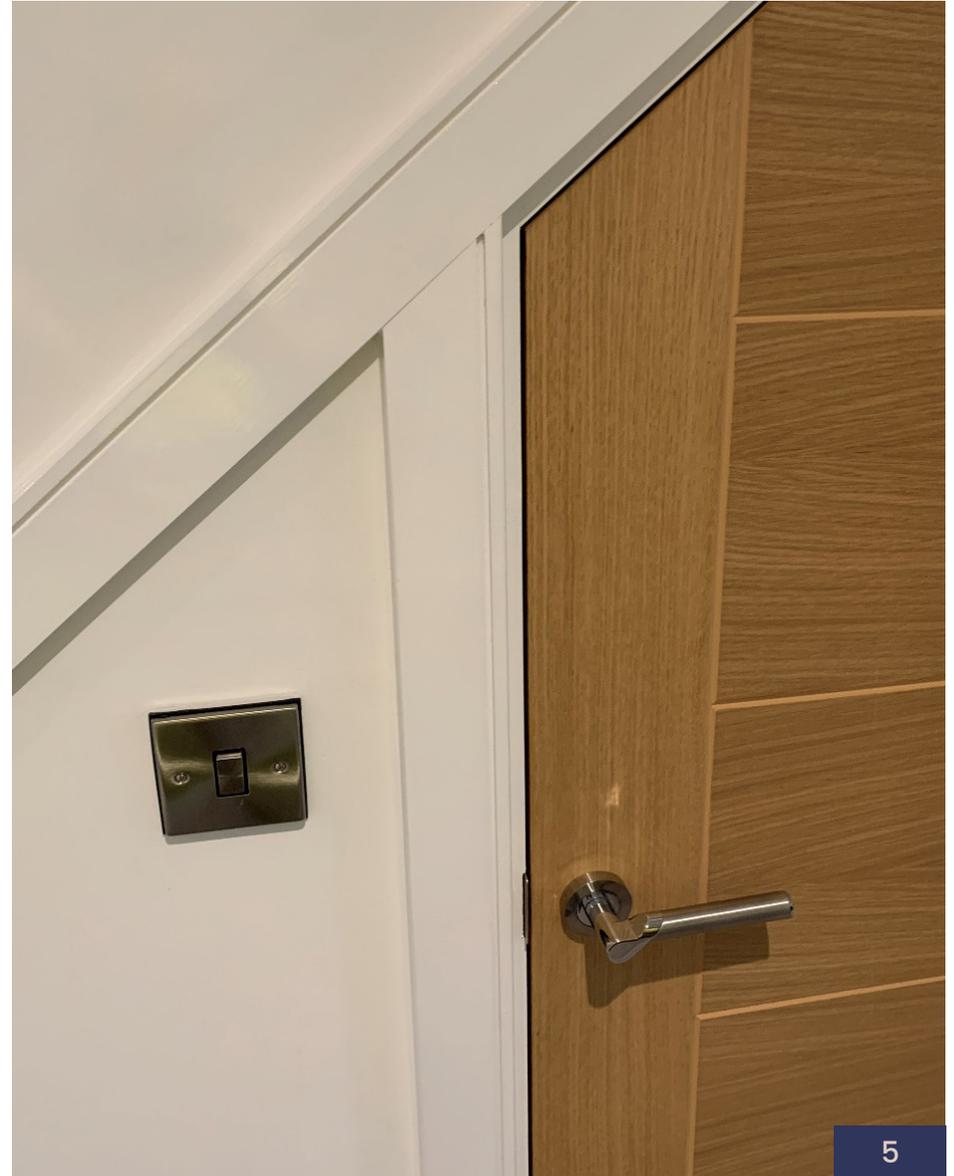
Section 7

Internal finishes

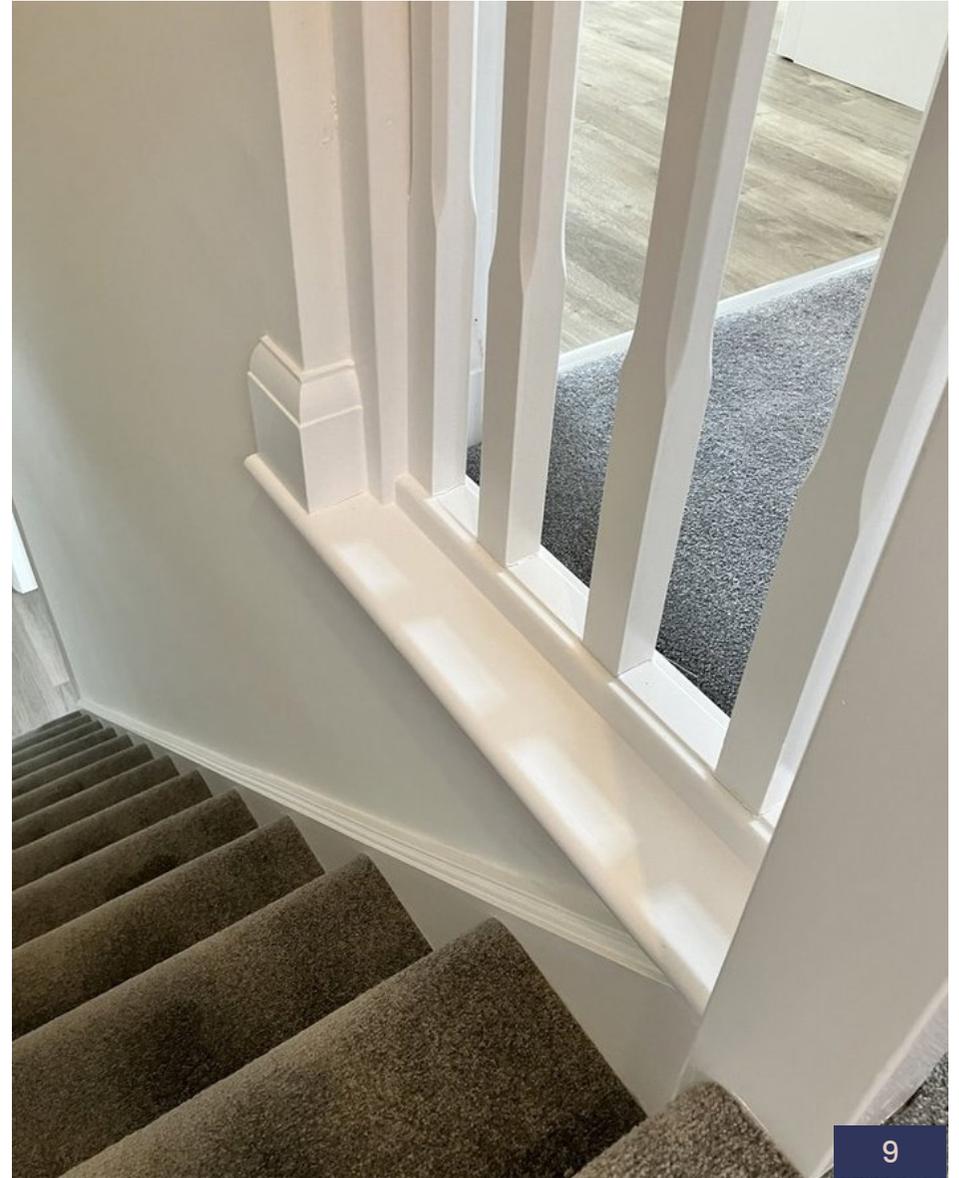
From the purchaser's perspective, the presentation of this item sets one property ahead of its rivals. Quality of paintwork, staining, tiling and ceiling finishes all add to the attractiveness of a home and its common parts; it may be considered subjective, yet plays an important part in overall customer satisfaction.

Pride – Superior preparation of surfaces to receive finishes, fullness of paint and stained finishes, attention to detail of work around doors, windows etc, edges of architraves will be assessed. Attention given to the cuts and the use of visual centre lines will attract extra marks as will mastic finishes around tiles, fitted units and bathrooms.









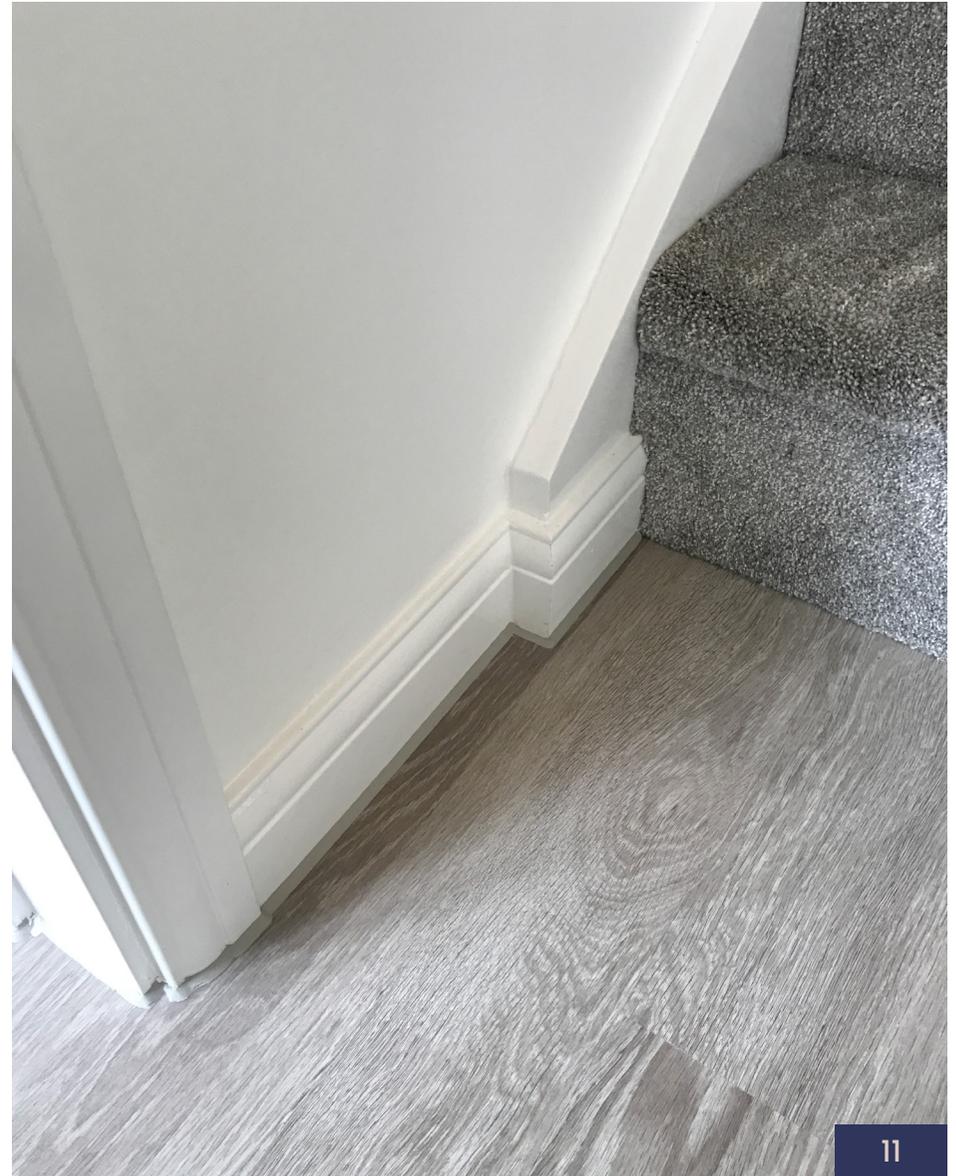


Section 7

Floor finishes

Quality of workmanship is paramount, regardless of the floor covering. Protection of the floors during construction will help to produce a floor that looks new, rather than one covered with plaster and paint splashes. Both concrete and timber floors are to be considered under this heading. In addition, consider finishes to common parts.

Pride – Any work that the builder carries out to make the floor attractive for the purchaser will need to be considered. Quality of installation, accuracy of cuts, and setting out and alignment, including the use of visual centre lines. Planning of floor tile jointing, alignment and accuracy of vinyl coverings are key considerations.





Section 7

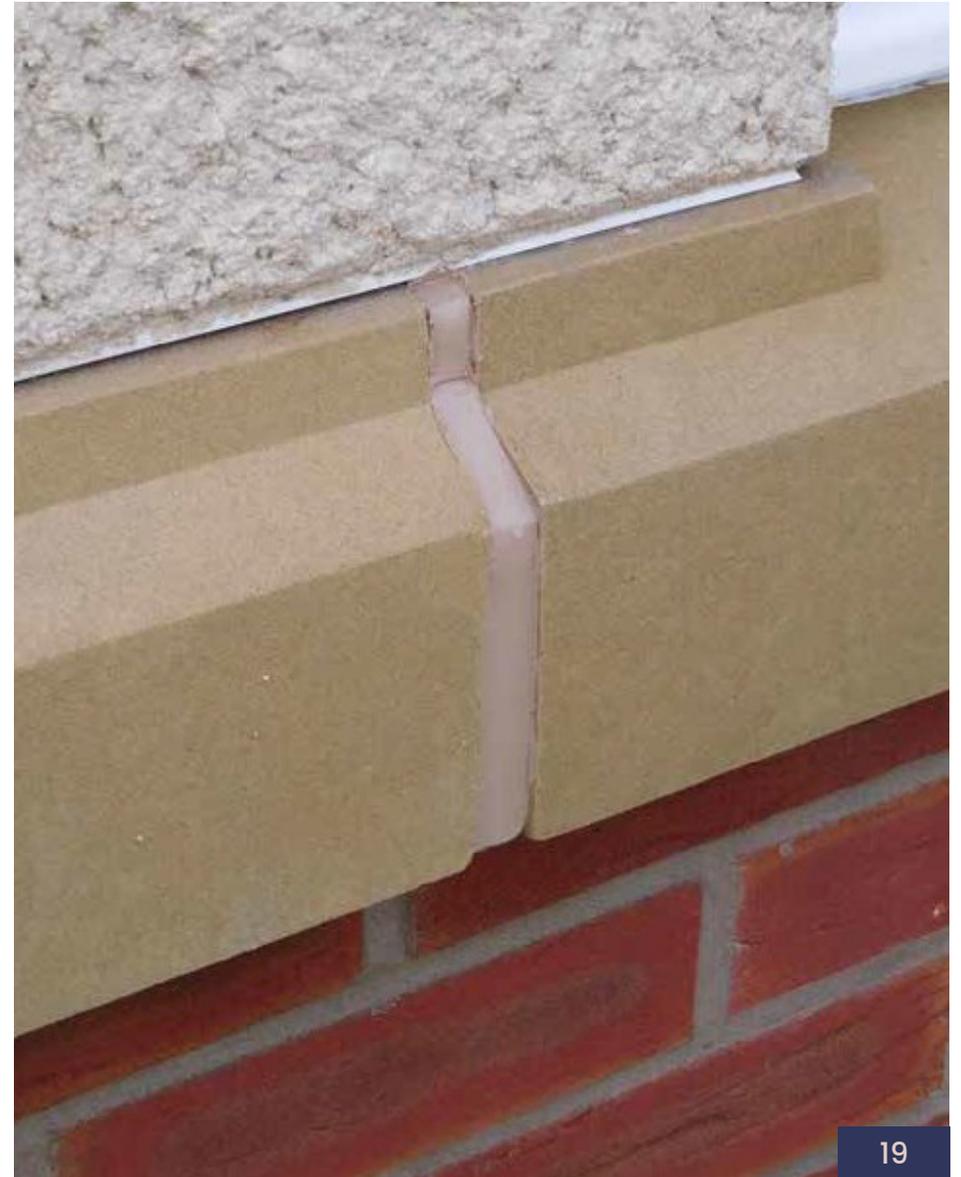
External finishes

External painting or staining to all woodwork and metalwork should be compatible with the surfaces being treated. The primary function of any system adopted is for weather protection, but the attractiveness of the finish should be considered.

Pride – Overall presentation and sharpness of the end product, avoiding the need for excessive cleaning by care taken during the build. Consistency of render shading. Particular care taken at interfaces of materials, colours, the correct use of stop beads and bell/drip beads will be assessed by the judges.









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Good luck!

We hope you have found this best practice guide useful in gaining a better understanding of what the judges are looking for at each stage of construction.

Remember, the six characteristics the judges are looking for in a site manager are:

- consistency
- attention to detail
- technical expertise
- leadership
- interpretation
- health and safety.

We wish you all the very best in the Pride in the Job competition as you strive for your very first win or to repeat or even improve on your performance in previous years.

