



PARKWOOD
WELCOME HOME

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO LOUVRES AND SHUTTERS

[E-BOOK]



AUTHOR PAGE:

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Carver Broomhall has been with Parkwood since 2010 making him highly experienced in the do's and don'ts of shutters and louvres, including the possible pitfalls when the wrong materials are placed in the wrong situation for their specification.

He has passed through all stages from making shutters, louvres and doors in the factory, through customer service, to salesperson and Key Account Manager and now the Sales and Marketing General Manager.

Meanwhile Carver has completed The Diploma in Small Business, with a focus on Diploma in Marketing.

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INTRODUCTION: LOUVRES AND SHUTTERS



Make an entrance, make a statement – an architectural statement! These architectural additions to your home, apartment or multi-unit development are the perfect way to make a building into a home.

What's more they're in vogue, and completely customizable to suit your exact requirements and budget.

TIMBER LOUVRES AND SHUTTERS

Louvres and shutters are one of the best ways to add long-lasting value to your home. With these features, it is so easy to add a Mediterranean touch, more texture or some extra natural stained timber. Louvres and shutters will last through any weather conditions and changes in fashions and trends.

What is the difference between a shutter and louvre, and what sort of shutters or louvres should you choose for your home? Read on to learn their use, function, types available and recommended materials.



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHUTTERS AND LOUVRES

Timber Shutters and Louvres - Use

Ventilation

Louvres and shutters are often used to allow, or promote, the free flow of air through certain spaces.

Think of your wardrobe for a moment. Do your out-of-season, or out-of-style clothes sometimes come back out feeling damp? Or does the air you breathe, when you open the closed-off space, feel a little heavy, especially if you've thrown in your sneakers from last week's fitness spree? Wardrobes and other cupboards are confined spaces, often holding well-used household or personal items which are maintained a lot better in the open. However, leaving everything out in the open doesn't create a tidy and happy home. Hence the closed off wardrobes. Louvres and shutters can improve this situation by allowing the free flow of air.



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHUTTERS AND LOUVRES

Timber Shutters and Louvres - Use

Thermal Insulation

Shutters can be used instead of curtains or blinds to improve thermal control in a home. They can be hung from the window reveal and the whole shutter can hinge or slide open. Or you can select adjustable blades that open and close. As shutters are solid timber, they prove to have far better thermal control than curtains or blinds. They are thicker and close tighter against the frame when closed. This means they will keep the cold out on winter nights, and the heat of the sun out in summer.



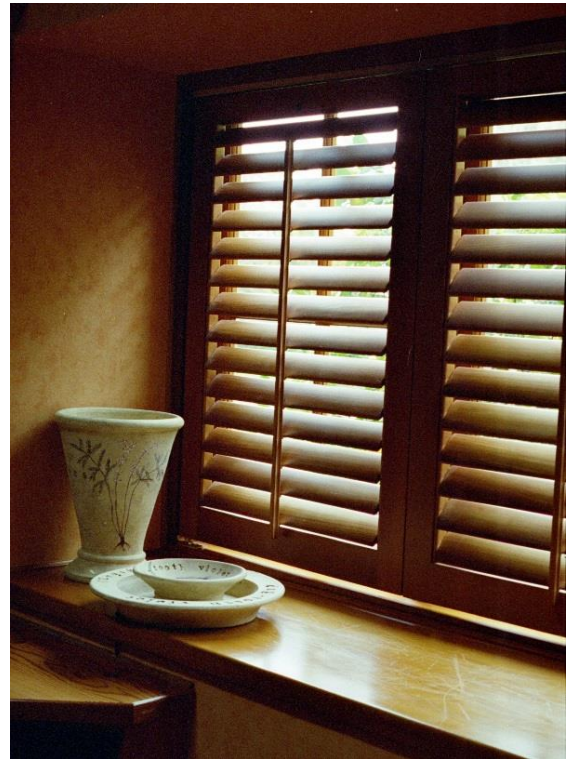
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHUTTERS AND LOUVRES

Timber Shutters and Louvres - Use

Privacy

Adjustable shutters are perfect over windows for improving privacy.

Firstly, when completely closed, nothing can be seen through them, unlike thin curtains or blinds that don't quite reach window edge to window edge.



Secondly, the blades can be adjusted in a similar way to blinds. This means you can tilt them part way to allow light to filter in while still blocking the view into the room. These do the same job as net curtains, but in a much more modern and stylish way. And they work both night and day, unlike net curtains that only work when the light inside is dimmer than outside.

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Timber Shutters and Louvres -Function

Decorative

Often shutters are for decorative purposes only, such as a small vent on a gable end. A stained timber shutter can make an otherwise plain gable end, into a feature creating an ageless Mediterranean look.

With these, it is recommended that the shutter is a stand-alone item that is fixed to the outside of a building this is opposed to having an opening which then needs to be framed and sealed off with flashings. An opening will also let heat out of the attic cavity, causing a home to lose heat, and let unwanted creepy crawlies in. If a decorative shutter is selected, these can normally be glued in place, eliminating the need for fixings through the cladding.



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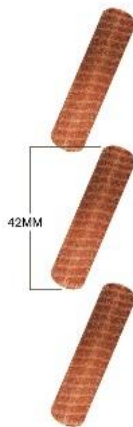
Timber Shutters and Louvres - Open/Closed

There are different uses for shutters and hence different shutter types to suit the application.

The thinnest and lightest shutters are the ones used for decoration. These normally have a 28mm wide closed blade and a frame at 19mm thick. This blade is the most economical to make and will last longer than a 28mm open blade, especially when exposed to weather. The closed blade design still ensures the shutter looks like it is made up of the individual blades.



If a shutter is used for exterior ventilation, normally a larger 42 x 10mm blade is used. This is more resistant to splitting and warping than the 25mm blades. The frame is also normally thicker (35mm) for extra stability.



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Louvre doors are for internal use, and they have a 25mm blade. These can be either closed, like the decorative shutter, or open.

They normally have a middle horizontal rail for extra stability, and sometimes have a solid panel in the bottom, instead of louvres.

Most locally, custom-made louvres are 36mm thick, but often imported variety are more like 19mm thick.

[Check out Parkwood's range of louvre doors here.](#)

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Timber Shutters and Louvres - Adjustable

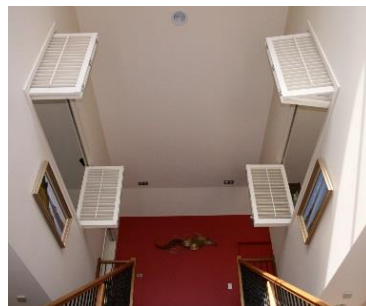
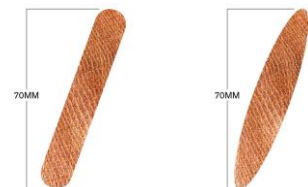
Adjustable shutters are manufactured differently depending on whether they are used for interior or exterior.

Interior shutters are normally fitted together using plastic pins holding the blades into the frames and holding the adjusting bars to the blades. These pins fit neatly into the timber and are perfect for interior. However, their fitting into the timber will not last if exposed to the exterior elements. This type of shutter normally has a larger bulky blade, such as 70mm or 90mm wide and 12mm thick. Some manufacturers offer to make these 'aerofoil' shaped, like a plane wing. This often helps with closing the shutter more tightly as the shape of the blade helps diminish the gap between the blades. However, the flat blade with rounded edges is considered more modern looking.

For exterior adjustable shutters, a metal fixing and adjusting system is recommended. This is because stainless steel or aluminium can be made into small mechanisms that will handle the effects of weather, unlike timber. You can still have an exterior timber shutter, but the actual adjusting mechanisms need to be stainless or aluminium. This can be done in a variety of ways.



PARKWOOD ADJUSTABLE MECHANISM FOR SMOOTH, QUIET OPERATION

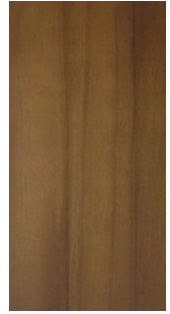


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Timber Shutters and Louvres - Materials

Timber shutters and louvres are best made from Vulcan or Western Red Cedar.

Vulcan is a thermally modified timber which won't move, crack or twist. This brilliant patented process is completely natural (FSC and Code mark Certified), and still leaves the natural beauty and grain of real timber. [You can read more about it here.](#) It has a beautiful modern dark-choc colour which suits the current trends fabulously. Although thermally modified, it can be fitted and painted just like standard timber but will sustain itself much better than a standard un-modified timber.



Western Red Cedar is the most traditional and popular timber. Although soft, this is the most stable of all natural, unmodified timber. It can sustain being machined into small blade sizes and exposed to wear and tear, and the extreme weather elements. With the adjustable shutters, Cedar has the perfect density to snugly hold the tiny plastic fittings. When stained, its rich red colours and varied grain means it creates a perfect feature on almost any home design. On the other hand, Cedar is good for painting as it doesn't have sap that will leak through the paint like other timbers such as Kwila.



[View Parkwood's range of shutters and louvres by clicking here.](#)



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