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Material Choices for Handrails - A Design Guide

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1. What are the four key variables to assess when specifying handrail materials?
2. What is the key difference between Grade 304 and Grade 316 stainless steel, and what environments is 316 best suited to?
3. What role does anodising play in extending the service life of aluminium handrails?
4. What distinguishes marine-grade aluminium alloys from general-purpose aluminium?
5. What is galvanic corrosion?
6. Why is timber generally not recommended for handrails in demanding environments?

By the end of this session you should understand:

- Identify the key environmental, functional and compliance factors that should inform handrail material selection across architectural, infrastructure and industrial applications.
- Distinguish the performance characteristics of common handrail materials in relation to corrosion resistance, durability and maintenance requirements.
- Apply a structured approach to early-stage material specification that reduces compliance risk and supports better project outcomes across a range of exposure conditions.
- ·Evaluate daylight performance using basic daylight metrics and pre-construction assessment tools.

Competency Codes: P35, PC39

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