



Gate Automation Systems (Irl)

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EIRE HARDWOOD GATES

The correct selection of timber is essential if gates are to be both superior in appearance and durable enough to last for years in all weathers.

Some timber gates are constructed from softwoods such as Scandinavian Redwood. This material is simply not suitable for exterior use, such gates soon deteriorate in both appearance and strength.

Hardwoods have a more complex cell structure than softwoods, and are generally denser and more oily, consequently they produce gates that are both more durable and of much superior appearance.

The chosen timber for the production of gates is Teak – a hardwood that grows in managed forests in west and east Africa. Its density and natural oils make it so durable that it is often used in boat building and exterior cladding of buildings.

All **EIRE HARDWOOD GATES** undergo specialist treatments during assembly, and are then professionally spray coated using a range of premium quality products and colours, to produce a beautiful finish that lasts for years.



Brought to you by Gate Automation Systems (Irl)

EIRE HARDWOOD ENTRANCE GATES

Gate Automation Systems (Irl) **EIRE HARDWOOD GATES** are the finest available anywhere. Built to any size in Teak, these gates make a beautiful entrance to any home. All gates are handmade using the finest materials and extra strong jointing techniques to be suitable for even the most powerful Automation Systems.

Gate Automation Systems (Irl) Finishing Processes are second to none: All products are factory finished to the highest possible standards using the very latest and most durable wood stains and varnishes for years of maintenance free operation.



Finishing Options

EIRE HARDWOOD GATES can be manufactured from Teak - a tropical hardwood so durable that no treatment of the timber is actually required to retain its strength and structural integrity. That said, there are the following aesthetic considerations;



1. Natural Weathered Appearance

The Teak is left to weather naturally with no finish applied - after a number of months a silver-grey colour will appear. This effect is often desired around older properties with mature growth, where the naturally weathered timber blends well into the surroundings. The weathered timber develops small surface checks and water marks which further add to the aged look.

2. Tung Oil (and Danish Oil)

Used by the Chinese for centuries, Tung oil is the product of the nuts from the Tung tree. The oil is deliberately slow drying so as to penetrate well into the timber. Oil finishes are particularly beautiful on Teak as it is a naturally oily timber and the oils replenish those removed by weathering.

Oiling Teak is quick and easy. It is applied with a brush or cloth and is simply absorbed into the wood. However, to keep a high sheen finish, gates will need to be re-oiled at least once a year in exposed situations. Over time the oiling process builds up a very effective and naturally beautiful coating.

3. Translucent Finishes

Like the Oil finish, translucent wood-stains allow the natural beauty of the hardwood to show through, whilst protecting the timber from the effects of the elements. Organic solvent based products will provide a harder finish and generally offer better protection in the long term than their water-based counterparts.

This is particularly true of Teak as it is such a dense timber that the faster drying times of water-based products have less time to penetrate, and in some cases the natural oils prevent good adhesion with water-based products.

The better quality translucent wood-stains will offer from 5 years protection upwards depending on colour choice and exposure to the elements. In general, darker colours will require less maintenance as they contain more ultraviolet blocking agents. Recoating these finishes is a straight forward task for a Painter or DIY enthusiast.

4. Opaque Finishes

The highest form of protection is offered by Opaque finishes. By design they fully cover the appearance of the timber and are a high solids formulation.

They provide a solid and consistent block of colour, but as such none of the natural timber is visible through the coating. Often the choice in commercial applications where the reduced maintenance cycle is a factor, they lack the fine quality of the translucent products, but are the perfect choice if coloured (e.g. black) finish is required.

The better Opaque wood finishes can last up to 12 years before refinishing is required. Recoating these finishes is a straight forward task for a Painter or DIY enthusiast.

5. "Five Year Wood-stains"

There are many DIY products on the market which offer five or six year protection. Whilst most of these products offer satisfactory protection, they are mainly water-based and as such will not penetrate into the dense and oily Teak to the same extent as the slower drying solvent based products. They also do not "flow out" as well as solvent based products and are more prone to streakiness.

EIRE HARDWOOD GATES are supplied fully sealed and unfinished as standard. If you wish to have your gates professionally pre-finished using any of the above methods, or would like advice on any aspect of finishing products or processes, please **contact us**.

