

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about our Gallery Shelf Rails, including choosing the right configuration, measuring and sizing, installation, finishes and care guidance.

Choosing the right Gallery Shelf Rail

What is a gallery rail?

A gallery rail is a decorative rail that sits around the edge of a shelf, helping to keep displayed items securely in place while adding a timeless finishing touch. Each of our gallery rails is crafted from solid brass and available in our portfolio of 20 unique brass finishes.

Can the Cotswold Gallery Shelf Rail be made to custom sizes?

Our Cotswold Gallery Shelf Rail is made to order and can be customised to suit your shelf dimensions. Simply provide the overall shelf length and depth, and we'll specify the appropriate configuration for you.

What is a return?

A return is a section of gallery rail that runs at a 90-degree angle along the depth of the shelf or joinery. Returns can be used to create L-shaped or three-sided configurations.

What is a corner post?

A corner post connects two sections of gallery rail at a 90-degree angle, creating a return along the side of the shelf or joinery.

What is a through post?

A through post provides intermediate support along the length of the gallery rail. We recommend positioning through posts at approximately 300mm intervals and will specify the appropriate quantity for your rail length. Alternative quantities or layouts can be accommodated upon request.

What is an end post?

An end post is used where the gallery rail finishes at an open end of the shelf, providing support and a neat, finished appearance.

What is a wall bracket?

A wall bracket is used in place of an end post where the gallery rail meets a wall, cabinetry or joinery, allowing the rail to be fixed directly to the adjoining surface.

What sizes are available?

Our Cotswold Gallery Shelf Rail is available in two sizes:

Small – 45mm high posts with a 6.35mm diameter rail

Large – 64mm high posts with a 9.5mm diameter rail

Do you offer bespoke sizes and configurations?

For bespoke sizes or configurations beyond our standard offering, our team will be pleased to discuss your requirements and guide you through the available options.

Measuring & Specification

How do I measure for a gallery rail?

For a standard installation using end posts, measure the overall shelf length and subtract 10mm to determine the rail length. If your design includes side returns, subtract 10mm from the shelf depth to calculate the return length. We recommend a 10mm allowance for a balanced appearance; however, this can be adjusted to achieve your desired aesthetic. For configurations using wall brackets, measure the finished distance between the fixing surfaces. More information can be found in our Measuring Guide.

What is the minimum shelf thickness required to install a gallery rail?

For timber shelves using our concealed brass inserts, we recommend a minimum shelf thickness of 18mm.

Installation

Is the gallery rail easy to install?

Our Gallery Shelf Rail is supplied with installation instructions and the appropriate fixings for the shelf material specified when ordering. We recommend using a qualified tradesman for installation.

Do gallery rails arrive pre-assembled?

No. Gallery rails are supplied as individual components for safe transportation and ease of installation and will require assembly.

What fixing methods are available?

For timber shelves, concealable brass dowel inserts are supplied. For stone, marble, quartz, glass and metal shelves, adhesive fixing pads can be supplied where drilling is not suitable. Please advise us of your shelf material when ordering so we can provide the appropriate fixing method.

Can the gallery rail be fixed directly to walls or cabinetry?

Yes. Wall brackets allow the gallery rail to be fixed directly to walls or suitable cabinetry and joinery.

Can the gallery rail be cut down on site?

We recommend ordering your gallery rail to the correct finished dimensions. Please contact our team before making any modifications to the product.

Materials & Finishes

What finishes are available?

The Cotswold Gallery Shelf Rail is available in our full range of 20 unique living, lacquered and plated brass finishes.

Where can a gallery rail be used?

Gallery rails are suitable for a variety of interior spaces, including kitchens, pantries, bathrooms, cloakrooms and utility rooms, as well as open shelving throughout the home.

Ordering & Lead Times

What is the lead time?

Lead time is approximately 6-8 weeks from the date of order.

What happens if I order the wrong size?

As every gallery rail is made to order, we recommend checking all measurements carefully before placing your order. If you've made an error, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss the available options.

Can additional components be supplied after purchase?

If you require modifications or additional components for an existing installation, please contact our team to discuss the available options.

Care & Maintenance

How do I clean and maintain my gallery rail?

We recommend cleaning with a soft cloth only. Avoid abrasive cleaners, bleach, ammonia-based products and harsh chemicals. Care recommendations may vary depending on whether your chosen finish is living, lacquered or plated. For more information, please visit our Care Guide.

Will the finish change over time?

Our living finishes are designed to naturally develop a patina over time, while our plated and lacquered finishes are intended to maintain their appearance for longer.