

Published based on [What Determines Hard Wood Windows Or Soft Wood Windows Which Will Last Longer And Why](#)

What Determines Hard Wood Windows Or Soft Wood Windows Which Will Last Longer And Why

Knowing whether hard wood windows or soft wood windows which will last longer and why is not simple. Treatment of wooden sash windows is the real key. They really need to be maintained with paint, glaze or varnish to prove durable.

Professionals will advise hardwood as opposed to softwood but both are durable if treated properly. Quality is the real byword for sash windows as more than anything else they need to last. Hardwoods are known to be better for outdoor conditions as they handle all weather types. However it is more pricey.

Careful home owners choose the best quality because well looked after homes last longer. It is an investment not a cost. Hardwood windows will retain their beauty and durability for longer than softwood. Hardwood is more beautiful than softwood due to different growth conditions.

Trees that grow fast in big plantations will generally be softwoods. Hardwood trees can take up to 15 years to reach maturity. This causes a better quality grain to develop hence the cost and beauty. Hardwood is really suited to varnish or glaze allowing the pattern to show.

Ebony, Oak and Cherry are three types of hardwood that last many years without too much care. Don't go choosing a tropical hard wood as it does not stand up to wet conditions. Balsa is actually a hardwood according to growth conditions. You need hardwood for a holiday home, for example.

Softwood does not mean the wood is not durable. Painted sashes are better in softwood as it costs less and the grain is unimportant. In fact softwood windows can survive for more than 150 years if the paintwork is always kept in tip-top condition. The wood is easier to work with.

The idea is to use a paint that allows vapour to permeate. Using real linseed oil paint on your softwood windows extends their lifespan. Wood can dry out after wet periods because the wood can breathe.

Windows on eighteenth century houses, although generally of softwood, have lasted a long time. Paints made in the past centuries were made with linseed oil. Factory processes made alkyd resin paints more popular from the 1950's, and wet rot became a problem.

Get a professional to do your windows. They must be installed or repaired so that the work does not need re-doing soon. The trick is to properly prepare and treat them. And that tells you whether hard wood windows or soft wood windows which will last longer and why.

The burning question is hard or soft wood windows best and why ? Get the exclusive inside scoop now on exquisite [sash window refurbishment](#) in our [sash window renovation London](#) overview.

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