

How to Install/Replace Stair Treads & Risers

Instructions

1. Check the stairs for any visible fasteners, and remove them if possible. Slide a pry bar under the nosing of the tread you want to replace. Work the bar between the tread and the riser underneath it, pushing the tread up and away from any fasteners attached to the underside.
2. Pull the tread away as completely and gently as possible, and remove any remaining nails and screws with the hammer and screwdriver. This will render the complete riser visible, and this can also be pried away.
3. Install the risers first to help with seating them properly. Apply wood glue to the stair frame where you're attaching your replacement riser. Nail the replacement riser to the proper location. Repeat with all risers.
4. Apply wood glue to where the riser and tread meet, and then install your new tread. The tread should rest on either side of the stairwell's frame. Nail the tread to the frame. Repeat with the rest of the treads. Allow the glue 2 to 4 hours to form a strong bond before continuing.
5. Sand your new treads and risers smooth with a belt sander. Grind down any nail heads until they are level with the wood.
6. If not pre-finished, varnish, stain or paint the new treads and risers.