

What is Light Reflectance Value?

Light Reflectance Value (LRV) indicates the amount of visible light reflected by a surface. Values range from 0 (black) to 100 (white).

LRV is a universal scale used to measure the amount of visible, usable light reflected from a surface when illuminated by a light source. In architecture and interior design, LRV helps determine how much light a colour reflects or absorbs.

LRV is measured on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents absolute black, which absorbs all light and reflects none, while 100 represents absolute white, which reflects all light. In practice, however, the brightest whites typically have an LRV of around 85, while the darkest blacks are generally around 5.

Because LRV measures the proportion of light reflected by a surface, rather than the total amount of light falling onto it, it provides a useful way of understanding how light or dark a colour will appear within a space.

Indicative Finish Values

The table below provides indicative LRV values for our ironmongery finishes and places them within five LRV bands.

LRV Band	LRV Range	Ironmongery Finishes
Very Low Reflectance	0-20	Black · Dark Bronze · Matt Bronze · Bronze
Low Reflectance	21-40	Antique Brass · Polished Brass
Medium Reflectance	41-60	Satin Nickel · Satin Chrome · Satin Stainless Steel
High Reflectance	61-80	Polished Stainless Steel · Polished Chrome · Satin Anodised Aluminium · Satin Brass
Very High Reflectance	81-100	White

Finish LRV Reference

Finish	Approx. LRV	LRV Range	LRV Band
Black	4	0-20	Very Low
Dark Bronze	10	0-20	Very Low
Matt Bronze	15	0-20	Very Low
Bronze	20	0-20	Very Low
Antique Brass	30	21-40	Low
Polished Brass	40	21-40	Low
Satin Nickel	45	41-60	Medium
Satin Chrome	45	41-60	Medium
Satin Stainless Steel	53	41-60	Medium
Polished Stainless Steel	62	61-80	High
Polished Chrome	64	61-80	High
Satin Anodised Aluminium	65	61-80	High
Satin Brass	70	61-80	High
White	85	81-100	Very High

Considering Visual Contrast

The LRV of the ironmongery should be considered together with the LRV of the door surface and surrounding finishes.

A difference in LRV can help door furniture to be more easily identified, particularly for people with visual impairments. For projecting door furniture, a minimum difference of **15 LRV points** is commonly used as a benchmark when assessing visual contrast.

For project-specific requirements, the actual LRV of the selected ironmongery and door surface should be assessed together.

Please note: The values shown are indicative and should be used as a guide only. Actual LRV can vary depending on the specific product, material, surface texture, sheen, lighting conditions and manufacturing process. They should not be taken as confirmation of compliance with any particular project or regulatory requirement.

Reference: BS 8300-2 and relevant UK accessibility guidance.