

How to install crown moulding

Materials needed include:

- Utility knife
- Tape measure
- Miter saw or miter box
- Level
- Flat bar
- Hammer or nail gun
- Finish nails
- Nail set
- Wood glue
- Safety glasses
- Moulding

Begin by removing the existing crown moulding if installed.

1. Using a utility knife, cut along the joint where the top of the crown moulding and ceiling intersect. Repeat this process where the bottom of the crown moulding and wall intersect. This will loosen any paint or caulk and prevent damage to the sheetrock.
2. Starting in a corner, insert your flat bar between the wall and the moulding. Gently pry the moulding away from the walls being careful not to damage the sheetrock (Tip: use a putty knife in between the flat bar and the wall to protect the sheetrock). Continue along the length of the moulding pulling it away from the wall until you can remove the entire piece. Continue around the room until all crown moulding is removed.
3. Make a sketch of your room. Measure the length of each wall and record that measurement on your sketch. Add those numbers together to determine the total lineal feet of crown moulding you will need to purchase.
4. Add 10% to that total for waste and miter joints.

Choose a wall to begin installing your new crown moulding.

*Tip: Before beginning, cut templates for inside corners and outside corners. Each corner will have a left hand and right hand side. This will save time and reduce errors in setting your miter angles as you begin cutting each piece of moulding.

*Tip: Depending upon the overall size of the crown moulding being installed, it may be necessary to install nailing blocks or strips around the room. If you're using crown moulding that is over 3 inches in width, you may want to consider using a nailing block. Once the blocks are installed, there should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between the block and the back of the moulding.

When installing crown moulding, there are two methods that can be used to cut an inside corner. You can simply miter 45 degree angles to achieve the appropriate cut or you can choose to cope the inside corners. A coped cut requires cutting the back side of the moulding to match the profile of the front side. The coped cut will butt up to the profiled front of the moulding once installed. We'll cover both methods.

Always remember to place your crown moulding upside down on you miter saw. The bottom edge of the crown, usually the edge with a small cove, will always be placed against the fence of the saw. This is often referred to as cutting upside down and backwards. The crown moulding will sit on the saw table just as if it were installed on the wall. However, it will be upside down and your saw will be swung to the left to cut a right hand corner and vice versa. Upside down and backwards!

Installing crown moulding using mitered cuts

5. Cut your first piece to length. Be sure to cut it a little long to allow for your miter joint.
 - a. If you are beginning with an inside corner, cut the moulding at a 45 degree angle across the face of the moulding. This cut will make the back side of the moulding that goes along the wall longer than the face of the moulding. It will also make the bottom edge of the crown moulding longer than the top edge.
 - b. If you are beginning with an outside corner, cut the moulding at a 45 degree angle across the back side of the moulding. This will make the face of the moulding longer than the back side that goes against the wall. It will also make the top edge of the crown moulding longer than the bottom edge.
 - c. It may be necessary to splice two pieces of base moulding together if you have a long wall. To do this, cut opposing 30 degree angles across the moulding. Splice them together (preferably over a wall stud) and nail into place.
6. Once your finishing cuts are made, nail your crown moulding in place. Begin in the corner, nailing into a wall stud at the bottom of the moulding and into a ceiling joist at the top of the moulding. Use a stud finder to locate the studs before you nail. Using a level to keep your crown moulding straight across the wall, finish installing the piece by nailing into the wall studs and ceiling joists along the entire length of the moulding.
7. Continue with the next adjoining piece by making the appropriate cut and repeating until your job is complete.

Installing your crown moulding using a coped joint

Coped joints are only used on inside corners. One side of the moulding is simply butted against the wall. The joining piece will be coped to fit the profile of the moulding. A coped cut requires cutting the back side of the moulding to match the profile of the front side. The coped cut will then butt up to the profiled front of the moulding once installed. Outside corners will be cut as detailed above.

1. Make the appropriate miter cut for an inside corner as detailed above. Once the moulding is cut, you will use a coping saw to cut away the excess material from the back of the profile to make it fit against the front of the adjoining piece.
2. Using a coping saw held at a five degree angle, cut across the back of the moulding following the profiled edge on the front of the moulding.
3. Test fit the coped piece by butting it against the previously installed straight piece. It may be necessary to trim the cut edge with a rasp or file to obtain a tight fit.

*Tip: Highlight the front edge of the profile with the edge of a pencil to make the cutting line more visible. While coping sounds difficult, it is not. Practice on a couple of scrap pieces until you are comfortable making the cut before you begin cutting your piece for installation.

Crown moulding can also be installed using SlideFit or universal corner blocks. SlideFit corners are exclusive to Lowe's and simplify installation by removing the need to make miter and coped cuts. Simply install your corner block, cut the moulding to length and install between the corner blocks by sliding the moulding behind the profiled block and nailing into place. Universal corners are used in the same manner. Install the blocks, cut your moulding to length and nail into place. Instead of sliding the crown moulding behind the block, the moulding will butt up to the side of the block. Using blocks simplifies installation. Only square cuts are needed as the moulding will be installed between the blocks.