

Moulding Installation Guide

BASEBOARD

BASEBOARD INSTALLATION

Step 1: Remove Old Baseboards (If Applicable)

1. **Score the seam:** Use a utility knife to cut along the top edge of the old baseboard to break the seal of caulk or paint.
2. **Pry carefully:** Use a pry bar or putty knife to remove the baseboards without damaging the wall.
3. **Remove nails and clean up:** Pull out any old nails and smooth the wall surface.

Step 2: Measure and Plan

1. Measure the length of each wall and note the dimensions.
2. Determine where you'll need corner cuts:
 - **Inside corners:** Require a coped or mitered joint.
 - **Outside corners:** Require mitered cuts.
3. If the wall is longer than your base molding, plan for scarf joints to join pieces seamlessly.

Step 3: Cut the Moulding

1. **Straight cuts:** For sections that meet door trim or end against a wall, cut the baseboard at a 90° angle.
2. **Inside Corners:**
 - **Coping Method**
 1. Cut one piece at a 90° angle to butt against the wall.
 2. For the other piece, cut a 45° angle with a miter saw, then use a coping saw to trim along the cut edge, creating a tight fit.
 - **Miter Method**
 1. Miter each piece at a 45° angle creating a tight fit.
3. **Outside Corners:**
 - Cut both pieces at 45° angles so they meet cleanly at the corner.
4. **Scarf Joints** (for long walls and joining two pieces of base trim):
 - Cut overlapping ends of two pieces at 45° angles in opposite directions so they fit together flush.

Tools and Materials Needed

- **Base moulding**
- Measuring tape
- Miter saw (or hand saw with miter box)
- Nail gun or hammer with finishing nails
- Stud finder
- Wood filler
- Caulk
- Sandpaper
- Paint or stain (optional)
- Pry bar (if removing old baseboards)
- Utility knife

TIPS

- ✓ Work on one wall at a time to keep your workflow organized.
- ✓ Use a level to ensure the molding is straight, especially if your floors are uneven.
- ✓ If you're working alone, use painter's tape to temporarily hold long pieces in place while nailing.
- ✓ Practice cuts on scrap molding to perfect your angles before making final cuts.

Step 4: Attach the Baseboard Moulding

1. **Position the moulding:** Hold the base molding against the wall, ensuring it sits flush with both the wall and the floor.
2. **Nail into studs:** Use a stud finder to locate the studs and drive finishing nails into the wall studs every 16–18 inches. Use a nail gun for faster, cleaner results, or hammer nails by hand and countersink them slightly.
3. **For extra hold:** Use construction adhesive on the back of the molding, especially if studs are hard to locate.

Step 5: Fill Gaps and Nail Holes

1. **Fill nail holes:** Use wood filler to hide nails and seams. Sand smooth once dry.
2. **Caulk gaps:** Apply caulk to fill any gaps between the moulding and the wall for a seamless finish.

Step 6: Paint or Stain

1. Sand any rough spots or joints to ensure smoothness.
2. Paint or stain the molding as desired. Pre-painting before installation can save time on touch-ups.
3. Touch up caulked areas or gaps after painting.

Step 7: Inspect and Finalize

1. Check for any visible gaps or imperfections and fix them with caulk or filler.
2. Clean the area and enjoy your updated look!

