

INTRIM[®]

Architectural timber mouldings & profiles

INSIDER GUIDE

10 TIPS FOR CHOOSING YOUR
PERFECT ARCHITECTURAL
MOULDINGS

CURATED
EXCLUSIVELY FOR



10 TIPS FOR CHOOSING YOUR PERFECT ARCHITECTURAL MOULDINGS

INTRIM[®]
Architectural timber mouldings & profiles



Inspiration and the final look of your home is what drives us to knuckle down and plan every aspect of our renovation or new build. From finances and budgeting, to structure and utilities, styling and everything in between, these are all important pieces to reach the end goal.

Mouldings, including skirting boards, architraves and wall panelling are those details that seem so small, but make one of the biggest impacts in a room. They frame all of your hard work, they create depth and character, and most of all elevate the luxe in an interior.

With so many decisions to make, it can be overwhelming knowing where to start....this is why we recommend to start with your finishings.



1

Types of mouldings

(A) ARCHITRAVE

The profile that runs around the outside of a door or window that creates the illusion of height or accentuates a doorway or window surround. Adding architraves to your interior adds grandeur and beauty.

(B) SKIRTING BOARD

Skirting boards are the detailed timbers that run along the base where your wall and floor meet. They are the foundation for any great room and spectacular interior. They create a harmonious flow throughout a home and give a space personality without compromising on space.

(C) CHAIR RAIL

Chair rails add magnificent wall accents to any room & are a subtle choice that make a big impact. Originally used to protect walls from dents & marks from the back of chairs, now they find their modern purpose for creating interior elegance. The chair rail perfectly complements a wainscoting design.

(D) INLAY MOULD

Give a room a big personality with minimal effort using Inlay Moulds. An Inlay Mould is used to create a faux frame look on walls and doors. They can also be used as extra detailing on inset panels when installing traditional wainscoting, or wherever some decorative design is needed.

Interior wall panelling (also known as wainscoting) can be created using a simple combination of chair rail, inlay mould and skirting boards to give a home character.

(E) SKIRTING BLOCKS

A skirting block is an excellent choice if you are using different profiles, thickness or heights for your skirting and architraves, as it seamlessly allows the two profiles to not look out of place or odd, as they are not placed right next to each other. It is also a cost effective feature to enhance your doorways.



Credit: Indah Island



Credit: Gatti Design

F. PICTURE RAIL

Picture Rail Moulds are an effective and inexpensive way to frame wall panelling or paper or fabric on walls which adds more depth & character to the room & design.

G. CORNER BLOCKS

Corner Blocks & Rosettes are decorative wooden accessories used at the intersection of two lengths of mouldings forming a decorative border & adding an interesting design element. They come in a variety of designs such as rosettes or pyramids.



(H) SILL NOSING

Sill Nosing is used to dress the front of your wooden or concrete window sub sills to finish your interior look. Sill Nosing is also excellent for disguising unsightly or old window sills & helps accentuate any window space. In House 11 it was used to separate two inlay moulds.



(I) WALL PANELLING

Wainscoting wall panelling is a simple design that gives drama & instant style to any room. It is created using several timber moulding products & has many style options available such as raised panel, shadow box & beaded. You can also create wall panelling using VJ boards as well. They can also be used instead of plasterboard or installed on top of existing wall.

2

How to choose the right style mouldings

With so many choices and profiles, the decision on which skirting boards and architraves to choose can be daunting. We have put together some things to consider when making your decision so you can be confident you are creating a beautiful interior!

BY ROOM

The first proportion you should look at is the height of your ceiling, and then decide what you are wanting to achieve with the space.

It is a myth that you should only use large skirting in large rooms with high ceilings, and smaller skirting in small rooms. It is true that large skirting will fill a room and make it feel smaller, but if you are wanting to create a cosy space, then this is something you can experiment with. Using smaller mouldings on a high ceiling will create the illusion of height, and make the room feel taller.

If you have kids, animals or high traffic, you may wish to consider a high skirting board to provide a better level of protection to your walls, especially if you're using wall paper or a bold colour where chips and marks will be more visible.

We consider a 'high' skirting to be 185mm and larger. 185mm suits most houses and spaces. A more busy profile will suit a room with more space available and if you're using that size in a smaller space, we would recommend a profile design that is less 'busy'. Some detailing on the top portion, and having 50% or more flat space on the profile is a great choice.

BY STYLE

Decide what your interior style is, or what style you are looking to create. This will determine the profiles of the board you choose. Some basic rules to follow are:



Hamptons - Bigger is Better

Traditional Hamptons use high, thick skirting boards with big rounded profile features. This not only creates a stand out look, but helps the skirting hold its own against elaborate wall wainscoting.

A more coastal or modern take on Hamptons skirting is to still have a tall skirting with a more simple design.



Credit: Mageia Design

French - More is More

The French Provincial style is admired for its symmetrical design, classic proportions and decorative elements. Skirting boards are a key feature in French style homes and are ornate and decoratively detailed. Many mouldings are used throughout these homes such as wall panelling, fireplace features and big cornices.



Credit: Conway + Wise

Victorian - More of EVERYTHING

Victorian interiors mantra is 'more of everything.' Highly detailed dado rail, wall panelling & highly decorated skirting board profiles which are balanced & elegant will help you achieve this beautiful look.



Colonial - Country Curves

A relaxed country version of the Victorian style, Colonial skirting boards are well known for the 'lambs tongue' which features an S bend (ogee) at the top, flowing into a V joint, then large flat space below. The look progressed to add more detail above the V joint as well as the addition of skirting blocks.



Edwardian - Simple with a touch of Curves

Also known as 'Federation' skirting boards, this style began to move away from the heavily decorated Victorian style, and become sleek and less detailed. More flat areas on the profiles were seen and a reduction of large curves was seen during this era, with an increase in the popularity of lambs tongue type design. The height and thickness of these mouldings remained a characteristic feature of the period.



Georgian - Keep it Balanced

Georgian style homes are formal and showcase fine details and straight lines. Symmetry and simplicity in skirting board design achieved an elegant and light touch. Neoclassical (Roman and Greek) and Rococo (French curve and cockleshell style) architecture inspired many interiors which included columns, marble, stonework and classical figures.



Modern - Keep it Simple

Interior mouldings in modern homes most popularly choose a minimal Shadowline skirting, or a smaller profile with sharp, hard lines. We have seen an emergence of the use of high but thin skirting boards with simple designs (some even adding small curves to soften the look) with large flat space. Don't be scared to experiment with size, so long as you keep it simple, you can't get it wrong.

3

How to choose the right size mouldings for your room

SKIRTING BOARDS

There are some basic rules when choosing your skirting boards, although they are not hard and fast, they give you a good guide on what works best. Choosing a skirting board based on your ceiling height is a good place to start.

Ceiling Height	Complimentary Skirting Board Sizes
To 2.4m	90-135mm
To 2.7m	115-185mm
To 3.0m	135-230mm
To 3.6m	185mm+

Think about what you are looking to achieve. Do you want drama, a cosy space or an open plan feel? How prominent do you want your skirting and will you have them as a stand out piece of architectural art, or do you want them to just enhance the look of your room?



ARCHITRAVES

Once you've chosen your skirting boards, you now have the decision to make for your architraves. Most people choose the same profile, in a smaller height, but this doesn't have to be the case. You can mix and match profiles for a beautiful, and interesting final look, no need to be matchy-matchy.

There is a two pronged approach for choosing your architrave size, and these are by the height of your doors and the height of your skirting boards.

When looking at door heights we recommend:

Door Heights	Architrave Widths
2.04m	66-90mm
2.34m	90-115mm
2.70m	115mm+

SKIRTING AND ARCHITRAVE RECOMMENDED COMBINATIONS

When considering what works well with your skirting board size, we recommend:

Architrave	Skirting Board
66-90mm	90-135mm
90-115mm	115-185mm
90-115mm	185-230mm
115mm+	230mm+

The most common size combinations sold are:

135mm skirting with 66mm architrave

185mm skirting with 90mm architrave



4

Measuring the quantity of mouldings you need

One of the most important steps in your mouldings journey is knowing how many lineal metres you will need of each product for budgeting and ordering purposes. If you don't have a builder to help you, we have compiled some instructions to help you measure a room for skirting boards and architraves.



HOW TO MEASURE YOUR ROOM FOR SKIRTING BOARDS

You will need to start from one corner of the room and work your way around. We have created a 3D room view so you can follow the measurements around the room.

Wall 1

Step 1. Measure from the first internal corner to the edge of door opening. Write down this measurement.

TIP - Do not measure to the point where your architrave will finish once installed, or where your architrave starts if you're measuring a room with mouldings already installed. This allows for wastage.

Step 2. Measure from edge of one door opening to the edge of next door opening, and record in notebook.

Step 3. Measure from internal corner to edge of door opening, and record in notebook.

Wall 2

Step 4. Measure between the two internal corners, and record in notebook.

TIP - Add 20mm to your actual measurement along a wall with no door openings or architrave intersections. This will allow for wastage.

Wall 3

Step 5. Measure between next two internal corners, and record in notebook.

Wall 4

Step 6. Measure from the internal corner to the edge of door opening.

Step 7. Then measure from the next internal corner edge to the door opening.

Step 8. Tally up all the lengths recorded from steps 2 to 7 above, then divide the figure by 5.4 (which is the length of our boards) to work out how many 5.4 metre length boards you will need to order from us.

TIP - Add 10% to your total measurements for wastage on skirting boards.

Watch our instruction video here:

<https://intrimmouldings.com.au/blog/how-to-measure-a-room-for-mouldings/>

HOW TO MEASURE YOUR DOOR ARCHITRAVES

Step 1

Place your 90mm (or size of architrave you are using) wide block flush with the door frame and mark on the outside edge with your pencil. Do this for both sides and the top of the doorway.

TIP - If you line up the inside edge of 90mm wide block, with the inside edge of the frame opening, this allows wastage, for the overall length of architrave.

Step 2

Measure the overall length of top (head) architrave. This will be the distance between the 2 pencil marks on each side of the doorway.

Step 3

Measure the two sides (called 'stiles') of the doorway. This will be the distance from the floor to the top horizontal mark.

Step 4

Add up your 3 measurements then divide the figure by 5.4m to work out how many lengths of material you require.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

HOW TO MEASURE YOUR WINDOW ARCHITRAVES

Step 1

Using a 90mm wide block (or a block the same width as your new architrave will be), mark from the edges of the window frame (outside edge of window reveal) to the outside edge of 90mm width of architrave.

Repeat this for both sides of the window and the top and bottom of the window.

TIP - If you line up the inside edge of 90mm wide block, with the outside edge of the window frame opening, this allows wastage.

Step 2

Measure the overall length of top (head) architrave and bottom (sill) architrave. Use the two pencil marks you made on each side of the window frame when using your architrave block.

Step 3

Measure the 2 sides (stiles) of the window from the top horizontal pencil mark at the head to the bottom horizontal pencil mark at the sill.

TIP - If your window is square you should have the same measurements for the two sides (stiles) and the head and sill measurements should also be the same. If not, remeasure to double check.

Step 4

Add the four measurements to get your total lineal metre material requirement, then divide by 5.4m to get your required number of lengths to order.



TIP - Add 15% to your total measurements for wastage on architraves.

5

To Wainscot or not to Wainscot

When looking at ideas for decorating your walls and home, we think everyone can agree that wainscoting and wall panel detailing elevates the look of a home. The level of sophistication and beauty it adds to many styles of interiors has pushed the popularity of wainscoting sky high, now making it a staple design element for those who want to create something special and on trend, that will last throughout the ages.

Here we will discuss the two most common ways wainscoting can be applied to the walls. The overall end look achieved will be similar, but depending on what you have to work with, the end look you have in mind, your budget and skillset might dictate which path you wish to take.

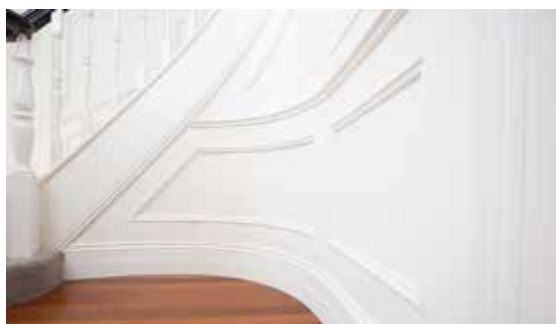


Recessed Panel Wainscoting

Recessed panel wainscoting involves a few more steps in the process than its raised panel counterpart. Recessed panelling is the traditional way to install wainscoting and gives a more formal look.

Flat boards are installed on the wall to create large 'boxes' and the inlay mould is then installed around the inner edge of the batten 'frames'. Because the inlay mould sits inside the hollow and not proud of the wall, this is why it is called recessed panelling.

The chair rail is placed over the top edge of the square boards or battens and has a rebate cut into the rear bottom corner so it sits flush against the wall and on top of the board or batten.



Raised Panel Wainscoting

Raised panel wainscoting is where the inlay mould is fixed directly to the wall surface to create a multi 'picture frame' across the wall look. The front face of the inlay mould sits proud of the wall surface which is why it is known as 'raised.' This is a relatively simple, cost effective method which is excellent for homes where you are looking to add some more subtle detailing without a heavy, traditional Hamptons or American style influence.

You can use the inlay mould with or without a chair rail, and have the flexibility to apply the 'frame' look to the entire wall, by creating different sized frames up and across the wall face.



TYPES OF WAINSCOTING

There are many types and names for 'wainscoting' that are used interchangeably or between different applications onto the wall, so here's the difference:

Wainscoting is a broader term used to describe decorative mouldings applied to walls. Originally it was used as an insulation, to prevent damage to walls and hide rising damp but now used as a beautiful decorative feature.

Frame and Panel

Most commonly, wainscoting is made up of panels and frames and usually covers just the lower third of a wall and is topped with a decorative chair rail (also known as dado rail).

When using frame and panels (or just frames on their own), there are many ways they can be applied to the walls:

1. Traditionally with framing on the lower half of the wall with a chair rail;
2. Framing above and below the chair rail;
3. Top and bottom framing with no chair rail; or
4. If you want to go all out you can double frame.



Lower frame with chair rail



Framing above and below chair rail



Top and bottom framing with no chair rail



Double frame wainscoting

Flat Panel, Board & Batten and Shaker Wainscoting

This is a simply type of wainscoting that produces clean lines and a 'shaker style' look. There are a few ways to achieve this look. You can add a sheet of MDF or similar board on the lower part of the wall to add a bit more projection and then arrange flat DAR boards or battens in square or rectangle shapes to create the pattern.

The simpler way to achieve this is to apply flat DAR timber boards or battens directly onto the wall. Again, the way you can apply this style to the wall is varied and can be used on the lower third of the wall with a chair rail or applied to the entire wall. You don't need to stick to traditional square or rectangular shapes. You can apply the DAR to your walls in different patterns, such as the diagonal application as Three Birds have done here in House 11.



Beadboard or Vertical "V" Lining Board Wainscoting

Beadboard in Australia is created using V joint or ship lap lining boards. Put simply, a row of narrow wooden planks are fitted together and lined vertically or horizontally on the wall. Between each wooden plank is a little indentation or a ridge, also known as the 'bead'. The vertical or horizontal boards are capped off by a Chair rail or Dado rail which usually has a rebate in the back so it sits neatly over the top of the boards and partly flush against the wall.

Beadboard, or vertical lining board, can be used anywhere in the house, on the ceiling, as a kitchen splash back, in any entry or hallway, but is most commonly found in bathrooms.



No matter which wall panelling or wainscoting you choose, or what you call it, it's guaranteed to add value and a stunning design element to your interior.

CALCULATING YOUR WALL PANELS ('FRAMES')

Raised wall panel wainscoting lifts any room and gives it greater architectural beauty. You may be surprised at how simple and inexpensive it is to apply wainscoting in your home!

Height of Chair Rail

2/5th of your ceiling height = your chair rail height

TIP - Finish chair rail height should be installed within 100mm of this figure.



Determine number of panels and material required

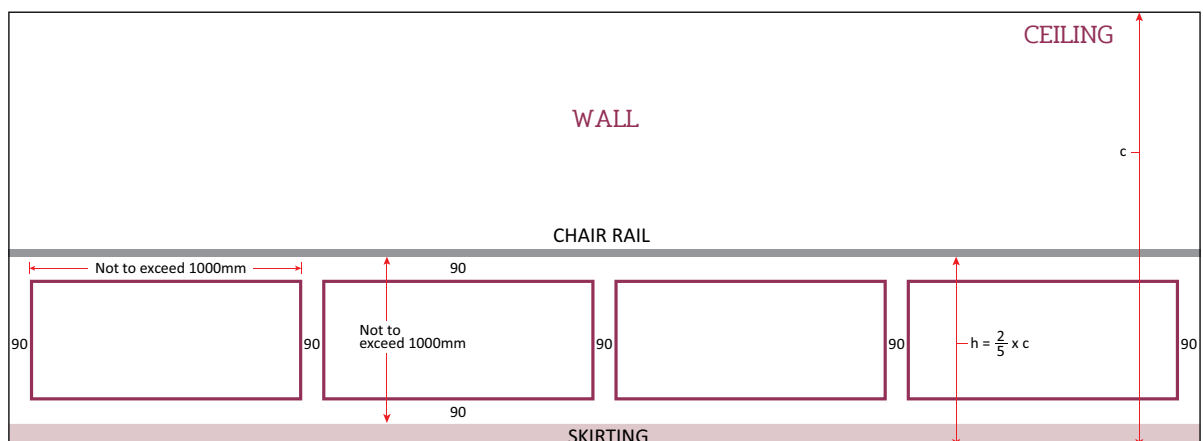
Formula for length of wall panels

1. Measure your overall wall length.
2. Calculate how many wall panels will fit into the wall length. Wall panels should not exceed 1000mm wide.
3. Ensure you have a 90mm space at either end of the wall and a 90mm space between each wall panel.

Formula for height of wall panels

1. Measure distance between top of skirting and underside of chair rail less 180mm (2 x 90mm spacers, one for top and one for bottom).
2. This gives you your wall panel height.

TIP - Intrim recommend that you have a maximum length or width of 1000mm for each wall panel. Each wall panel requires a 90mm space between them.



MDF vs Pine

There is no 'one size fits all' choice, so it is important to understand the different properties between your timber choices, and how each one may benefit (or fall short on) your project requirements.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE THEY?

MDF (medium-density fibreboard) is an engineered composite of sawdust, wood shavings, small wood chips and resin that is compressed together to form lengths suitable for manufacturing into skirting boards, architraves and other timber mouldings.

Finger-jointed Pine is a solid pine timber where the length is created using small, individual pieces which are joined together with glue and small interlocking 'fingers', which create a neat zig zag effect at the join site. This minimises the inherent features that are normally associated with natural solid timber such as knots.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

MDF

- Cheaper option
- High face strength gives it more strength against surface damage
- MDF has a smooth surface finish giving a flawless look once sanded and painted and less chance of visible voids or splinters
- Man-made engineered product with minimal natural solid timber features, that cause possible surface imperfections

FINGER-JOINTED PINE

- Less expensive than solid wood, but has all the benefits and characteristics of 'real' timber
- Less prone to twisting and warping
- Will not absorb water like MDF therefore is suitable for use in wet areas
- Light and rigid enough for one person to install
- Holds fixings well, including nails and screws
- The product has greater longevity than MDF
- Significantly reduced requirement for replacement
- It is natural wood/timber
- Easier to install
- Less abrasive on cutters and tools therefore less maintenance to keep blades and cutters sharp.
- No splitting when fixing through edge or end grain, like MDF

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES?

MDF

- Its high surface strength can make it difficult to fix, including nailing or screwing by hand
- Edge or end grain strength is lower, so outside mitre cuts must be handled with care both during installation and when installed, as tends to split if fixing through edge or end grain
- As MDF is a man-made product with no natural timber grain or features, fixings such as nails or screws can find it difficult to grab. This makes it easier to become detached from the wall. This is why it is important to use an MDF adhesive during installation
- Heavy and 'floppy', making large lengths difficult for one person to handle during installation.
- Long lengths are more prone to breaking than finger-jointed pieces due to the larger 'flex' in the material because of no grain structure
- Will swell creating warping and bubbling if it absorbs moisture, which is likely to happen over time. It is important to have the entire moulding pre primed (including the back face) and to ensure it is not used in wet areas, or those which may be exposed to moisture through floor mopping or steam cleaning. It is also not recommended for use in tropical and high humidity climates for this reason
- If you're looking for a natural timber look, it cannot be stained
- Although MDF is stronger, if dents or marks are made, it is more difficult to repair



This image shows swelling to a profile when the base of the Moisture Resistant MDF moulding was exposed to water for just 24 hours!

FINGER-JOINTED PINE

- Is slightly more expensive than MDF
- As it is a natural timber, it is softer than MDF and can be more susceptible to marks

Our Recommendation

Without a doubt, finger-jointed pine is a superior material for timber mouldings profiles. It is always our top pick and typically the tradesman's choice.

7

Prime or No Prime

Mouldings that are primed or pre-coated prior to site delivery are fast becoming a time and cost saving option of choice for builders, renovators and home owners.

Put simply, pre-primed mouldings are those which have been coated with a paint primer, eliminating the need for the use of an undercoat. This means you will save time and money having the convenience of your timber delivered ready to install, and paint your final colour.

Intrim's unique pre-priming sealing system finishes and dries the primer in record time, allowing us to pack and ship your mouldings to you sooner, without sacrificing the quality of the finish.

Unlike some other pre-primed options on the market, our coating has been designed to reduce the risk of chip outs during cutting and installation.

BENEFITS OF PRE-PRIMED COATING

- **Eliminates site downtime** – Mouldings may be installed immediately upon delivery to site – no need to prime or seal on site prior to installation.
- **Eliminates timber movement** – Controls moisture content intake and output due to site environment, which would cause movement in timber such as swelling, shrinkage, cupping, warping etc.
- **Decreases costs & minimises on-site downtime** – Less preparation and drying time required for on-site painter to prepare for further finished coatings to the mouldings.



No Prime on left and Primed FJ pine on right

8

FSC

When you decide on FJ Pine mouldings, you are choosing natural. Intrim goes one step further in our

FJ Pine offering and have taken the time and dedication to source and supply our customers with responsibly grown, sustainably sourced and globally renewable timber through our FSC Certification.



The mark of
responsible forestry
FSC® C133356

Some benefits of choosing FSC certified FJ Pine mouldings from Intrim are:

- Has a positive impact on the whole global ecosystem, including forests, people and wildlife, both preserving flora and fauna and protecting the rights of the people who live and work in the forest regions.
- There are no health risks when manufacturing or installing natural timber.
- Buying FSC timber ensures you are helping minimise the impact of construction and deforestation while supporting sustainable design and building.
- A Planet Ark study 'Wood Housing, Health Humanity' found that wood products in a room improved indoor air quality and improved a person's emotional state and self-expression. The study went on to state that timber used in interiors decreased stress responses, lowered blood pressure, lowered heart rate and lowered cholesterol levels. You can read the paper [HERE](#).

- FJ Pine mouldings are safe to work with. The dust created from cutting, sanding or drilling does not contain any chemicals and is not harmful (Note: personal safety items should still be used to avoid dust inhalation).
- Easier to install with greater longevity. Being a natural timber, it is less prone to twisting, warping, and will not absorb moisture over time like MDF will.



9

Trusted advice from an Australian made and manufacturing company

Timber is a big part of the DNA of the Intrim team, with a history of crafting timber that spans nearly 40 years. Our friendly team of product specialists are passionate about our products and are the experts at helping with product selection and design ideas for your mouldings.

If the selection process is too overwhelming, we can help you narrow it down to your style of choice. Send us a picture of your interior inspiration and our friendly team can recommend products for that style or similar to the mouldings in the image. For more spectacular ideas you may also like to take a look at our past work on our website or follow us on social.



10

Lead Times

SHORT LEAD TIMES FROM OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE

Profiles from our advertised range carry shorter manufacturing and dispatch lead times. You will be spoilt for choice with over 1000 profiles of different types and styles to choose from to help create your spectacular space. You will be surprised just how quickly they can arrive to your door!

OUR MADE TO ORDER CUSTOM RANGE

Set your creativity free, make your mark or iconic statement, to portray your own spectacular space. We can accommodate custom designs for new projects, or match your existing or favourite profiles for renovations or heritage restorations. Custom mouldings require additional crafting, extending our standard lead times.

Intrim's friendly and experienced team are here to help you begin your journey to create your own spectacular interior.

The Sky is the Limit!

INTRIM®
Architectural timber mouldings & profiles