

SKIRTING AROUND THE ISSUE

5 things to consider when searching for your perfect skirting boards and architraves

Timber mouldings are a product category that can be easily overlooked in your planning stages. However, timber has the ability to create a major impact on the appearance of your finished home. With so many choices and profiles, the decision on which skirting boards and architraves to choose can be daunting. Getting the finished look right requires consideration and planning. Intrim Mouldings, the timber

mouldings specialist, has provided the top five considerations for getting it right.

1 STYLE

The style of your home's interior will help narrow down the selection of skirting board and architrave profile shapes. You can browse the options by style such as Hamptons, French Provincial, Victorian, Colonial, Edwardian, Georgian or Modern. Reviewing the inspiration

images on the Intrim website or social media pages featuring homes in the style you hope to emulate will make selection simpler.

When choosing your skirting and architraves, consider if you are also using a wall panelling as the style of panelling and its finished thickness will impact your choices. Wainscoting, board and batten treatments, VJ panelling or the scallops of the Cavetto Wall will need to complement your skirting & architraves.

When you have up to four options in your shortlist, you can request samples from the Intrim website to finalise your choice. This free service allows you to check before you commit to the profile you are after. If you are happy with the mouldings in your home and you're just looking to extend or renovate, Intrim can match your existing profile and provide you with new mouldings exactly like your old ones.

2 SKIRTING HEIGHT & SCALE

There are some basic rules of thumb to follow here, but they are not hard and fast. The size of your architraves is generally a shorter profile height than your skirting boards. The taller your ceiling height, the taller your skirting needs to be to provide a sense of scale, although certain design styles call for taller profiles. The decision will ultimately depend on how you want your room to look and feel, in addition to your budget.

3 TO MATCH YOUR ARCHITRAVES OR NOT?

Most people choose to match their skirting and architraves in the same profile shape. This isn't a firm rule, as many profiles from the same-style family can be mixed and matched to create beautiful effects. Adding skirting blocks and architrave corner blocks provide another dimension to doorways, fireplaces and staircases. These details can be all the finishing touches that ensure you master the style you are aiming for.

4 PRACTICALITY

Does your home receive high foot traffic? Do you have kids and animals running and playing inside? If so, you may wish to consider a high skirting board to provide a better level of protection to your walls, especially if you're using wallpaper or a bold colour where chips and marks will be more visible.

Intrim considers a larger skirting to be 185mm and bigger, which suits most houses and spaces. In cases where elaborate designs are selected, the Intrim team suggests choosing one with detailing on the top portion with 50 per cent or more flat space on the profile.

5 COLOUR AND FINISH

Pre-primed FJ Pine skirting and architraves come sealed all the way around and are an ideal choice for most homes as they aren't affected like MDF and unprimed timbers, where only the surface facing outwards is painted. Many consumers choose to paint their skirting and architraves in whites and neutrals, which will create a more spacious feel, but if you want something on trend and a little different, you can try using bold colours. This can close the space, but adding colour in different areas of the room can help with creating the illusion of different areas. For instance, you could paint your skirting boards and the bottom half of your wall up to and including a chair rail, mounted below the halfway point on the wall to create the illusion of a higher ceiling.

Following these five considerations, you're ready to take the next step. You can purchase Intrim Mouldings directly or via your builder, carpenter or specialist fit-out companies. Intrim manufactures to order in its Australian manufacturing plant and will ship to your site ready for you to install. **HD** intrimmouldings.com.au/skirting-boards-architraves