



INTRIM[®]

A Complete Guide from Australia's Leading Timber Moulding Manufacturer

Professional Architrave & Skirting **Installation Manual**



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Introduction to Quality Installation

Welcome to Intrim Mouldings’ comprehensive architrave and skirting installation guide, created to support professional builders, carpenters, and capable DIY renovators. This manual brings together the practical knowledge, sequencing, and standards required to achieve professional results with Australian-made timber mouldings—consistently, efficiently, and with confidence.

Skirting boards and architraves are fundamental architectural elements that shape how a space is experienced. Far from being an afterthought, they define the junctions between wall, floor, and opening—establishing proportion, protecting high-wear surfaces from everyday wear and tear, and elevating interiors with clarity and intent when installed correctly.

This guide covers all aspects of installing architraves and skirtings, from selecting the right profile sizes to advanced techniques for curved installations. We’ll show you proven methods used by professional installers across Australia, along with tips to avoid common mistakes.

All installations should comply with the Australian Building Codes Board’s National Construction Code.



Choosing Profile Sizes

Choosing the correct skirting board height is crucial for achieving visually balanced interiors. The golden rule is to scale your skirting height to your ceiling height.

Recommended Skirting & Architrave Sizing Guide:

Ceiling Height	Skirting Height	Architrave Width
2400 - 2500mm	135mm	90mm
2501 - 2700mm	185mm	90mm
2701 - 3000mm	230mm	115mm
>3001mm	285mm	115mm

Most Popular Combinations for Standard Australian Homes:

- 135mm skirting with 90mm architrave
- 185mm skirting with 90mm architrave

Architrave Sizes for Different Door Heights

Door Height	Recommended Architrave Width
2.04m	66-90mm
2.34m	90-135mm
2.70m	115mm

Skirting & Architrave Combinations:

Skirting Height	Matching Architrave Width
90-135mm	66-90mm
115-185mm	90-115mm
185-230mm	115mm

Whilst most people choose matching profiles in different heights, mixing profiles can create stunning custom looks. The key is maintaining visual harmony between the two elements.

Tools, Materials & Preparation

Measuring & Marking:

- Tape measure (5m minimum)
- Pencil
- Spirit level
- Square
- Stud finder

Cutting:

- Mitre saw (or mitre box with hand saw)
- Coping saw (for scribe joints)
- Sharp utility knife

Fixing:

- Nail gun (brad nailer) OR
- Hammer
- 50-65mm bullet head nails
- Drill with a masonry bit (5mm for brick walls)

Finishing:

- Sandpaper (120-grit and 240-grit)
- Nail punch
- Wood filler
- Gap filler
- Paint brushes

Adhesives:

- An intense grip adhesive - can be used without nails for smaller profiles
- Construction adhesive as an alternative

Fixings:

- Brad nails (40-50mm for architraves)
- Bullet head nails (65-70mm for skirting boards)
- Wall plugs (for brick/masonry walls)
- Screws (for brick wall installations)

Remove Old Skirting:

- Run a sharp knife along the paint joints
- Use a chisel or a small pinch bar to prize away
- Remove all old nails
- Clean the surface thoroughly

Floor Considerations:

- Carpet: leave 10mm gap beneath skirting
- Hard floors: skirting flush or 1–2mm above
- Tiles: ensure grout is clean and level

Wall Preparation:

- Remove debris, loose paint, flaking plaster
- Fill major wall imperfections
- Ensure walls are clean and dry
- Mark stud locations with masking tape

✓ Check Critical Points:

- ✓ Verify door jambs are flush with the wall lining
- ✓ Ensure window reveals are square and level
- ✓ Confirm corners are as close to 90 degrees as possible



Step-by-Step Skirting Board Installation

There are two proven methods: the Traditional Method with scribe joints, and the innovative Fast Trim Method. Choose your method for [how to install skirting boards](#) based on your skill level and time availability.

Traditional Method - Scribe Joints

- Determine Starting Point:** Work left to right inside each room, clockwise from the door opening. Internal scribe joints are always on the left-hand end of the skirting board.
- Install First Piece:** Measure the first wall length. Cut a square (90°) on both ends — this piece requires no scribe joint. Fix with nails through studs or adhesive.
- Measure for Second Piece:** Measure from the face of installed skirting to the opposite wall. Add 2mm for a tight scribe fit on long lengths.
- Create Scribe Joint:** Tilt saw to 43° and cut at 90° across the board. Mark the intersection, back-cut the flat section at 5°, then use a coping saw to follow the profile contour.
- Cut Opposite End:** Measure exact length from the scribed end. Cut square on right-hand end, or mitre for external corners.
- Install & Continue Around Room:** Position scribed end against first skirting. Each subsequent piece gets a scribe joint on the left end. Work systematically clockwise.
- External Corners:** Cut 45° mitres on both meeting pieces. Apply PVA glue to mitre faces. Cross-nail from each side for strength.
- Long Walls (Scarf Joints):** If wall exceeds 5.4m, cut both joining pieces at 45°, overlap to create a scarf joint, apply adhesive, and nail into the stud.

Fast Trim Method - Pre-Scribed System

Fast Trim is Intrim’s innovative pre-scribed skirting system that dramatically reduces installation time by up to 45% and reduces wastage. Boards arrive pre-cut with factory-made scribe joints — ideal for commercial or time-sensitive projects.

- Order Fast Trim:** Measure the room accurately. Provide measurements and room layout to Intrim. Specify profile and material. Allow 10 business days for manufacturing.
- Unpack and Check:** Each piece is labelled for a specific location. Check all pieces are present. Verify mitres and scribes. Test-fit before fixing.
- Installation Process:** Start at the door opening, work clockwise. Position the first pre-scribed corner piece, nail or glue in place. Scribed ends simply slot together.
- Final Adjustments:** Minor adjustments may be needed for measurement variations. Use wood filler for small gaps. Sand smooth when dry.

Step-by-Step Architrave Installation

[Architraves frame doors and windows](#), covering the junction between frames and wall lining whilst adding decorative detail. **Key measurement:** maintain a consistent 5mm quirk (step) between the inside edge of the frame reveal and the architrave. Add minimum 15% wastage allowance.

Door Architraves

Two side pieces (jambs) + one head piece (top). Bottom cuts are square where they meet the floor or skirting blocks.

- Mark Quirk Points:** Mark 5mm step from inside edge of door frame at top corners and at intervals down each side.
- Measure & Cut First Side:** Measure floor/skirting block to top corner quirk mark. Add 5mm. Cut square at bottom, 45° mitre at top angled towards door frame.
- Fix First Side Architrave:** Position against marks. Maintain 5mm quirk consistently. Nail every 300–400mm using 40–50mm brad nails into door frame AND wall lining.
- Install Head Piece:** Cut 45° mitres on both ends. Position right end against installed side. Mark left quirk intersection, trim to length. Apply PVA glue to mitre joints.
- Install Second Side:** Repeat Step 2 for opposite side. Test-fit against head piece. Apply glue to mitre, position and nail. Clean excess glue.
- Final Checks:** All mitres tight with no gaps. Quirk consistent (5mm). Architraves sit flat against the wall.

Window Architraves

Windows typically have four pieces: two sides, top (head) and bottom (sill). Work anticlockwise starting with the right side piece.

- Prepare & Mark:** Mark 5mm quirk at all four corners. Check window is level and square. Verify reveal edges are flush with the wall.
- Install Bottom Piece First:** Measure between bottom corner quirk points. Add 5mm. Cut 45° mitres on both ends.
- Install Right Side:** Measure from bottom to top quirk. Add 5mm. Cut 45° mitres both ends. Apply PVA glue to bottom mitre. Position and nail with 5mm quirk throughout.
- Install Top Piece:** Position right end against side architrave. Mark left quirk intersection. Cut to length with 45° mitres.
- Install Left Side:** Glue both mitres (top and bottom). Position carefully. Fix securely. Clean joints.

Curved Architraves

Custom-made by Intrim to your exact specifications. Perfect for arched doorways, grand entrance halls, porthole windows, and stairway openings. [Installing custom made architraves](#) adds dramatic architectural detail to French Provincial, Georgian, Coastal, and Hamptons style interiors.

- Cut 45° mitres on each end (splice joints where curved meets straight)
- Maintain 5mm quirk — pin temporarily and trace lines
- Transfer intersection points from curved head to side uprights
- Apply construction adhesive + brad nails every 200–300mm
- Nail through splice joints where straight meets curved

Cutting and Joining Techniques

Mitre Cuts – 45°

Used for: external corners on skirting boards, all architrave corners, scarf joints on long walls.

- 1

Measure Accurately: Measure twice, cut once. Account for the mitre angle in measurements.
- 2

Set Up Mitre Saw: Adjust to exactly 45°. Secure moulding firmly. Ensure blade is sharp.
- 3

Make the Cut: Start saw before contacting wood. Cut in one smooth motion. Support offcut to prevent splintering.
- 4

Test Fit: Place pieces together before fixing. Check for gaps. Adjust if necessary.

Common Mitre Problems

Problem	Solution
Gap at front	Adjust cut angle to 44° or 46°
Gap at back	Recalibrate saw to exactly 45°
Splintering	Replace blunt blade, support piece

Scribe Joints (Coped Joints)

The professional standard for internal corners on skirting boards. Superior to mitres because they won’t open over time and accommodate non-90° walls.

- 1

Initial Mitre Cut: Cut 43° across the board to reveal the profile shape.
- 2

Mark Profile Line: Pencil mark where mitre face meets skirting face to guide the coping saw.
- 3

Back Cut Flat Section: Mitre saw at 90°, tilt 5° for back cutting — creates a neater joint.
- 4

Cope the Profile: Follow marked line exactly with coping saw angled backwards (undercutting).
- 5

Refine the Cut: Test-fit against adjacent skirting. Use a half-round file on high spots.

Dealing with Uneven Walls & Floors

Even in new homes, perfectly flat walls and level floors are rare. Here’s how to handle common issues.

Uneven Walls

Problem: Skirting won’t sit flat against wavy walls

- Scribe to wall profile using compass/scribe tool
- Fill gaps with adhesive (for minor undulations up to 3mm)
- Pack out low spots with timber shims
- Consider flexible polyurethane skirting

Preventing Skirting ‘Dip’

Problem: Skirting dips inward at the bottom due to plasterboard recess

- Drive screws into wall studs at skirting height
- Screw heads align with main wall surface
- Skirting sits against screw heads, not in the recess

Uneven Floors

Problem: Gap between skirting and floor varies along the wall

- Option 1: Scribe to floor (best for solid floors)
- Option 2: Install quad moulding or scotia to cover gaps
- Option 3: Caulk gap for minor variations (up to 3mm)

Corners Not 90°

Problem: Room corners are acute or obtuse angles

- For mitres: place offcut in corner, note actual angle (e.g., 43° or 47°)
- For scribe joints: automatically accommodate non-90° corners — no adjustment needed

Out-of-Square Door Jambs

Problem: Door jamb not perpendicular to wall

- Check jamb with a square, note actual angle
- Adjust architrave mitre cuts accordingly (e.g., 43/47° instead of 45°)
- A consistent quirk (step) is more important than a perfect mitre

Brick & Masonry Walls

Problem: Standard plasterboard techniques don’t apply

- Mark fixing points by driving nail through skirting face
- Drill 5mm holes, insert wall plugs flush with brick surface
- Apply construction adhesive + drive screws into plugs
- Use FJ pine (MDF doesn’t hold fixings as well)

Finishing & Painting

Proper finishing transforms your installation from good to exceptional.

Filling

Fill Nail Holes

Use wood filler or spackling paste. Overfill slightly (shrinks when drying). Smooth with a putty knife. Let dry completely.

Fill Gaps

Use acrylic gap filler at joints between skirting/wall/floor, mitre joints, and architrave/wall junctions. Smooth with a wet finger immediately.

Sanding

- Initial sand: 120-grit once fillers are fully dry — flush with moulding surface
- Final sand (optional): 240-grit for ultra-smooth finish
- Remove dust with a tack cloth

Priming

- If not pre-primed: apply quality undercoat, brush for detailed profiles, ensure complete coverage
- Pre-primed Intrim mouldings: saves time, superior factory finish, only topcoat required

Painting

Acrylic: Water-based, low odour, easy cleanup

Enamel: Oil-based, harder finish, more durable

- Use 38–50mm angled brush for profiles
- Apply first coat with a brush, allow to dry, light sand with 320-grit
- Second coat for best coverage
- Paint in direction of moulding length — profile details first, then flat areas
- Classic white/neutral for timeless look; contrasting colours for bold statement

Estimating Materials & Wastage

Accurate material estimation prevents costly delays and saves money on your project.

Measuring for Skirting Boards

- 1

Measure Each Wall: Measure the length of each wall where skirting will be installed. Measure twice for accuracy.
- 2

Account for Openings: Subtract door openings (typically 900–1200mm). Don’t subtract for architraves — skirting butts to them.
- 3

Calculate Total: Example room 4m × 5m with one door: Walls 4m + 4m + 4m + 5m = 17 linear metres.
- 4

Add Wastage: Critical rule: add 15–20% wastage. 17m + 20% = 20.4m required.
- 5

Convert to Standard Lengths: FJ Pine/MDF: 5.4m lengths. Flexible polyurethane: 5.1m. 20.4m ÷ 5.4m = 3.78 → order 4 pieces minimum.

Wastage Allowances

Experience Level	Wastage %	When to Use
Professional Installer	10–15%	Standard projects
Experienced DIYer	15–20%	Complex / curved profiles
First-Time DIYer	20–25%	Decorative profiles

Standard Door Calculation (90mm Architrave)

Sides: (2040 + 90 + 5) × 2 = 4,270mm

Head: 820 + 180 + 10 = 1,010mm

Total per door ≈ 5.3m

Minimum Order

Intrim’s minimum order is 10 lengths (54m). Recommended: order sufficient for the entire project plus extra for future repairs.

Labour cost savings: DIY installation typically saves \$45–\$60/hour vs. professional carpenter rates — worthwhile for budget-conscious renovators.

Troubleshooting Guide & Frequently Asked Questions

Common Problems & Solutions

Gaps in Mitre Joints

Visible gap at mitre corners

Front of mitre / Wall not 90°: Adjust cut angle to 44° or 46°

Back of mitre / Saw mis-set: Recalibrate saw to exactly 45°

Top or bottom only / Misaligned: Re-cut ensuring same height

Opens after fixing / Wood movement: Apply PVA glue, cross-nail through mitre

Quick Fix: fill gaps under 2mm with wood filler, sand smooth, paint to match.

Skirting Won’t Sit Flat

Skirting pulls away from the wall

Plasterboard recess: Drive screws into studs to create flat surface

Wavy walls: Use extra adhesive in hollow areas

Debris behind skirting: Remove skirting, clean wall, reinstall

Architrave Proud of Door Frame

Architrave sticks out beyond door frame edge

Door jamb not flush with wall lining: Plane door jamb or pack out wall behind architrave

Profile too thick: Switch to 12mm or 15mm thick profile

Nails Showing Through Paint

Nail heads visible after painting

Nails not countersunk / filler missing:

Sink nails 1–2mm below surface, fill with wood filler, sand smooth

Prevention: always countersink nails during installation.

Architrave Corners Don’t Meet

Gap where architrave mitres should join

Incorrect measurements or cutting: Remove both pieces, re-measure, re-cut precise angles, test-fit before fixing

Prevention: always test-fit before applying adhesive.

Curved Skirting on Tight Radius

Standard skirting won’t bend to curve

Rigid material: Use flexible polyurethane skirting — bends to 400mm radius min., available in 5.1m lengths. [Ideal for installing skirting on curved walls](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to install skirting boards?

DIY: 3–5 hours per room (traditional method) or 1–2 hours (Fast Trim). Professional: 1–2 hours per room.

What is the easiest way to install architraves?

Start with door architraves as they’re simpler than windows (only three pieces vs four). Use pre-primed mouldings to save painting time, and apply PVA glue to all mitre joints for the strongest hold.

Do I need to paint skirting boards before or after installation?

Best practice is after installation. Fill all nail holes and gaps first, sand smooth, prime, and paint in situ.

Do skirting boards have to match architraves?

Whilst most people choose matching profiles in different heights, mixing profiles can create stunning custom looks. The key is maintaining visual harmony between the two elements.

Can I use adhesive instead of nails for skirting?

Yes, for smaller profiles on plasterboard walls. Intrim Intense Power Adhesive can be used without nails. For larger profiles or brick walls, use adhesive plus nails/ screws for security.

What timber material is best for skirting?

FJ Pine is recommended for most applications, especially brick walls. MDF is cost-effective for plasterboard. Polyurethane is ideal for curved walls or moisture-prone areas. American Oak for premium hardwood finishes.

Ready to Get Started?

Australia’s premium timber moulding manufacturer — delivered nationwide.

- 1. Choose Your Products**

 - ◆ Browse [Skirting Profiles](#)
 - ◆ Browse [Architrave Profiles](#)
 - ◆ Explore [Curved Architraves](#)
 - ◆ Discover [Fast Trim System](#)
- 2. Get Samples**

 - ◆ [Order Sample Box](#)
- 3. Find a Professional Installer**

 - ◆ [Installer Finder](#)

About Intrim Mouldings

Intrim is Australia’s leading manufacturer of architectural mouldings. As a 100% Australian-owned business, we’ve been crafting premium skirting boards, architraves, and decorative mouldings for over 40 years.

Our Commitment:

- ◆ Impeccable quality and craftsmanship
- ◆ Innovative flush finish skirting & door jamb systems
- ◆ Australia-wide delivery and technical support
- ◆ Sustainable manufacturing practices

