



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

BlueLinX PVC Trim Products (“Trim”) is an exterior decorative trim and not designed to be used in structural, load-bearing applications. These Installation Guidelines are a general resource in standard installation techniques.

Safety

- Cut Trim in an open, ventilated area.
- Always wear safety glasses and a face/dust mask when cutting Trim.
- Follow all manufacturer’s recommendations and warnings.

Product Storage

Trim is more flexible than wood, so it may conform to uneven surfaces, particularly in warm weather. Store Trim away from direct sunlight and high temperatures. Store Trim off the ground on a flat, level surface. Once opened, protect the Trim from dirt and debris. If it does get dirty, clean after installation. Clean Trim with a soft bristle brush and mild soap and water.

Cutting

Trim can be cut using standard woodworking power tools. Do not use fine-tooth metal-cutting blades. Using too thin of a blade can cause heat build up in the Trim. For best results use a 32 – tooth (or higher) blade designed for woodworking. To maintain a smooth edge, support the Trim across the entire length when it is being cut. If you get a rough edge, rasp and sand the Trim to restore a smooth edge.

Drilling

Although you can drill with standard woodworking drill bits, do not use bits made for rigid PVC. Avoid heat buildup from excessive friction, and remove the shavings from the drill hole frequently.

Routing

For crisp clean edges, use a sharp carbide-tipped bit on a router. It is recommended that you mount the router on a table as hand held models may be difficult to control.

Edge Finishing

Trim can be finished by machine edging or sanding. A smoother edge can be obtained by applying spackle, sanding or painting. Do not allow excess frictional heat to build up when edging or sanding.

Bending

Trim can be bent by using convection air circulation ovens, strip heater or radiant heaters. Heat guns can also be used but only on small areas where the appearance and uniformity may be compromised. Do not overheat the material as a rough texture or discoloration could occur. Heating times and temperatures should be controlled as to prevent the surface temperature from exceeding 300 degrees for more than 10 minutes. To guarantee uniformity, heating should be done from both sides. Heating times are generally 3 minutes per ¼ inch thickness of material. Apply heat evenly until the Trim has become flexible. Once it reaches a flexible state, no additional heat is required.

Handle hot Trim with care as severe burns could occur from unprotected contact.

Fastening

- For best results use fasteners with thin shanks, blunt points and full round heads.
- Fasteners should penetrate into flat, solid wood substrate or framing member a minimum of 1-1/2 inch.
- Standard pneumatic nailers when used should be at an air pressure between 70 psi and 100 psi, depending on the type of gun, type of nail, air temperature and density of the substrate.
- Use stainless steel fasteners or hot dipped galvanized fasteners and make sure that the fastener heads are flush with the Trim surface or slightly recessed.
- There should be no need to pre-drill holes unless large fasteners are being used or the product is being installed in low temperatures.
- When applying Trim 10 inches or narrower use (2) fasteners for every framing member.
- For 12 inch Trim or sheets use fasteners every 12 inches.
- Fasteners should be no more than 2 inches from the end of the board.

Gluing

- Make sure all surfaces are clean, dry and free from contamination.

- Use an adhesive designed for use with cellular PVC trim to bond all scarf and miter joints.
- To allow sufficient time for a full cure, joints should be fastened through the joint or fastened on each side of the joint.
- Adhesives alone are not recommended for fastening Trim.

Bonding and Adhesives

Trim can be bonded to a variety of substrates as well as itself. Never use adhesives alone to fasten Trim to a substrate. Always follow manufacturer's guidelines, and keep all material clean and dry.

- When bonding to a substrate, ensure all surfaces to be glued are smooth and clean. Use exterior grade, PVC compatible, urethane-based adhesives. Liquid Nails LN-901 or equivalent is recommended. Other brands may also be suitable, but always test before using.
- Epoxy, contact cement or rubber based and urethane adhesives are generally acceptable when joining pieces of PVC Trim together. Clamping or other mechanical fastening is recommended to hold Trim in place while adhesive cures.
- To prevent joint separation, fill all joints with a urethane acrylic sealant. When sealing a butt joint, apply sealant only to non-butt end, and apply to the front half of the butt end only, so the sealant can expand back in to the joint. Touch up irregular areas with additional sealant, and tool normally.

Painting

Follow paint manufacturers recommendations for use and application.

- Trim must be clean, dry and free of loose or peeling paint, chalk, grease, oil, dirt and mold or mildew.
- Apply a 100% acrylic latex paint with a light reflecting value ("LRV") of 55 units or higher.
- For LRV values of 54 or less, paints specifically designed for such applications must be used.
- It is recommended that all Trim be installed prior to painting unless done in a professional pre-finishing operation and allowed to cure completely.

BlueLinX is not liable for paint used on Trim product and/or the results of its use.

Expansion and Contraction

- Trim will expand and contract with changes in temperature.

- Allow 1/8 inch per 18 feet of Trim for expansion and contraction. Allow this space at both ends of a long run.
- Proper fastening along the entire length will minimize expansion and contraction of the Trim.
- Glued joints between trim pieces will help eliminate separation.
- To minimize seams, use scarf joints – which also minimize expansion and contraction of Trim.

Window and Door Trim

Cladding and Trim are not watertight barriers. Before you install cladding materials or Trim, flash all openings so that water is shed to the exterior of the cladding and Trim.

- Install flashing along the bottom of the window. The width of the flashing must extend beyond the width of the trim being installed.
- Install side flashings by overlapping the bottom flashing; the width of the flashing must extend beyond the width of the Trim being installed.
- Install the top flashing by overlapping the tops of the side flashing.
- To install the Trim, miter the joints and use a PVC adhesive (See previous gluing instructions) to adhere the joints. Fasten the Trim to the substrate on both sides of the miter. Use at least (2) fasteners per board.

Spanning

Trim is decorative and should not be used in load bearing applications.

Soffit Applications:

Before you install Trim as a soffit, review and comply with all local building codes and regulations regarding wall construction, including the proper use of sheathings, framing, weather resistant barriers, flashings, ventilation requirements and other building materials and systems. Shim the wall as necessary.

- When spanning greater than 16 inches use a minimum ¾ inch thick board or ¾ inch sheet. Install blocking and bracing as needed.
- ½ inch bead board should be spanned no more than 16 inches.

Ceiling Applications:

- When spanning greater than 16 inches, use a minimum ¾ inch thick board or ¾ inch sheet.
- If temperature at installation is 40° or less, do not span beyond 12 inches.
- ½ inch bead board should be spanned no more than 16 inches.
- Do not span any PVC Trim product in a ceiling application more than 24 inches.

Corners

- For butted joints, use a fastener through the butt every 16 inches. Let the corner cure, and install as you would a wood corner.
- For mitered joints, assemble the corner before installing it. Apply PVC adhesive to the length of the miter and fasten the corner pieces together.

Rakes, Fascia and Bandboards

For long runs, a scarf joint is highly recommended for appearance. Gluing the joints between the trim pieces will help eliminate separation caused by expansion and contraction. Place fasteners on both sides of the scarf joint to help minimize expansion and contraction.