

Installation Tips, Hints and Finishing

Installation Tips

Here are some handy tips to make installing your House of Fara solid wood mouldings as easy as enjoying their beauty:

- Start by making a list of the rooms in which you plan to install moulding, and the types of moulding you'll need for each room.
- Measure the length of each wall in all rooms, rounding up to the nearest foot.
- When making picture frames, measure all sides of the picture for a total distance around the outer edge.
- Try to use shorter lengths of moulding instead of longer ones that you'll have to cut. This will make transportation and installation much easier.
- Store mouldings in a clean, dry place before installation. Within 24 to 48 hours of installation, place mouldings in the room in which you plan to install them. This will give the wood a chance to adjust to the climate of the room and prevent the moulding from expanding or contracting after it's installed.
- Before cutting your moulding, practice on scrap pieces. Use scrap pieces to see how stacked moulding will look before installation. Hold it in place to mark positioning.
- When cutting, use long, even strokes and keep the blade upright.
- Install the moulding piece by piece while working your way around the room.
- Install chair rail moulding approximately 26 to 30 inches from the floor.
- To prevent splitting the wood when nailing, blunt the ends of the finishing nails with a hammer or pre-drill holes in the moulding.
- When driving nails, leave the nail head exposed. Then use a nail set to drive the nail until the head is below the wood surface.
- When using stacked moulding, install it one piece at a time — install the first piece completely, then install the second piece completely, then the third, etc. Then touch up nail holes and end cuts.

Helpful Hints

- To determine how much moulding you will need, list all measurements; add together and round total up 10% for trimming.
- Pre-drill 3/32" holes in crown moulding to prevent splitting.
- Installation is fastest and easiest with a nail gun.
- Stain or paint moulding before installation to save time.
- Use an inexpensive piece of crown moulding to practice your cuts. A little experimentation can save you time and money.

- Trim carpenters' secret: cut pieces slightly too long on your first attempt; then trim slightly until pieces fit snugly.
- Install long pieces of moulding first. Mistake cuts can be used where shorter pieces are needed.
- Nail moulding into wall studs whenever possible. Contractor's adhesive can also be used to ensure moulding stays in place.

Finishing: Staining & Painting

Several factors affect how and when to apply finish to your House of Fara mouldings. Usually, it's best to apply finish after the mouldings are cut but before you install them. Use the following general procedures:

Staining:

- Lay mouldings flat and sand rough areas with 150 to 220 grit sandpaper. Wipe off sawdust.
- Apply stain according to the package directions.
- Install moulding.

Painting:

- Lay mouldings flat and sand rough areas with 150 to 220 grit sandpaper. Wipe off sawdust.
- Apply a coat of primer and then a first coat of paint.
- Install moulding.
- Putty the nail holes and sand putty when dried.
- Mask with tape around edges of moulding to protect walls, floor and other moulding or use a paint shield.
- Apply another coat of paint. Remove masking tape before paint dries completely (if the position of the moulding makes masking difficult or makes the moulding hard to reach, you may wish to apply the final coat of paint before installing).

Staining works well for House of Fara solid oak mouldings to bring out the wood's natural beauty. If you wish to paint your mouldings to match room décor, try using House of Fara white hardwood mouldings.