

HOW TO INSTALL S4S (Smooth 4 Sides) BOARDS

S4S moulding can be used in many different ways. It can be combined with other mouldings to make a more interesting or decorative look. It can also be used as a casing or base moulding. Base mouldings are used along the bottom of the wall to make a smooth transition from floor to wall. Casing is used around doors and windows. Casing profiles often match base mouldings, except casings are rounded on both front edges, while the lower edge of a base molding is square to keep dust out of the joint between the molding and the floor.

For a Casing:

Measure up each side of the window from the stool to the head jamb (on a door, measure from the floor to the head jamb). If the dimensions are not equal, use the longer dimension. Add 1/16" and miter-cut the side casings with the short side of the miter matching your measurement. Position the side casings with a 1/16" reveal all along the length of the side jamb and nail them in place with 6d finish nails 24" on center. Use two nails at each location; drive one into the jamb and the other through the wall surface and into the stud.

Position a piece of casing over the head of the window, slightly longer than the outside edges of the side casings. Use the miter cut on the side to mark your cut on the head casing. Cut the head casing to length. Apply wood glue to the miters and set the head casing in place. Nail it to the jamb and wall as you did the side casings, then drive a 4d finish nail through the side casing into the end of the head casing on each side.

Once the door and windows are finished, you're ready to install the base mouldings.

For a Base:

The first step is to locate the wall studs and mark their location on the wall just above the height of the baseboard with a light pencil mark. When you buy ceiling and base molding, try and buy lengths that will allow you to make complete runs without joints; if you can't do so, add 2' to any lengths that will be joined, so you can cut the joint over a stud.

To install base molding, start from any door. Measure from the door to the nearest wall. Cut the end of the first piece of base square, then measure the door-to-wall distance and cut the other end, also square. Nail the first piece in place with pairs of 6d finish nails driven into each stud and the floor plate it rests on.

The second piece of base will be joined to the first with a coped cut at the inside corner.

To make a coped cut, first cut the end of the piece at a 45-degree angle with the short side of the miter toward the face of the piece. Finish the cut with a coping saw, carefully following the cut edge along the face of the piece.

Measure from the bottom of the first piece of base to the next corner, then square-cut the second piece at the other end so it butts into the corner. Repeat the process for each inside corner.

Use a miter cut at outside corners. Few outside corners are exactly 90 degrees, so you'll have to use a T-bevel to find the exact angle, then divide by two and cut each piece of base to that angle.

If you need to join two pieces of moulding in the middle of a run, set the first piece in place and mark the center point of the stud nearest to the end of the piece. Subtract half the thickness of the molding, then cut the end using an open miter cut. Install the first piece, but don't nail over the last stud where the piece is mitered.

Cut a closed miter at the end of the second piece. Measure from the face of the first piece where the miter begins to the corner, then cut the second piece. Set it in place with the closed miter overlapping the open miter on the first piece.

Apply glue to the joint and nail through both pieces into the stud, then continue nailing to the corner.

To avoid damaging the surface of the molding, drive the nail to within an 1/8" of the surface. Use a nail set to finish driving the nail. Putty can be used to fill the nail hole.

Use these basic instructions for installing S4S in other areas of your home.