

Moulding FAQ Guide

General Product Information

Q: *What are the top uses for moulding products?*

A: They are commonly used for general-purpose trim, framing around doors and windows (casing), covering gaps where the floor meets the wall (baseboards, shoe, and quarter round), creating accent walls, and even for DIY craft projects.

Q: *What does "finger-jointed" mean?*

A: Finger-jointed refers to a manufacturing method where shorter pieces of wood are joined together to create a longer, stronger, and more stable piece. This is done by cutting a series of interlocking "fingers" into the ends of the wood and gluing them together. This process reduces waste and creates a straighter product that is less prone to warping.

Q: *What is MDF?*

A: MDF stands for Medium Density Fiberboard. It is an engineered wood product made from wood fibers, resin, and wax. It's known for having a very smooth, consistent surface that is highly resistant to warping and cracking, making it an excellent and economical choice for painted trim and doors.

Q: *Are these products suitable for outdoor use?*

A: Unless specifically noted, most MDF, primed pine, and standard interior wood mouldings are designed for interior use only. They are not waterproof and should not be used in outdoor applications or high-moisture areas. For outdoor use, you should look for PVC, polyurethane, or specifically treated exterior wood products.

Q: *Are mouldings sold individually or in packs?*

A: It depends on the specific item. Many of our baseboards and casings are sold in "Pro Packs" (e.g., 5-packs or 8-packs totaling a certain amount of linear feet) and are not always available to be broken down into individual pieces. Other items are sold individually by the linear foot.

Installation & Usage

Q: *How do I calculate how much moulding I need for a room?*

A: Draw a floor plan and measure the length of each wall where you plan to install the moulding. Add all the wall lengths together to get your total linear footage. It is highly recommended to add an additional 10% to 15% to your total measurement to account for cutting mistakes, miter angles, and general waste.

Q: *How do I calculate how much moulding I need for casing a door or window?*

A: For a single window, calculate the total length of all sides of the window, then add height of your moulding (for example 2 ¼ in.) multiplied by 8, and add an additional 10% to 15% for waste.

A: For multiple side-by-side windows, follow the steps above to calculate the moulding required

for 1 window, then remove the length of one shared side of the window to determine how much you will need for the next window and add it back to the first number. Repeat as necessary.

A: For doors, calculate the height of the door, multiply that by 2, and add the width of the door. To that number add the height of your moulding multiplied by 4. Finally add an additional 10% to 15% to account for waste or cutting mistakes.

Q: *Is moulding paintable or stainable?*

A: Yes!

- **Primed Products:** Mouldings that come "primed" (often white) are ready to be painted. It is recommended to apply two coats of high-quality paint for the best durability and appearance.
- **Unfinished/Stain-Grade Products:** Unfinished wood (like solid pine or oak) can be either painted or stained. If staining, the natural wood grain will show through beautifully.

Q: *Does pre-primed moulding have to be painted, or can it be left white?*

A: While pre-primed moulding comes in white and is ready for a finishing coat, it is highly recommended that you paint it. Painting ensures the best-finished look and provides added durability to match your home's decor. However, if you purchase "pre-finished" moulding, no sanding, staining, or painting is required.

Q: *How is moulding typically installed, and what tools do I need?*

A: Moulding is generally installed using brad nails or finishing nails. For a secure fit, you can also use wood glue or construction adhesive on the joints.

Common tools needed include:

- Miter saw or miter box (for cutting angles)
- Tape measure and pencil
- Brad nailer or a hammer with a nail set
- Safety glasses and hearing protection
- Wood filler or caulk (to fill nail holes and seams after installation)

Q: *What kind of nails should I use for installation?*

A: For baseboard moulding, 1.5-inch or 2-inch brad nails or finish nails are typically recommended. They provide a strong hold while being small enough to countersink and fill for a smooth finish. For crown moulding, a 1-1/2 inch to 2-inch finishing nail (16 or 18 gauge) is generally recommended.

Q: *How do I join moulding pieces together?*

A: Joining moulding together requires careful measurement and cutting. Most moulding is installed with miter joints that form a 90-degree angle (two 45-degree cuts). For long walls, you can use a scarf/splice joint (overlapping 45-degree cuts) placed over a wall stud for strength.

Secure the pieces with finish nails, then apply wood putty, sand smoothly, and paint or stain to match.

Q: *Are the pieces angle-cut to fit together out of the box?*

A: Most standard moulding pieces are straight-cut and will require you to make your own miter or cope cuts to fit your specific corners. However, some specific window/door casing sets or brickmould sets come pre-mitered for standard door sizes.

Policies

Q: *Can items be returned or exchanged?*

A: Yes, generally, most new and unopened merchandise can be returned within 90 days of purchase with valid proof of purchase. Please note that custom-cut items (such as moulding cut to size in-store) are generally non-returnable.

Q: *Can I get my moulding miter-cut at the store?*

A: While you can cut the moulding yourself at the in-store cutting station to help it fit in your vehicle, store associates typically do not make precision miter cuts for customers. You can find these cutting stations in the moulding aisle.