



How do I choose the Right Mouldings for my Home

Whether you are building a new home, or putting a new face on an old one, choosing your trim is an important factor in achieving the overall statement you want your home to make. Unfortunately, many are at the tight end of their budgets by the time it comes to deciding on their trim and will often compromise style on behalf of practicality.

But mouldings are worth taking the time to choose properly. Trim adds visual interest and character to a home and can influence the mood of a room in an instant. They are an architectural element that lends authenticity to your style and should complement the other elements and features of your home.

Frequently, homeowners find the task of selecting their profiles overwhelming. Quite often it is easier to identify what you don't like, and in doing so, narrowing down the choice. As always, the internet is a great tool to view style options, or a trained sales representative can guide you in making your profile choices.

The most common errors often relate to scale and profile. Trim that is too small or too overpowering for the space, or profiles that are wrong for the period and architecture of the home. When determining the size of moulding, you should consider the ceiling height and the openness of the floor plan. Often, homeowners will choose a size and profile of moulding for the main areas or main level of their home, and a slightly smaller, but similar profile for other areas such as basements or bedrooms. This allows for a cohesive design while still providing proper scale and feel throughout the home.

In the end the choice will be a balance of personal choice and conventional wisdom. It's your space, and you should be comfortable there, so that's what should guide you in making your decision. Your choice of mouldings, while adding beauty and warmth to your home, can also add to its appeal and resale value, as homes with quality mouldings are often seen as higher-end and therefore of better-quality construction. So, take the time to choose wisely. The proof is in the moulding.



Crazy for Crown

Homeowners are crazy for Crown Moulding these days. And why not? It's an easy addition to any room and adds much to its appeal. It is not uncommon for homeowners add crown moulding to additional rooms after the initial installation; they liked the result that much. Time and time again we hear how it made the room look "finished" and completed the "frame" of the room.

This holds true for any room or any house. A common misconception with crown moulding is that it will make your room look smaller; so many homeowners with more modest homes and eight foot ceilings feel they should not consider crown moulding. This is not true. As with any moulding in your home, it should compliment the scale and architecture of your home, but the addition of the right crown can only enhance any room.

Another misconception is that crown is for older homes or homes of a certain style only. This is also not true. There are crown mouldings to compliment any design style, from Victorian to Contemporary. Installation of crown moulding is best left to the professionals, but if you wish to try it for yourself, helpful tools like pre-made corners are available to make the job more DIY friendly.



Join the Wainscoting Revival

It seems that Wainscoting (or wall paneling) is making a big come-back in home design in the last number of years. As a design element it adds detail, warmth and elegance to a room or hallway. There are many different ways to do wainscoting from fairly simple board-and-batten styles to recessed paneling, but the result is always pleasing to the eye.

Historically, wainscoting had a practical purpose in protecting the walls from scuffs and dents in busy traffic areas of the home. Now, although still practical for all the same reasons, it is often included in home design to lend interest and texture to specific areas. Wainscoting is an economical and easy way to add market value and appeal to your home. It is elegant armour for the home.

If you're renovating, you may want to install an applied panel. Essentially this is applying picture frame mouldings, called panel moulds, to the existing wall surface and adding a chair rail above to divide the vertical height. This can be done without disturbing the existing baseboards, is very inexpensive and is visually appealing.

Another less formal option is beaded wainscoting. Typically found in busy or communal areas like kitchens, bathrooms, playrooms or laundry rooms, beaded wainscoting adds a cozy feeling to the room. It's easy to install, and relatively inexpensive.

For more modern and less traditional homes you can use a shiplap v-groove panel instead. With simpler lines, this type of paneling looks stunning with urban minded designs or even "cottage-chic".

Finally, you may want to try a style of frame-and panel wainscoting. Nothing adds more distinction to a space than this type of wainscoting. Typically seen in entryways, hallways, dining rooms or a study, frame-and-panel is accomplished by installing box frames to the existing wall and then (optionally) adding a panel mould detail to the inside of the box. The result is a recessed panel. This method is cost effective and although it takes some planning, is classic and elegant.



Columns in Home Design

Having a home that makes a good first impression is always a welcome idea. One way to achieve this is with the use of architectural columns. Columns come in many styles, a variety of materials, and create harmony with other design elements of your home.

Columns are an important element of architecture. They can provide the added benefit of structural support while offering timeless elegance and luxury to the home. Columns can be made from wood, stone, aluminum, fiberglass, polyurethane foam or cellular PVC. Columns are available in plain, fluted, or paneled styles, and in round or square designs.

When choosing what columns are right for you, you should always consider the other architectural elements of your home, and make sure you choose the size and design appropriate your home. The most common mistake people make when choosing columns is selecting ones that are not proportionate for the scale of the property. Also, you should consider the material. Fiberglass columns are weather, decay and insect resistant, while PVC column wraps are virtually maintenance free, and relatively easy for the DIY installer, though not structural.