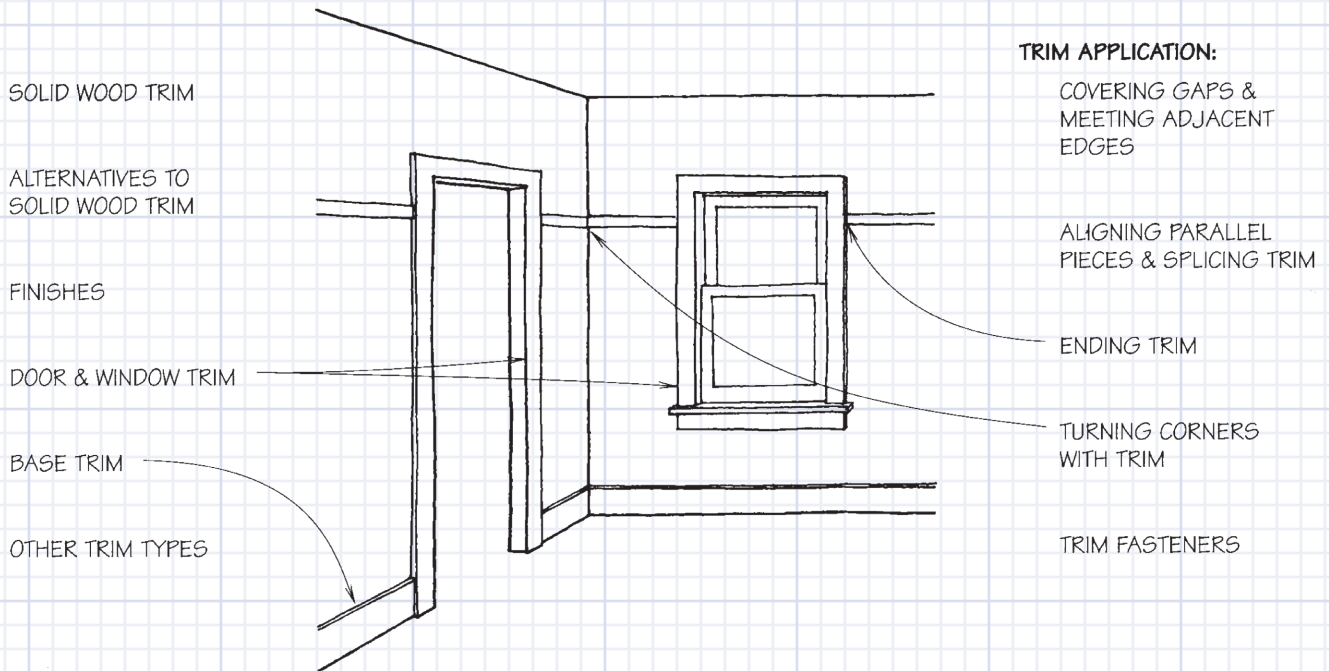


Installation Tips

The following section is taken from Rob Thallons
 "Graphic Guide to Interior Details," published by Taunton Press.

We have included this in our book because it represents the single best review of trim and moulding in print. We firmly believe that each project should begin with and be guided by these wonderful books and videos.



Trim, one of the very last things to be added to a building under construction, has the primary function of covering gaps between loosely fitting parts, such as between window and wall and between wall and floor.

Trim can also protect the building from abrasion where furniture or people are likely to bump into it. Baseboards, for example, protect walls from shoes, chairs and other things moving at the level of the floor, while door casings keep walls from being damaged as people and objects pass through the doorway.

Trim, called moulding when it is cut into specific shapes, also contributes significantly to the character of an interior space. There is an obvious difference between a door trimmed in the most minimal fashion and one trimmed with a full complement of ornate period mouldings.

Coordinating trim with the scale of a room, with the other surface materials and with the architectural features of a building is an important aspect of interior detailing.

Wood moulding was once made by hand with planes that held uniquely shaped blades. With the development of the moulding machine in the late 19th century, trim started to be mass-produced, and the use of intricately shaped pieces increased significantly. The earliest trim was made of the finest-grained wood available, both for its beauty and to facilitate manufacture and installation. Today, such fine-grained wood is scarce, so alternatives, including composite wood products and nonwood products, have been developed (see 152). Some of these alternatives are virtually indistinguishable from traditional wood molding when painted, but no modern alternative can match its predecessors when treated with a clear, natural finish.

This chapter describes primarily the principles and particular details that apply to solid wood mouldings. Most of these principles and details also apply to alternative mouldings made of MDF, and many apply to plastic mouldings.