

HOW TO INSTALL EXTERIOR TRIM BOARDS

Step 1 - Measurements

It is incredibly important that you use the measuring tape to get the correct width, height and depth of the doorway or window. The sizing will rarely be perfect which is why shims are used.

Step 2 - Pilot Holes

Before drilling pilot holes, always place the new trim in place to test the fitting. If you are satisfied that it will work you can remove it and lay it on a flat surface. Use the measuring tape and make four evenly spaced marks with your pencil along both vertical sides of the trim board. It will be easier to make the pilot holes from the outside of the casing. Use a drill bit a little smaller than the nails being used.

Step 3 - Setting the Exterior Door or Window Trim

These holes make it much easier for you to attach the trim to the frame around the door or window. Set the exterior trim in place. Adjust the trim as much as you need in order to make sure that it is spaced correctly and centered. Once the trim is in place you can begin bracing it with wood shims. Place enough shims along the sides of the trim in order to secure it in place and then tack it in place with a single nail.

Step 4 - Securing the Trim

The trim board will not move so you can make sure it is properly set in the frame. Use the level and place it on the inside of the trim board. The green liquid should be centered. Repeat with the other side. If the trim board is not plumb then adjust the shims as needed. On the plumbed side of the trim board secure it in place with shims and nails. Repeat the same procedure with the top trim above the door or window. Once the top is complete continue around the trim adding shims and nails. Once all of the nails are in place make use of the nail set to push each nail far into the trim board. Apply wood putty to the nail holes and scrape the excess away with the putty knife.

5. Finishing

It is recommended to stain or prime and paint all exterior moulding and trim boards after installation, with an exterior grade product to protect the wood from splitting and cracking which occurs naturally over time when exposed to the exterior elements.