



**PENNWOOD®**

## **Solid Wood Mouldings Installation Guide**

Congratulations on the purchase of your high quality, solid wood transition moulding to complement your hardwood flooring project. Transition mouldings perform the dual purpose of improving the visual appearance at the junction of different floor covering types, and providing safety to changes in flooring levels.

Use diligence in following these guidelines and your floor will be beautiful and problem free for years to come.

- Product choice: Insure you have selected the correct moulding for the intended purpose.
- Preparation: Take the time to prepare the site before installation.
- Installation: Follow the guidelines for placing and attaching the mouldings.
- Maintenance: plan on providing long term care of your mouldings and flooring.

- **Choose the correct moulding for the job. Common names and traditional uses for mouldings would include:**

**T-Moulding:** Bridges gaps formed when floors of the same height are abutted. (e.g. at the juncture of wood flooring and ceramic tile)



**Reducer Moulding:** Smoothly and safely joins two floors of different heights with a gentle sloping surface providing an attractive appearance and eliminating trip hazards. (e.g. between hardwood flooring and carpet or hardwood flooring and tile.)



**Threshold Moulding:** Used in a doorway to provide a neat transition from the hardwood flooring and a door sill plate.



**Stairnose Moulding:** Connects to the floorboards at a staircase or landing to form the essential level surface at a step while adding an attractive edge and finished appearance.



**Quarter Round Moulding:** Covers the space where flooring meets the wall or baseboard.



**Baseboard:** Used along walls to create a cover for expansion spaces for flooring. Can be used in combination with Quarter Round Mouldings.





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- **Surface Preparation:**

- Here is a basic list of surface preparation suggestions for the installation of any flooring project. Many are especially critical for hardwood flooring because even a small oversight in sub-floor preparation can lead to problems which significantly detract from the final appearance and long term service.
  - The subflooring must be level and flat. High spots must be sanded and low spots filled or shimmed.
  - Subflooring must be solid. Loose joints must be re-nailed. Not only does this make for a good, solid feel to the floor, but it also prevents long term problems with noise.
  - Follow the flooring manufacturer's recommendations for a continuous barrier paper or felt installation under the new flooring. It is essential that wood flooring be given a chance to expand and contract with the seasons. A continuous slip surface under the flooring allows this movement to happen without putting stress on flooring joints.
  - Don't forget to sweep and remove any dirt and scraps before laying any barrier. Even small pieces can telegraph through the finished flooring.

- **Installation:**

- A. Measuring and cutting:

- a. Using a quality tape measure, obtain the exact width of the doorway between the floors.
- b. Transfer this measurement to your moulding. Using a carpenter's square, lightly draw a line on your moulding to designate the cut line.  
HINT: Double check your measurement before cutting.
- c. The best cuts will be obtained using an electric miter saw with a new cross-cut blade. However, a good mechanical miter saw can provide an equally acceptable cut when used with care.  
HINT: In order to provide additional protection against chip-out in the cutting process you can apply blue painter's tape across the moulding at the point where you anticipate making your cut. Then measure and scribe the cut line on the painter's tape.



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## **Installation: (Continued)**

- B. Gluing Moulding in hold down position:
- a. Purchase a high quality construction grade adhesive and caulking gun applicator.
  - b. Apply ¼" bead on the sub-flooring where the moulding will be in contact.  
HINT: Remember do not apply the glue to any area which will impede the finished wood floor's ability to expand/contract with seasonal changes.
  - c. Set the moulding into the gap, pressing firmly so that the moulding lips rest firmly on flooring.  
HINT: Mouldings must be installed within 10 minutes of adhesive application.
  - d. Apply firm pressure across the entire moulding surface to ensure good contact with the adhesive.
  - e. Wipe any glue which may have oozed out with a damp cloth.
  - f. Strips of blue painter's tape may be placed across the t-moulding and onto both floors to hold the moulding in finished position until the adhesive is dry (minimum of 24 hours).
- C. The Nail-Down Method:
- a. Use 18 gauge finishing nails for jobs requiring up to 2" nails. Most transition mouldings can be successfully installed under this guideline.
  - b. Pre-drill holes to avoid splitting mouldings especially when nailing near the ends of the mouldings.
  - c. Obtain a block of paraffin obtainable in the canning section of the grocery store. Rub the sides of the finishing nails on the paraffin. This provides an excellent friction reducer and allows nails to be firmly hammered into place while avoiding bending the nail.
  - d. Hammer the nail to just above the surface of the moulding. This avoids creating hammer dents in the surface of the moulding.
  - e. Use a new nail set to bring the nail to just below the surface of the moulding.
  - f. Obtain a wood filler crayon or putty stick which most closely matches the color of your moulding. Fill the hole created by the nail head per instructions and wipe the surface smooth.

- **Moulding Descriptions and uses and installation hints:**

- **T-Moulding**

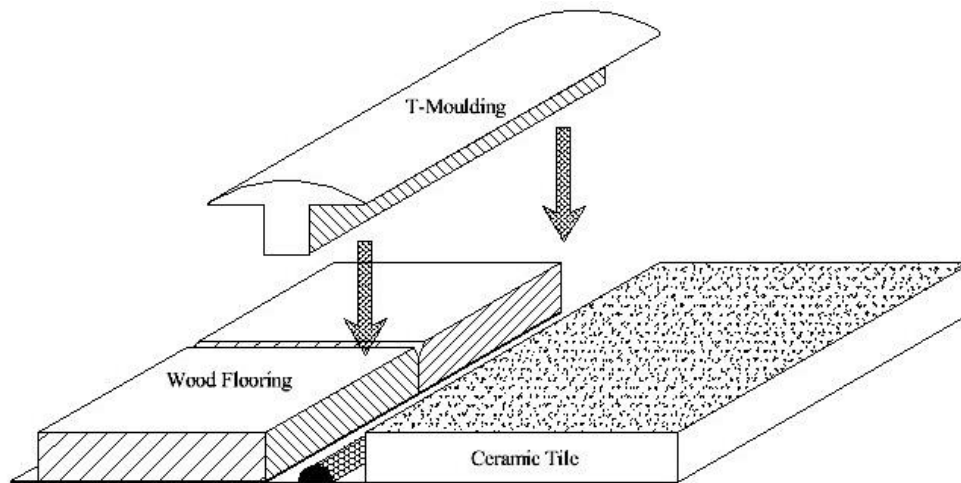
- Used when the new flooring installation is the same thickness as any adjacent floor covering.
- Don't forget wood flooring expands and shrinks with the seasons. Never butt new wood flooring against any existing flooring or any wall. The gap is designed to allow interference free expansion/contraction.
- Bring the new flooring up to but not touching the adjacent flooring.
- This gap can be approximately one-half of the overall width of the t-moulding being used, but should at least be the width of the t-moulding center leg plus  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- Insure there is room for the width of the center extension on the t-moulding and clearance between this center extension and the flooring on both sides.
- Measure the distance you will require the t-moulding to cover.

**HINT:** Always use a sharp saw and or saw blade when making any cuts.

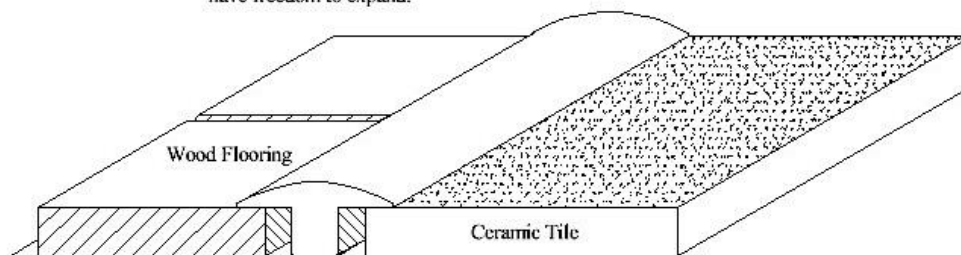
**HINT:** To insure you do not create any splinters or rip-out with any saw cuts, cover the saw line with a piece of blue painter's tape before trimming your moulding.

**HINT:** Measure again to be sure of this measurement.

- Trim a piece of moulding to this exact length.
- Always "dry-fit" any moulding to determine if you have made the correct cut.
- Determine if you are gluing or nailing the moulding and proceed by following the instructions in the Installation Section of this guide.



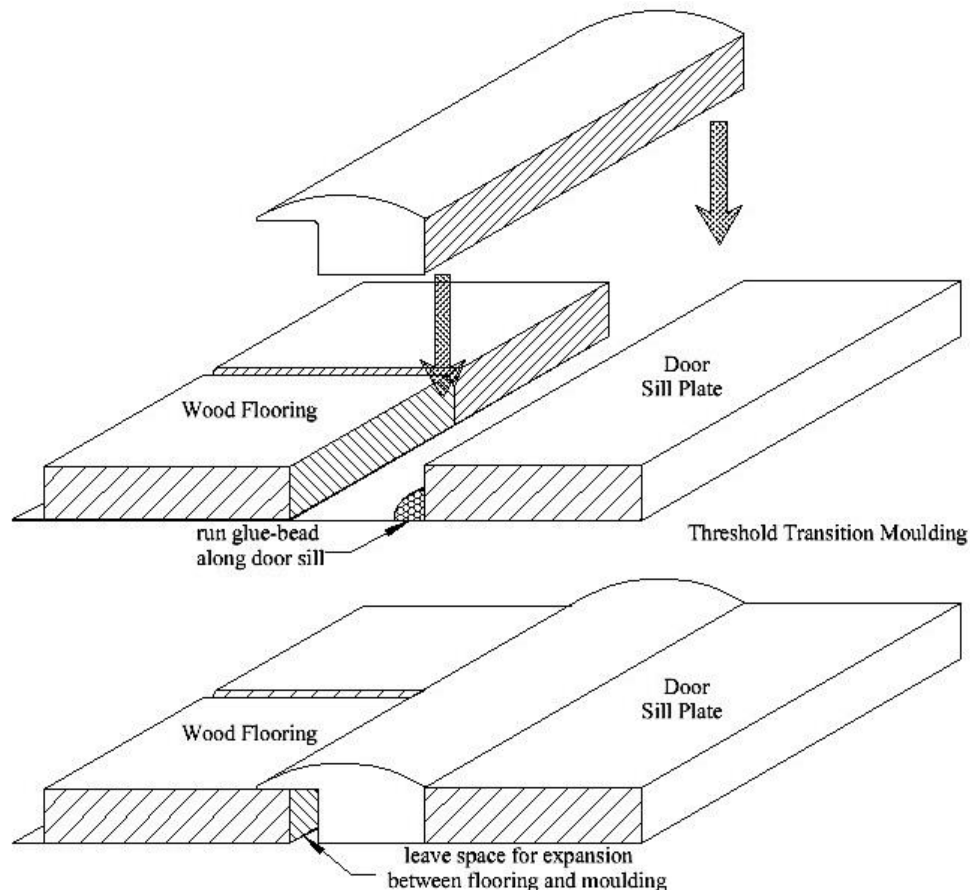
Glue Bead in space between two flooring types. Do not put glue bead on flooring. It must have freedom to expand.



T-Moulding Transition Moulding

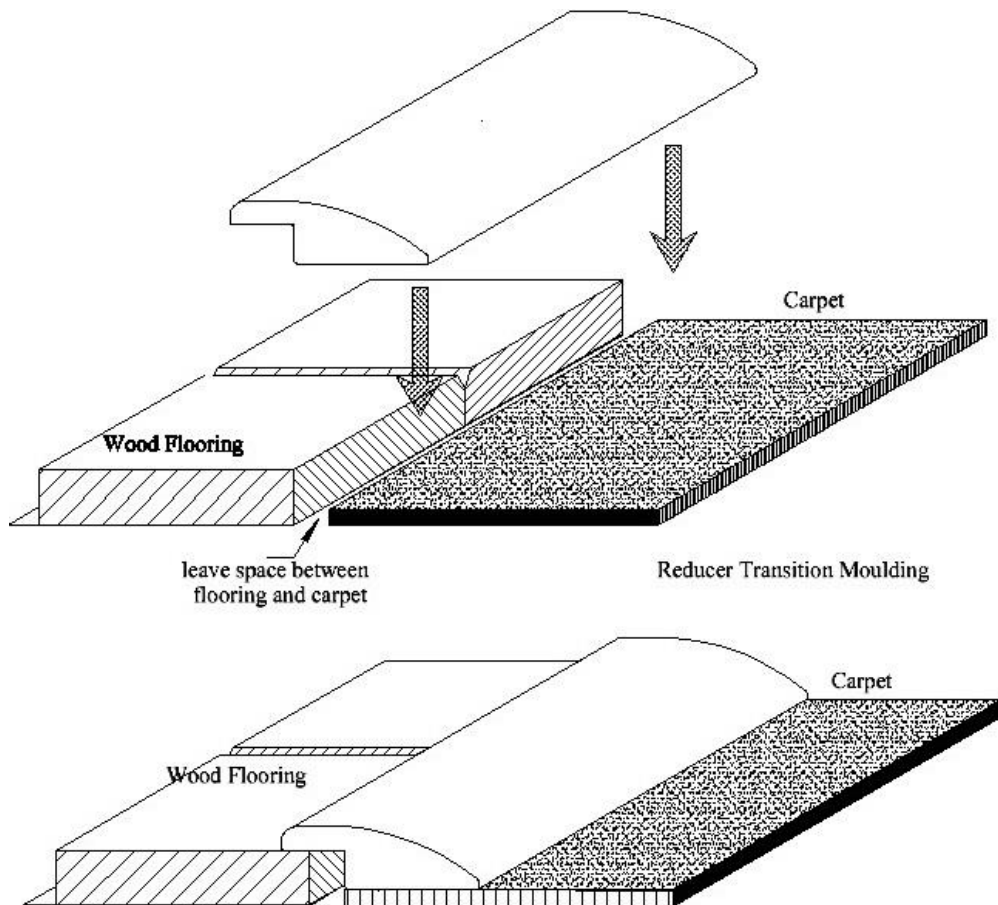
○ **Threshold Transition Moulding**

- Threshold mouldings are used to allow floor expansion at an exterior door.
- Wood flooring expands and shrinks with the seasons. Never butt new wood flooring against any existing flooring or any wall. The gap is designed to allow interference free expansion/contraction.
- Bring the new flooring up to but not touching the door sill.
- This gap can be approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the leg of the threshold moulding.
- Choose a moulding which allows the leg to sit securely on the floor while the overlap touches the surface of the flooring. If you cannot purchase the precise fit required, you can use a table saw to adjust to the thickness of the flooring being installed.
- Measure the distance you will require the moulding to cover.  
**HINT:** Always use a sharp saw and or saw blade when making any cuts.  
**HINT:** To insure you do not create any splinters or rip-out with any saw cuts, cover the saw line with a piece of blue painter's tape before trimming your moulding.  
**HINT:** Measure again to be sure of this measurement.
- Trim a piece of moulding to this exact length.
- Always "dry-fit" any moulding to determine if you have made the correct cut.
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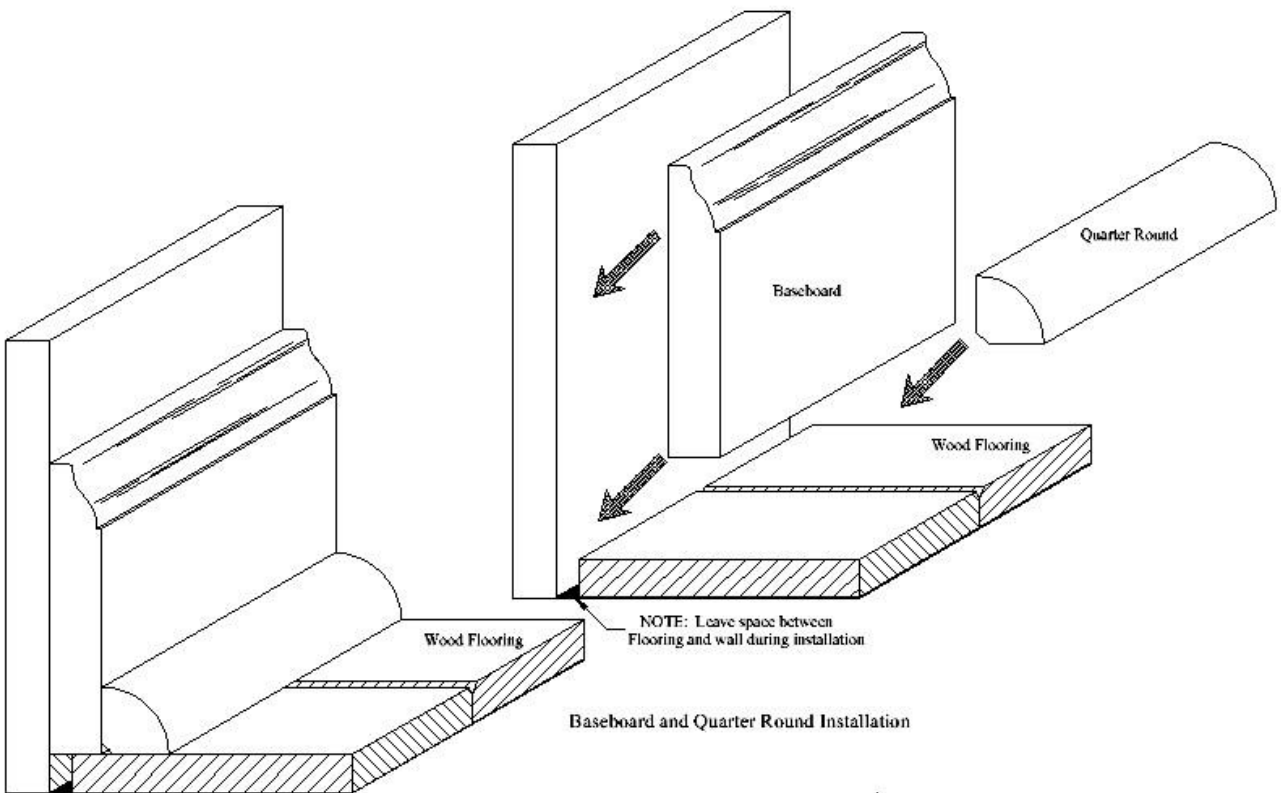
○ **Overlap Reducer Transition Moulding**

- Overlap reducer was primarily designed to allow a wood floor installation expand under the lip when the floor is abutted to a lower floorcovering.
- It is important that the depth of thickness of the floor very closely mates with the finished installation height of the moulding.
- The moulding should sit squarely on the lower floor covering and have minimum clearance under the tongue with the wood flooring.
- This is one case where it may be preferable to surface nail the moulding onto the carpet. This will give the most freedom for the flooring to expand.
- If you are reducing the wood flooring to tile, then the moulding can be glued directly to the tile.
- In either case the flooring must have room to expand.
- Bring the new flooring up to but not touching the adjacent flooring. This gap can be approximately 3/8".
- Measure the distance you will require the moulding to cover.
  - **HINT:** Always use a sharp saw and or saw blade when making any cuts.
  - **HINT:** To insure you do not create any splinters or rip-out with any saw cuts, cover the saw line with a piece of blue painter's tape before trimming your moulding.
  - **HINT:** Measure again to be sure of this measurement.
- Trim a piece of moulding to this exact length.
- Always "dry-fit" any moulding to determine if you have made the correct cut.
- Determine if you are gluing or nailing the moulding and proceed by following the instructions in the Installation Section of this guide.



○ **Baseboard and Quarter Round Mouldings**

- Baseboard moulding is primarily designed to cover any unevenness between the edge of the wood flooring installation and the wall. It also allows a wood floor installation freely expand/contract without interference of the wall.
- The baseboard moulding should sit squarely on the flooring but not inhibit its movement.
- This is one case where it may be preferable to surface nail the moulding into the wall rather than into the flooring. This will give the most freedom for the flooring to expand/contract.
- Bring the new flooring up to but not touching the adjacent wall. This gap can be approximately 3/8".
- Measure the distance you will require the moulding to cover.
  - **HINT:** Always use a sharp saw and or saw blade when making any cuts.
  - **HINT:** To insure you do not create any splinters or rip-out with any saw cuts, cover the saw line with a piece of blue painter's tape before trimming your moulding.
  - **HINT:** Measure again to be sure of this measurement.
- Trim a piece of moulding to this exact length.
- Always "dry-fit" any moulding to determine if you have made the correct cut.
- Determine if you are gluing or nailing the moulding and proceed by following the instructions in the Installation Section of this guide.







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- **Maintenance suggestions:**

- Hardwood mouldings are designed to be durable and have finishes which meet or exceed all Major Flooring Manufacturer's specifications.
- However, wood is a natural product and is susceptible to structural damage when handled in a negligent manner.
- Common sense guidelines would include:
  - Use of area rugs and runners in high traffic areas where damaging dirt and gravel may be tracked into the house.
  - Sweep and vacuum regularly to help limit the likelihood of damage from stray abrasive particles like sand.
  - Follow the flooring manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning products.
  - Limit the floor's exposure to water and harsh chemical cleaners.
  - Shoes with spikes or damaged heels can quickly damage an otherwise beautiful floor and mouldings.
  - When moving furniture, use the appropriate padding and coasters under all legs. Do not count on casters to provide all the protection for flooring.
  - When navigating room dividing mouldings, ease the furniture over the moulding or lift and move when possible.

Go ahead and get started and enjoy the serviceability and long lasting durability of your Penn Wood Products' Mouldings.