

HOW TO INSTALL BASESHOE or SHOE MOULDING

A **shoe moulding** is more important than most of us think. When there is a gap left between the walls and the floorboards, the gap can be well concealed with the help of shoe molding. Shoe Moulding ensures that all gaps between the wall and the floor panels are camouflaged. Moreover, these base or shoe moldings also protect the flooring and baseboard from being damaged while vacuuming. When installed they also give more detail and character to the base moulding by itself.

1. Ensure that your baseboard is in proper shape. If it needs a coat of paint, then now is the right time to do so. Paint it and ensure that all the screws are in place giving it a tight fit.
2. Measure the area where you need to fit in the shoe molding. Use a pencil to make markings. Ensure that you measure both the height as well as the length of the shoe board. Use a tape to measure it. Once the tape is marked, use the measurement to cut the shoe mold.
3. Cut the moulding. The easiest and best way to cut shoe molds is to place the tape on top of the shoe mold and then cut them as per measurement. Ensure while cutting, that the rough edges are smoothed out.
4. Ensuring the Corners are Fine. The most challenging part about installing a shoe mold is to do the corners. For this the best method is as follows. There are mainly two kinds of corners- Outside Corner and Inside corner. In case of an outside corner, ensure that you cut the shoe mold in an angle of 45 degrees and make the two strips meet at the corner. In case of an inside corner the method is slightly laborious. Place a strip of shoe mold on one side of the corner. On the other side place one with a 45 degree cut. The second strip should be slightly curved and it would slide over the first strip. Once both meet, cut the remaining with the help of a small saw. This will ensure that no gaps are left between these two strips.
5. Placing Long Strips. While covering long stretch of gap between the baseboard and the floor panels, one simply needs to cut long strips at a 45 degree angle and place them in that gap.
6. Adjusting the Moulding. Using the technique explained in step 3 and 4 start with one corner of the room and go through the entire stretch. You can either opt for plastic or wood shoe molds. Whichever you choose, they have to be nailed to ensure they stay in place. Ensure that you are not nailing the hollow area but the baseboard.
7. Paint or Stain the Shoe Mold according to your room's color scheme.