

How to Paint Baseboards and Molding

Here are some simple steps that will help make painting your baseboards easier.

Painting Tips & Tools

- Use a 2 to 2 ½ inch angle sash brush (depending on the size and type of trim).
 - For latex paint, use a good quality nylon or poly/nylon brush.
 - For alkyd paint, use a natural bristle brush.
- Start painting in the corner, then work your way around the room.
- Carefully paint in a straight line, making sure that your paint strokes follow the length of the baseboard rather than going up and down.
- Don't remove the painters tape until the paint is dry to the touch.
- We recommend using a sheen that is higher in gloss than what is on the walls, as this will showcase the molding, separating the walls from the trim. However, this is a personal choice.

Preparation

1. Protect the floor with a drop cloth.
2. Wipe the baseboard with a damp cloth to remove dust and dirt.
3. Protect the wall just above the baseboard with wide painter's tape.
4. Also place painter's tape around the doorway and top edge of the door.

For best results, *ALWAYS READ THE PAINT CAN LABEL*. Professionals read the paint can labels to get the paint manufacturers' most up-to-date information and instructions on the use of each specific paint. Every paint is different, and the labels provide important information, such as the average coverage area per gallon, drying times, number of coats needed, and surface preparation requirements. The labels also give specific safety information that should be carefully adhered to.