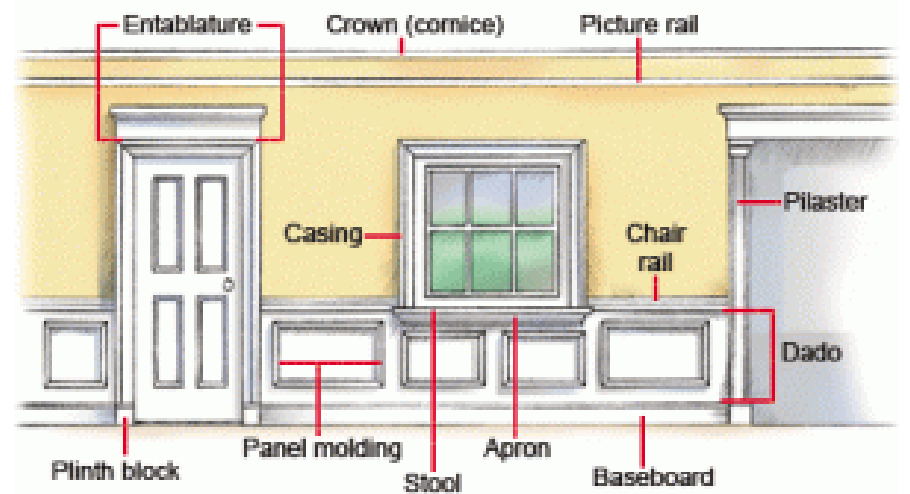


How to Choose Interior Trim

Interior trim is one of the most visible and important aesthetic elements of your home.

Without it, a room would only be four walls. Casings, crown moulding, baseboards, chair rails and wainscoting all add architectural details that absolutely define a room.

We offer the following guidelines to assist you in your trim selections and ordering process.



Interior Trim Timeline

Interior trim is installed towards the end of the homebuilding process. It is typically installed after the walls in a house have been textured and allowed to dry for 3 to 5 days. To maintain the quality and integrity of the millwork, it is not recommended that trim be delivered to a house until texturing is complete and the house is “dry”. Excessive moisture is absorbed by wood and causes it to expand, cup and bend.

Depending on your tastes and budget, you may need “special order” or “custom” products. These items have longer lead times than standard stock products – like a custom piece of furniture, some custom products can take up to 12 weeks to arrive. You should plan these lead times into your decision-making process and have your trim selections finalized several months before your builder anticipates needing them. A good rule of thumb is to have your interior trim ordered around the same time as your custom kitchen cabinets.

Here at Arrowhead Stairs & Trim we not only have a comprehensive showroom, but also sales people willing to spend time with you to make your selections. They will be happy to offer you assistance early on in the process to narrow your options and point you to exactly what you are looking for.

Planning Your Trim Selections

Knowing you need to allow yourself enough time for trim selection is part of the process. The other part is knowing what you need to select and what questions you should ask yourself. In general, for interior trim you are selecting four main categories of products:

1. **Interior Doors**
2. **Stair Parts**
3. **Mouldings**
4. **Other architectural millwork (such as mantels, wainscoting or columns)**

Below is a list of questions to ask yourself to help you narrow the myriad of choices that are available to you when it comes to interior trim:

Interior Doors

- What is my budget per door?
- Am I looking for a paint-grade door or a stain-grade door?
- What style door am I looking for?
- What type of hardware do I want?
- What finish am I looking for on the hardware?

Stair Parts

- What is my budget for the staircase?
- Am I looking for a stain-grade staircase, a paint-grade staircase or a mix?
- What species stair parts do I want?
- What style of staircase do I want?
- Post-to-post?
- Over-the-post?

- For an over-the-post system, do I have the space for a volute or turnout?
- What species treads do I want? How important is it to match a wood floor?

Moulding

- What size casings do I want and can I fit them in my house? (Your builder can help answer this question)
- Am I looking for stain-grade moulding or paint-grade?
- What style of casing am I looking for?
- Do I want to use crown moulding in my foyer, living room, dining room, etc.?
- What size crown moulding should I use?
- Do I want a chair rail for my dining room or other areas such as a foyer or stairway?
- What type of baseboard do I want to use?

Other Architectural Woodwork

- Do I need a wood mantel for my fireplace? What style mantel would I like?
- Do I want to accent a cased opening or room entry with columns?
- Do I want beadboard in a powder room, mudroom or basement?
- Do I want wainscoting in the dining room, foyer, stairway, etc.?

We hope, here at Arrowhead Stairs & Trim, that this publication gives you some guidance on making your trim purchases. Designing your new home is exciting, have fun with it! Please feel free to contact us directly if you have more questions.