

# What moulding should I use?



Two decisions: the **style**, which follows your home, and the **size**, which follows your ceiling height. The proportions below work well in most homes — guidelines, not rules.

## 1 · PICK A STYLE TO MATCH YOUR HOME

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>ORNATE</b><br><br>Layered profiles with curves, steps and detail. Often built up from two or three pieces.<br><br><b>Suits:</b> traditional, heritage, Victorian, French provincial, formal new builds with high ceilings.<br><br><b>Look for:</b> colonial and stepped casing, ogee crown, baseboard with a moulded cap. | <b>SIMPLE</b><br><br>Flat, square-edged boards with little or no profile. Clean shadow lines.<br><br><b>Suits:</b> modern, farmhouse, Craftsman, transitional, most renovations.<br><br><b>Look for:</b> flat stock casing, square baseboard, no crown or a simple cove. |
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## 2 · SIZE IT TO YOUR CEILING HEIGHT

| CEILING | BASEBOARD | CASING    | CROWN                      | FEELS LIKE                |
|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 ft    | 3½" – 5¼" | 2¼" – 3¼" | 3" – 4½"                   | Keeps the room open       |
| 9 ft    | 5¼" – 7"  | 3" – 3½"  | 4½" – 6"                   | The most common new build |
| 10 ft   | 6" – 8"   | 3½" – 4½" | 6" – 8"                    | Smaller looks lost        |
| 12 ft + | 8" – 10"+ | 4½" – 6"  | 8" – 12", usually built up | Stack two or three        |

## BASEBOARD VS. CASING — THE PROPORTION RULE

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Baseboard about 1½ to 2× the casing width.</b> The base should read heavier than the trim around the door — it grounds the room.</p> <p><b>Casing narrower than the baseboard.</b> If casing is wider, the baseboard has nothing to die into and the joint looks wrong.</p> <p><b>No crown? No problem.</b> Crown is optional — many modern homes leave the ceiling line clean.</p> <p><b>Crown should feel balanced with the baseboard.</b> Taller ceilings carry larger or built-up profiles, and going slightly larger looks more intentional than undersizing.</p> | <p><b>A 9 FT ROOM, DRAWN TO SCALE</b></p> <p><b>CROWN 5"</b></p> <p><b>CASING 3½"</b></p> <p><b>BASE 6"</b></p> |
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