

Crown Molding for a Sophisticated Ceiling

The use of crown molding can be traced to the Middle Ages, when elements of Roman and Greek architecture were adapted to disguise construction seams where ceilings and walls came together. In more recent years, its use denoted an older or more formal building.

Today, many homeowners are seeking construction that includes crown molding for the focal point it provides. This type of molding adds a sense of sophistication to

any room, and flares out the 90 degree angled corners to add dimension and make the ceiling and the entire room appear larger. Measuring and cutting it takes a bit of practice but the results are worth the time.



The do-it-yourselfer can install crown molding, but it is a technical process that needs to be undertaken carefully. The most important step is the one made before any molding piece is ever cut or installed and that step is done with paper and pencil. Measuring at least twice is recommended to avoid wasting the wood.



The room in which the molding is to be installed should be measured from corner to corner. Once a room is measured, extra material should be purchased because mistakes are to be expected when working with crown molding. Crown molding is somewhat more complicated than installing chair-rail or baseboard trim because it requires not one, but two mitered wood cuts, called compound miter cuts.

Since missed cuts with crown molding are common, you can reduce waste by practicing your compound cuts on scrap materials before moving up to the crown molding. Creating a template that shows the first cut can be useful in tracking where the next cut needs to be made. When cutting molding to fit an inner corner, one piece of molding sits flat, while the second piece is cut at a 45 degree angle. Once the second piece is cut, use a coping saw to reduce the bevel approximately five degrees. More detailed live-action instructions can be viewed on You-Tube or home-center websites.

Once the cutting is done, place the pieces in their proper positions to ensure proper fit. At this time, any necessary adjustments should be made. The corner pieces should be glued together and the remaining pieces of molding nailed to the wall with finishing nails. All molding should be stained or painted before installation.



Other crown molding options are now available including molding made from polyurethane, reinforced gypsum, fiberglass and even Styrofoam.