

Molding and Trim

Estimating Guidelines

Molding and trim are generally estimated by the lineal foot. However, they may sometimes be estimated based on board-foot calculations if large quantities are required. The time needed to install molding depends on several factors.

Following are some of the more important ones:

- Top-grade molding takes more time to install than paint-grade molding because joints must be fitted with great care. Molding that is applied low on the wall is easier to install than the same molding installed high on the wall, especially at heights greater than 8'.
- Installing wide crown molding takes more time than installing narrow crown molding. Narrow crown molding can often be nailed directly to the wall, but wide molding requires backing.
- Hardwood moldings are more difficult to install than softwood moldings because nail holes often must be pre-drilled.
- • The style of trim also has a bearing on the installation time. For example, installing door and window casing with miter joints is more time consuming than installing trim that is butt jointed.

Trim carpenters sometimes base their rates on a per-lineal-foot figure. They may also charge on a per-window, per-door, or per-room basis. In any case, measurements can be developed by studying the building plans. For example, a trim carpenter could review the floor plans to get a lineal-foot measurement for baseboard and ceiling molding. The carpenter could also check the interior elevation drawings or the window schedule to determine the lineal feet required for windows. Then he or she could review the finish schedule to find out exactly what types of woods and finishes have been specified.

Estimating on the Job

A living room has the following features: It measures 14' X 15'-6", has one 36" wide door and two 32" wide by 54" tall windows. How many lineal feet of baseboard and crown molding will be required? Add 10% to your figure to account for waste, and round the answer up to the nearest even number.