Simply follow these steps to fit the architrave...

The architrave - the timber moulding that hides the joint between the door frame and the wall - is made from three lengths of moulding, a top and two sides, joined with mitred corners.

1 Hold a length of architrave beside the door frame with the moulded edge facing the door and mark the internal height of the door frame plus 3mm. This is the position of the internal edge of the mitred corner. Cut the mitre at the marked point on the architrave, using a mitre saw or a mitre block and panel saw.

2 Nail the architrave in place to the door frame with panel pins, positioning it about 6mm out from the inside edge of the frame. Measure and fit the other two lengths of architrave in the same way.

3 Secure the mitred corners by nailing across them with a panel pin. To avoid hitting your fingers, hold pins with long-nosed pliers as you begin to drive them in.

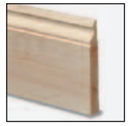
4 Tap the pin heads below the surface with a nail punch. Cover nail holes with filler. Fill gaps between the architrave and wall with decorators caulk.

Skirting, mouldings and architrave

Skirting is sold in a variety of heights, profiles and finishes, including chamfered, ogee, torus, bevelled and ovolo.

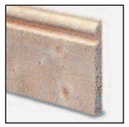
Chamfered skirting

Bevelled/ rounded reverse skirting



Ogee skirting

Ovolo skirting

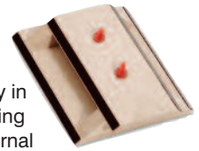


Torus skirting

Architrave
Used to hide the join between a door frame and the wall.

Ideal for the job

Skirting-board mitre tool



This guiding tool is fixed in a vice or workbench, and the skirting is held steady in it by thumbscrews. It can be used for cutting left- or right-hand mitres, and for both internal and external corners.

Profile gauge

A simple profile gauge will make numerous tasks easier - not just tracing skirting profiles, but laying tiles or flooring or anything that needs to be cut to fit an awkward shape.

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Project essentials:

Tools ✓

tape measure	☐	trestle	☐
pencil	☐	stud, pipe and cable detector	☐
skirting-board mitre tool	☐	power drill with 5mm countersink bit	☐
vice or workbench	☐	profile gauge	☐
nail punch	☐	coping saw	☐
bolster chisel	☐	panel saw	☐
hammer	☐	mitre block	☐
crowbar	☐	long-nosed pliers	☐

Materials ✓

new skirting	☐	masonry, oval wire or lost-head nails	☐
off-cuts of wood and hardboard	☐	wood or PVA adhesive	☐
architrave	☐	filler	☐
wood preservative	☐	decorator's caulk	☐
panel pins	☐	primer	☐
sandpaper	☐	undercoat and top coat paint or varnish	☐
60mm wallplugs and screws	☐		

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B&Q how to...

fit new skirting and architrave

project essentials on the back

Skirting covers the joint between the wall and the floor. It makes a decorative border while hiding the gaps needed for the natural expansion and contraction that takes place in a house.

Skirting suffers a lot of hard wear, but fortunately, replacing it is not complicated, and there is a range of profiles to choose from. You may want to restore skirting to a property whose original mouldings have been stripped out, or fit it on a newly built stud partition wall.

Before you start

- Coat the back of new skirting-board with wood preservative before fitting it.
- The type of fixing will depend on the construction of the wall and the previous fixings:

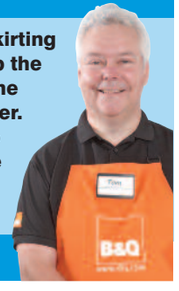
  Masonry walls: use masonry nails or screws

  Stud walls: use oval wire nails nailed into the studs (which can be located with a stud detector)

  Grounds (timber blocks): if the old skirting was attached to these common fixing points, then use them again. Mark their position on your new skirting and fix onto them using lost-head nails
- You could just glue it in place with wood adhesive, and on damp-proofed walls you will have to in order to avoid penetrating the damp-proofing with nails or screws. It may be necessary to use a combination of methods.
- For long lengths, you will need a trestle on which to rest one end of the board.

our top tip

- **Take care when prising away old skirting not to damage adjacent plaster. Tap the blade of a bolster chisel between the wall and the skirting using a hammer. Lever the top edge away enough to insert the blade of a crowbar. Place a thin piece of wood behind the crowbar to protect the wall.**

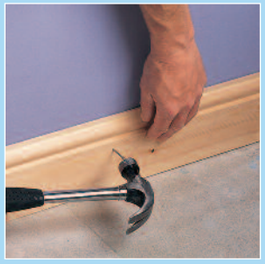


you can do it...

Simply follow these steps to fit your new skirting...

1 Start at the longest wall with internal corners. Measure the wall and mark the top edge of a length of skirting to show where it should be cut. Fit the skirting board mitre tool to a vice or workbench. Put the left-hand end of the skirting in the mitre tool and rest the other end on the trestle, making sure the trestle is level with the base of the mitre tool. Protect the board face with a piece of hardboard placed under the thumbscrews, then tighten the screws. Cut the mitre for the left-hand corner with the saw, then move the skirting and cut the right-hand corner.

2 If fixing the skirting with masonry nails or screws, fit them to existing points where possible; otherwise, fix them approximately every 600mm at the highest flat point on the skirting, checking first that there are no pipes or cables behind the fixing positions. If there are timber grounds, fix the skirting to them with lost-head nails. If using screws, drill pilot holes and insert plugs then screws. For stud walls, locate the studs using a stud detector and nail oval wire nails into them.



3 If gluing the skirting, apply adhesive evenly to the back. Press the piece in place and, if necessary, hold it in position with props made from off-cuts of wood until the adhesive has set.

4 Continue measuring, cutting and fixing skirting to one wall at a time. Turn the board the other way up in the skirting board mitre tool to cut mitres for external corners. To fix the skirting at external corners, use adhesive and then hammer two panel pins into the skirting each side of the corner for extra security.

5 When all the skirting is in place, sand the external corners and fill any gaps with filler. Sand them again when dry. Cover any nail or screw holes with filler.

6 Fill the gaps between the skirting and the wall with decorator's caulk. Leave to dry before applying primer, then undercoat and finally a top coat of paint. Or if you plan to varnish the new skirting, use an acrylic filler that matches the colour of your wood.

Cutting skirting profiles

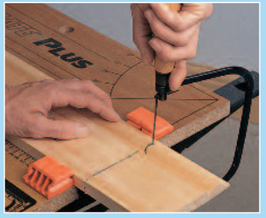
Instead of cutting mitres for corners, you can fit boards at internal corners by profile cutting. The first board is fitted right into the corner, then the end of the second board is cut to fit around the profile of the first.

1 Fit one skirting-board right into the corner, with the end butting up against the wall. Hold a profile gauge against this skirting to take a copy of its shape.

2 Measure and mark the next length of skirting to be fitted. Hold the profile gauge against the mark and draw round the shape with a pencil.

3 Alternatively, hold an off-cut of the skirting at 90° to the piece to be fitted and trace its profile with a pencil.

4 Cut along the pencil mark with a coping saw.



5 Check the fit - you may have to make small adjustments to get it absolutely right.