

# SMALL TRIM DETAILS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE





PHOTOS COURTESY KITCHEN KRAFT

Have you ever walked into a friend’s home and thought, “Wow, this is really fabulous decor?” The reason might be the use of trim mouldings.

You can have the most current paint colors, furniture, wallpaper and decorative silk pillows, but without trim moulding details, it is just a well-decorated room. If you want to give your home an edge, consider investing in trim moulding. Its details are used to help reflect personal style, conserve the architectural details of a home, protect corners from wear and tear and can take basic cabinetry to furniture status.

One reason to utilize trim moulding is to add personal style to a space. Many homeowners want to add their personal stamp to a newly acquired home.

With so many moulding and trim choices, this can be a simple and effective task. Contemporary style easily can be conveyed with very simple, tall and straight-edged baseboard moulding. Trim also can be utilized to change the feel of a room. Eight-foot ceilings

can visually feel like nine by utilizing a taller painted white crown moulding. Whatever style you are trying to convey, there is a moulding available.

**Tip:** Keep in mind that stock trims are typically more economical than special-order items. If a unique special-order trim moulding catches your eye, you can still use it, but be strategic with its location and use it sparingly if trying to cut costs.

The architectural integrity of a



home is often gained through simple trim details. The best example is a Victorian home in an older neighborhood. Many older communities with large Victorian homes weren't so popular 30 years ago, but now they are some of the most desirable real estate. Many of these homes have been stripped of original trims and accents, a casualty of being used as rental property during a time when they weren't so popular. But a Victorian can be brought back to life using rosette blocks and matching casing around windows and doorways. Decorative period crown moulding and baseboard adds the finishing touches to a home that had lost its luster. Nothing feels more out of place than a Victorian home with medium density fiberboard moldings

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added during a property's peak as a rental property, and the same can be said of a midcentury modern home with Victorian-style trim.

Trim also has a small but very important functional role in the home. For example, tongue-and-groove board (also known as bead-board) used on the walls of a mudroom or a bathroom provides a barrier against wear and tear. It also visually warms and dresses up these high-traffic areas.

The same can be said for wainscot moulding. If on a budget, consider purchasing readymade tongue-and-groove panels, or create wainscot with basic stock mouldings applied to the wall and then painted.

Baseboard is another example of a trim providing a barrier against damage. Scuffing up a baseboard is expected—drywall damage caused by a lack of baseboards is not an easy fix.

Trim mouldings also can be added to kitchen cabinetry, vanity cabinets and built-ins to create the look of furniture that fits within the style of the home.

**Tip:** Adding crown moulding to the cabinets that coordinates with other trim used throughout the home makes the cabinets fit within the style and feel of the space—a great trick when adding new cabinetry to an older home. Nothing feels more out of place than an overly contemporary kitchen in an older home.

Even if the homeowner wants a more modern space, the cabinetry can be incorporated by using a crown moulding with clean lines instead of a fussy crown moulding that may fit within the home but not the homeowner's tastes.

**Tip:** Cabinet trim also helps disguise level cabinets installed on uneven floors and walls. This is a typical scenario in many older homes that have settled over the years.

The cabinets need to be installed level, which leaves gaps where they meet uneven floors, walls and ceilings. A decorative trim such as shoe and baseboard moulding at the floor and crown moulding at the ceiling can hide this issue.

You may not have thought you noticed interior trim before, but I can guarantee you will now. Take note of the general feel of a room and the architectural details like trim that creates the sensation of being in the space.

You can use this experience to determine the trim details in your own home, whether you want to add some style, return the home to its architectural glory, protect your drywall from rowdy children, or just add some crown moulding to your kitchen cabinets—it's all in the small details.

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