

Choosing Skirting Board Dimensions

A practical guide to selecting height, thickness, length and quantity.

MADE IN THE UK | MR MDF SPECIALISTS | NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

Save this guide for reference during planning, fitting and decorating.

Choosing Your Skirting Board Dimensions

The right dimensions should suit the proportions of your room, match the surrounding architrave and remain practical to install.

1. Choose the height

- Lower boards create a simple, understated appearance and often suit modern rooms.
- Medium heights are the most versatile option for standard ceiling heights.
- Taller skirting creates more presence and often suits period properties, larger rooms and high ceilings.
- When matching existing skirting, measure both the total height and the height of the moulded profile.

CE SKIRTING RANGE

Common made-to-order heights span approximately 69mm to 219mm, depending on the selected product and profile. Always check the individual product page before ordering.

2. Choose the thickness

Thickness	Best suited to	Points to check
15mm	Slimmer contemporary installations or matching thinner existing mouldings.	May sit behind thicker architrave unless a deliberate step is planned.
18mm	A popular all-round choice for most residential projects.	Works well with many standard architrave dimensions.
25mm	A deeper, more substantial finish for tall or detailed profiles.	Check door openings, radiator pipes and furniture clearances.

3. Choose the length

- Longer boards reduce the number of joints and can create a cleaner finish.
- Shorter boards may be easier to carry through stairs, landings and tight access points.
- Measure your longest walls and plan cuts before ordering.
- Common length options include approximately 3050mm and 4200mm, depending on the product.

How to calculate quantity

- Measure every wall where skirting will be fitted.
- Include chimney breasts, alcoves, returns and bay windows.
- Add all wall measurements together.
- Add around 10% for cuts and waste; allow more for complex rooms.
- Convert the total into available board lengths and round up to full boards.

VIDEO & IMAGE EXPANSION

A future version can include a QR code linking to a short CE Skirting video showing how to measure a room, select height and thickness, and calculate board quantity. The same content can be reused on the product page, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.

Choosing Your Skirting Board Finish

Understand unprimed, primed and undercoated MDF before you order.

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Choosing the Right Finish

Your finish choice affects how much decorating work is needed after fitting. The final topcoat is normally applied on site so fixing holes, joints and cut ends can be completed neatly.

Finish	What you receive	Work required after fitting	Best for
Unprimed	Raw Moisture Resistant MDF.	Prime exposed surfaces and cut edges as required, sand, undercoat and apply topcoat.	Trade customers or decorators using a specific paint system.
Primed	A factory-applied primer that seals and prepares the surface.	Fill fixing holes and joints, prepare cut ends, lightly sand, then undercoat and topcoat as required.	Customers wanting to save preparation time while retaining control of the final finish.
Undercoated	Additional factory coating and preparation beyond the primer stage.	Fill and prepare installation marks, lightly sand where necessary and apply the final topcoat.	Faster installation programmes and minimal decorating work.

Important preparation points

- Seal freshly cut MDF ends before applying the final paint finish.
- Fill nail holes, screw holes and joints with a suitable filler.
- Lightly sand between coats where recommended.
- Remove dust before applying paint.
- Use a paint system suitable for interior woodwork and MDF.
- Do not treat a factory primer or undercoat as the final decorative topcoat unless specifically stated.

MOISTURE RESISTANT DOES NOT MEAN WATERPROOF

MR MDF copes better with normal indoor humidity than standard MDF, but must still be protected from standing water, persistent damp and outdoor exposure.

Which option should I choose?

- Choose unprimed when price and full control of the paint system are priorities.
- Choose primed for a strong balance between convenience and flexibility.
- Choose undercoated when reducing on-site preparation time is most important.

VIDEO & IMAGE EXPANSION

A future version can include a QR code linking to a short CE Skirting video showing the difference between unprimed, primed and undercoated boards. The same content can be reused on the product page, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.

MDF Skirting Board Fitting Guide

General guidance for measuring, cutting, joining, fixing and finishing.

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MDF Skirting Board Fitting Guide

General installation advice only. Check for pipes, cables and hidden services before drilling or nailing, and use suitable PPE and dust extraction when cutting MDF.

Tools and materials

- Tape measure, pencil, square and spirit level
- Mitre saw or suitable fine-tooth saw
- Grab adhesive suitable for the wall and MDF
- Brad nails, lost-head nails or screws and plugs where required
- Suitable filler, caulk, primer and paint
- Dust extraction, eye protection and respiratory protection

Before fitting

- Store boards flat, indoors and protected from moisture.
- Check dimensions, quantities and profiles before cutting.
- Ensure walls are clean, dry and structurally sound.
- Plan joints and use full-length boards on prominent walls where possible.
- Mark known cable and pipe routes.

Step-by-step fitting

Step	What to do
1. Start with the longest wall	Measure and cut the first board. Dry-fit before applying adhesive.
2. Internal corners	A scribed joint often gives a cleaner result on walls that are not square.
3. External corners	Cut mitres to suit the actual corner angle and test before fixing.
4. Apply adhesive	Use the pattern recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.
5. Add fixings if needed	Use pins, nails or countersunk screws, especially on uneven walls.
6. Complete joints	Use scarf joints where boards meet along a long wall.
7. Fill and caulk	Fill holes and joints; use flexible decorator's caulk at the top edge where appropriate.
8. Prepare and paint	Sand repairs, seal exposed MDF and apply finishing coats.

AVOID COMMON MISTAKES

Do not assume corners are exactly 90 degrees, fit over loose plaster, leave raw cut edges unsealed or fix into unknown wall areas without checking for hidden services.

Adhesive, nails or screws?

- Adhesive gives a clean appearance on secure, reasonably straight walls.

- Brad or lost-head nails provide immediate holding pressure.
- Screws and plugs provide stronger control on uneven walls but need more filling.
- Adhesive plus mechanical fixings is often the most reliable method.

VIDEO & IMAGE EXPANSION

A future version can include a QR code linking to a short CE Skirting video showing measuring, scribing, mitring and fixing MDF skirting. The same content can be reused on the product page, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.

Skirting Board Aftercare

Cleaning, maintenance, moisture protection, repairs and repainting.

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Skirting Board Aftercare

Correct cleaning and prompt repairs help preserve the paint finish and protect the MDF beneath it.

Routine cleaning

- Remove dust with a soft cloth, duster or vacuum brush attachment.
- Wipe marks with a lightly dampened cloth.
- Use a mild household cleaner only where necessary.
- Dry the surface after cleaning.
- Avoid abrasive pads, harsh chemicals and excessive water.

Protecting against moisture

- MR MDF is moisture resistant, not waterproof.
- Wipe up spills promptly and do not allow water to pool against the bottom edge.
- Maintain ventilation in kitchens, utility rooms and bathrooms.
- Repair damaged paint so bare MDF is not left exposed.
- Investigate persistent damp rather than painting over it.

Repairing everyday damage

Problem	Recommended action
Small scuff	Clean gently; lightly sand and touch in damaged paint.
Fixing hole	Fill, allow to dry, sand smooth, prime exposed MDF and repaint.
Small chip or dent	Remove loose material, fill, sand, prime and repaint.
Opening joint	Check for movement or moisture, refix if necessary, fill or caulk, then repaint.
Swollen MDF	Stop the moisture source. Severe swelling usually requires replacement.

Repainting MDF skirting

- Clean and degrease the surface.
- Lightly abrade glossy paint.
- Repair damage and fill imperfections.
- Prime exposed bare MDF.
- Apply compatible undercoat and topcoat products.

KEEP A RECORD

Save your order confirmation, selected profile, dimensions and paint colour. Keeping a short offcut can make future matching and repairs easier.

VIDEO & IMAGE EXPANSION

A future version can include a QR code linking to a short CE Skirting video showing cleaning, repairing a chip and touching in damaged paint. The same content can be reused on the product page, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.

Benefits of Moisture Resistant MDF

Why high-density MR MDF is an excellent material for painted skirting and interior mouldings.

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Why Choose Moisture Resistant MDF?

CE Skirting specialises in precision-machined internal mouldings made from high-density Moisture Resistant MDF.

What is MR MDF?

Moisture Resistant MDF is an engineered wood panel developed to perform more reliably than standard MDF in internal environments where humidity may fluctuate. It is not waterproof and is not intended for outdoor or continuously wet applications.

The main customer benefits

- Consistent material without knots, resin pockets or unpredictable grain.
- Smooth surface suited to painted finishes.
- High density supports crisp, accurately machined decorative profiles.
- Greater dimensional consistency than many natural softwood boards.
- Less preparation associated with sealing knots and correcting timber defects.
- A broad choice of heights, thicknesses and profiles from the same consistent material.
- Excellent value for painted residential and commercial interiors.

Where MR MDF works well

- Living rooms, bedrooms, halls and landings
- Home offices and dining rooms
- Kitchens and utility rooms when correctly sealed and protected
- Well-ventilated bathrooms outside direct splash and wet zones
- Retail, office and other internal commercial spaces

NOT ALL MDF IS THE SAME

Density, board quality and machining affect the result. CE Skirting uses high-density MR MDF because it produces cleaner profiles and a smoother surface. Performance also depends on correct storage, installation, sealing and decoration.

What MR MDF cannot do

- It is not suitable for external use.
- It should not be submerged or exposed to standing water.
- It will not overcome an existing damp or leak problem.
- Raw cut edges should not be left unsealed in moisture-prone areas.

VIDEO & IMAGE EXPANSION

A future version can include a QR code linking to a short CE Skirting video showing the machining quality of high-density MR MDF and sealing cut edges. The same content can be reused on the product page, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.

MDF vs Softwood vs Hardwood

A straightforward comparison to help customers choose the right skirting material.

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MDF vs Softwood vs Hardwood

The best material depends on whether you want a smooth painted finish or visible natural timber grain.

Feature	MR MDF	Softwood	Hardwood
Best visual finish	Smooth painted finish	Painted or budget natural finish	Premium visible timber grain
Consistency	Very consistent; no knots or grain variation	Natural variation, knots and resin may be present	Natural variation is often desirable
Stability	Generally stable in normal internal conditions	Can twist, bow, shrink or move	Often stable but still a natural material
Preparation for paint	Usually straightforward	May require knot sealing, filling and extra sanding	Painting hides the premium grain
Machined profiles	Clean, repeatable profiles	Quality can vary with grain and knots	Can machine well but costs more
Moisture	MR grade resists humidity better; not waterproof	Varies by species and treatment	Varies by species and finish
Typical value	Excellent for painted interiors	Can be economical; preparation adds time	Highest material cost
Best choice when	You want smooth, consistent, paint-ready mouldings	You want natural timber at lower cost	You want visible premium wood grain

MDF vs softwood

- MDF avoids knots, resin bleed and natural grain variation.
- Softwood is suitable when the timber will remain visible.
- For painted skirting, MDF often gives a more uniform finish with less preparation.
- MDF is less prone to unpredictable movement seen in some softwood boards.

MDF vs hardwood

- Hardwood is ideal when natural grain and colour are key design features.
- When skirting is painted, the visual benefit of hardwood is covered.
- High-density MDF usually provides better value for a smooth painted finish.
- MDF allows detailed profiles without the premium hardwood cost.

SIMPLE DECISION RULE

Choose MR MDF for a smooth painted finish, consistent profiles and strong value. Choose softwood or hardwood when visible natural grain is an important part of the design.

Why CE Skirting specialises in MDF

Specialising in MDF allows us to focus our machinery, profiles and finishing processes on one material system. Customers can choose from a wide range of made-to-order designs while receiving consistent dimensions and a surface designed for professional painting.

VIDEO & IMAGE EXPANSION

A future version can include a QR code linking to a short CE Skirting video showing a side-by-side comparison of painted MR MDF, softwood and clear-finished hardwood. The same content can be reused on the product page, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.