

# Cornice, Railing and Skirting

Installing ukhomeinteriors cornice, railing and skirting is considerably easier than with traditional materials. The polymer material is more lightweight than plaster or wood, is less prone to damage cuts more easily and creates less dust and mess. They install using adhesives and are pre-primed so they only need one coat of paint (or need no painting in the case of pre-finished skirting).

The tools you will need:

- Tape measure
- Fine sandpaper
- Caulking gun
- Pencil
- Finishing nails or screws
- Countersink drill bit and drill
- Decor Grip wall adhesive (or Decorgrip Plus in wet/moist areas)
- Decorgrip Plus jointing adhesive
- Saw or compound mitre saw
- Hammer
- Utility knife
- Sponge or cloth

## Adhesives:

We strongly recommend that you use our adhesives. They have been developed specifically for use with the range. Other bonding agents may not be chemically compatible with the product range and may provide inadequate adhesion or fusion.

**1. Prepare surface.** Our mouldings will adhere to most surfaces including sound plaster, concrete and most types of painted or unpainted wood and board. The surface should be relatively flat, clean, dry and free from grease, oil, dirt and loose particles. It is recommended that a plaster surface is sealed when using Decor Grip (other adhesives may differ), but not with a highly polished sealant.

**2. Prepare moulding.** To achieve best paint adhesion and the smoothest finish, lightly sand the surface and wipe down with mineral spirits.

**3. Mitering.** Mitre in the same way you would other materials. To avoid wastage it is recommended that you think your cuts through before actually cutting. Place the moulding in the mitre box with the pre-primed surface facing up. Generally the moulding should also be 'upside down'. Cut into the pre-primed surface and not as you pull back through it to avoid splintering.

**4. Gluing.** Apply a bead (1/16th" - 1/8th") of Decor Grip (or Decorgrip Plus in wet or humid areas) to the 'wall' and 'ceiling' surfaces of the moulding. Please note that Decor Grip is water based, so any plasterwork must be completely dry before you attach the cornice.

**5. General Instructions.** Always begin from an outside corner. With strongly patterned mouldings the pattern may not match where the installation finishes so, when starting, align the pattern to match at the outside corners as outside corners are more conspicuous than inside corners. Smaller cornices and railing and skirting should adhere well without any underpinning as the Decor Grip is a good contact adhesive. With the larger cornices it can be wise to underpin. To do this lightly mark the height of the cornice around your wall with a pencil and gently tap in pins to this measure at regular intervals. These will then support the cornice while the adhesive sets off, and can be removed once set (allow 24 hours). Some larger cornices may require nails or screws to be countersunk through the moulding into the wall / ceiling at both ends and at the centre of each length. Proceed to install around the wall, ensuring the moulding is tightly fitting and properly positioned, with any pattern mismatches occurring at inside corners (where applicable).

**6. Joints.** Apply a bead of Decorgrip Plus on one edge of the entire butt or mitre joint. Join the next prepared piece firmly by moving it from side to side with constant pressure to ensure maximum contact / adhesion. Avoid using excessive adhesive - if you need to remove excess allow it to dry for 2 hours and cut it out with a razor knife or chisel it out with with a wood chisel or sharp putty knife.

**7. Filling.** A decorators caulk is recommended for filling.

**8. Finishing.** These products are pre-primed. They are best finished with high quality flat satin or full gloss oil-based or latex paint. They can also be 'stained' or 'antiqued' (see our Get Creative section).

