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# HOW TO CHOOSE TRIM COLOUR

TRIM COLOURS CAN BE A STUMBLING BLOCK FOR DIYERS PUTTING TOGETHER A COLOUR SCHEME. THE OBJECTIVE IS CONTINUITY THROUGH THE HOUSE; IT'S AN EASY JOB ONCE YOU SEE YOUR THREE OPTIONS. HERE ARE THE FACTS OF LIFE.



## THE MODERN MINIMALIST

(below left) To be quite honest, you do not have to choose contrasting colours for skirting boards, architraves and doors. A very modern look is to go for simplicity. If you have the same neutral through the house, paint all those timber details in the same colour as the walls but in a high gloss finish. It looks a million dollars. If you have feature walls, paint the skirting and doors in the feature wall in the same feature colour. This is also the best option if your skirtings aren't very deep. Skirting boards are a practical item the builder has used to cover the gap between the wall and floor, so why highlight and draw the eye to them. Don't.

## THE SAVVY DECORATOR

(right) Choosing a darker colour is the more complex option. The darker trim gives a more formal look; it's a bit more dressy. Once again, have a look to see if the skirtings and door surrounds are worth highlighting. If so, away you go. The trick here is to put all the colour chips you are planning to use through the house on a piece of paper. Then your pleasant task is to find a trim colour that will work well with all those wall colours. Darker trim tends to look more dramatic, the effect more 'decorated', which is just as it should be because this option does require more colour planning.



## THE FRESH IS BEST SOLUTION

(left) White or very light trim always looks smart, crisp, fresh and clean. The lightness will always make the wall colour look good. This is a terrific trick to use if you are planning to use different wall colours through the house. You might have the hallway in one colour and it could go into an open plan area which is painted in another colour altogether. The same trim colour will make the transition easy. If you have different trim colours, the effect will not be harmonious, we promise. One of the worst decorating decisions is to change trim colour through the house.

### tip

The transition from different areas when they are painted in different colours is made more harmonious when the trim colour remains the same throughout.

## How to handle a cornice

*Always paint the cornice, the plaster that is on top of the join of the wall and ceiling, in either of two ways.*

**Paint the cornice in the ceiling colour:** the effect will be to make the ceiling lower.

**Paint the cornice the wall colour:** the effect will be to make the ceiling appear higher.

Resist the urge to highlight the cornice in a contrasting colour. It draws the eye up far too much and looks amateurish.