

## Estimated Cost for Base Molding and Install Charges

Also called base trim or base molding, baseboard is both attractive and functional. It can add a subtle but important final touch to a room's style while covering the gap between the flooring and wall. It also protects the wall's finish from vacuum cleaners, furniture scrapes and other bumps or kicks.

- Baseboards vary from a simple 1-inch-high round "shoe" molding to 6 inches high, with finishes ranging from plain to a sloped, grooved or rounded design. The taller and more elaborate the baseboard, the greater the cost.
- At **65-90 cents a linear foot**, wood composite (MDF) baseboards 2-4 inches high average **\$50-\$75 uninstalled** for 80 feet in a 20x20-foot living room or **\$325-\$450** for 500 feet in an average two-story home. Composite baseboards 5-6 inches high run **\$1.50-\$2 a linear foot**, making it about **\$120-\$160 uninstalled** for 80 feet and **\$750-\$1,000** for an average-sized home.
- Prices run **85 cents-\$150** for 3-4 inches high or **\$1.50-\$2.25** for 5-6 inches high for baseboards of inexpensive woods such as pine or poplar, which works out to about **\$70-\$180 uninstalled** for a living room, or **\$425-\$1,125** uninstalled for an average-sized home.
- It's about **\$2.80-\$7** or more a foot depending on height and style for baseboards of solid cherry, mahogany, walnut or other high-end wood, averaging **\$225-\$560** for a living room or **\$1,400-\$3,500** for an average-sized home.
- Costs are **\$1.80-\$8 a foot**, depending on style and height, for polyurethane baseboards that are impervious to moisture, won't rot or crack over time and can be painted just like wood; it's about **\$144-\$640** for a living room and **\$900-\$4,000** for an average-sized home.
- **Professional installation** starts around **\$1.50-\$2** a linear foot when included as part of a larger flooring or remodeling job, or **\$2-\$4** for a stand-alone trim installation--making it **\$120-\$320** for labor for a living room, or **\$750-\$2,000** for for an average-sized home. If an older house has uneven floors and corners or unusual obstacles, installers may charge materials plus labor at **\$45-\$65** an hour. A fairly straightforward installation job of 500 linear feet takes about 4-8 hours, or **\$180-\$520** or more for labor alone.

### Additional costs:

- Installers often charge **\$45-\$65 an hour** to remove old baseboard. If the original baseboard was not installed properly, it can be painstaking work to remove it without damaging the walls.
- For remodeling situations, moving furniture out of the way may cost extra.
- If doing it yourself, there's always some waste involved, so buy at least 10 percent more baseboard than needed.

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