

Frequently asked questions

Coving

Q. Why should I screw fix plaster cornice?

Secondary fixing is advised to ensure cornice will not cause damage in the unlikely event that a piece becomes detached as a result of structural movement or the like.

Q. It is impossible to match all cornice mitres.

Pattern match external angles. Try to match more visible internal angles. Other internal angles are not so important and can be mismatched.

Q. The Cove Mitre Box doesn't work.

When using the orange plastic cove mitre, ensure that the saw blade lies flat on the sloping side of the tool and follow the pictorial instructions carefully. With the cove box, make sure that the cove/cornice is placed, wall edge up, into the box. The piece of cove/cornice should sit in the box in the same way that it will bridge the ceiling/wall angle.

Q. I've measured the angle between the two fixing edges and it's not 90°

The reason why the angle is not 90° (it's actually about 105°) is to allow for the adhesive to squeeze up behind the cove thus giving additional adhesion to the substrate it's being fixed to, hopefully!!
If it were 90° then we would get even more adhesive falling out from the contact edges, not nice to get covered in adhesive especially if you are not confident in applying the cove in the first place.

Q. Why do I have to place the coving upside down in the mitre block ?

It is important to always cut the coving upside down, the reason being that when measuring around the room you can only be certain of obtaining a measurement off the wall. When this measurement is transferred to the cove and you were to place it in the mitre the right way up, then the marks on the cove would be on the bottom and you would not be able to see them when cutting. This also explains why any cuts made in the mitre where the waste falls away to the right are known as "Left handed cuts" and likewise any cuts where the waste is off to the left they are known as "Right handed cuts".

When measuring to an external edge always remember to add approx. 4mm. This takes into account the couple of millimetres for the adhesive on the piece that it meets.

Likewise when measuring to an internal edge then remember to take off a couple of millimetres for each corner (again for the adhesive on the piece that it meets).

Any short left over pieces can be utilised by cutting the four mitre cuts required (LH Internal, LH External, RH Internal & RH External). These are useful when lining up a piece being fitted where its adjoining piece is yet to be stuck.

It is sometimes easier to measure and cut all the pieces required for the room all at once so that when it comes to sticking it can all be done at the same time. Remember measure twice cut once!!

Instead of cutting straight butt joints try cutting an external – internal joint i.e. Left handed external and a right handed internal or Right handed external and a left handed internal. This joint can then be covered using a caulker and some adhesive (spreading adhesive completely over the joints aids in disguising the joint line. It will also help to line up the two cove pieces on uneven walls.

Always remember to use fine sand paper on all mitre cuts as it limits the amount of raised paper lines, which can make the job unsightly.

On external mitres only, spread a little adhesive along one of the exposed ends. This, when pushed together, allows the excess adhesive to be squeezed out, which can then be left for a short while before being shaped to make a better external finish (sharper and limits the amounts of shrinkage lines).

On internal corners there is no need to apply adhesive to the ends as Cove Joint and Gap filler / Decorators Caulk can be used to leave a smooth finish.

When cleaning off excess adhesive from the face be careful not to sponge to hard as the paper liner could easily be rubbed off.