


# How to Mix Wood and White Trim Like a Pro So It Actually Looks Good

By [SARAH LYON](#) | Published on 05/15/24



 Design by [InSite Builders & Remodeling](#) / Photo by [Nova Soul Imagery](#)

Mixing wood with white [trim](#) in the home can bring about a number of benefits.

"It creates a striking visual contrast that adds depth and interest to a space," says Mary Gordon, vice president at [InSite Builders & Remodeling](#). This contrast can also serve to draw attention to the architectural detailing within a space, she says.

Below, we're sharing tips from the pros regarding what to keep top of mind when mixing wood and white trim, questions to ask yourself before going all in, and more.

## 4 Factors to Consider When Mixing Wood and White Trim



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### Wood Tones

It's important to ensure that mixing wood and white trim looks intentional within a home, Gordon says.

"To achieve a cohesive appearance, it is important to create contrast and balance between wood elements and white trim," Gordon says. Gordon explains that understanding the undertones of the wood is therefore an important first step.

Warmer woods, she says, pair best with warm, creamy white trim, while cooler woods pair best with cool and crisp white trim.

"When the undertones of wood and white trim harmonize, it creates a visual unity," she says.

## Natural Lighting

Keep in mind the [natural lighting](#) in a given room will change throughout the course of a day, and you will want to take this into account when selecting your wood tones and white trim.

Sarah Snouffer, the founder of [Third Street Architecture](#), will always view stains and paint samples in the room she is designing before making her final decision.

"Stains and paints look a lot different from a sample card to actually being in the intended space," she says.

## Overall Space Style



Mixing wood and white trim is not reserved for one specific aesthetic; rather, the practice "allows for versatility in design choices, complementing a wide range of interior styles from rustic farmhouse to modern [minimalist](#)," Gordon adds.

Keep in mind that both white and wood tones offer something special; depending on your desired effect, you may wish to use more of one and less of the other.

"White tones help create a feeling of a clean, bright and airy feeling in a room, while wood textures add coziness and warmth to the space," says Carlos Nyce, an interior designer with [TriVista](#).

## Contrast

One piece of guidance is that [baseboards](#) and door trim do not have to match; taking this approach allows for contrast.

"We like to pair existing base trim, which is usually more decorative, with a simple square painted trim," Snouffer says. "This allows the original piece to shine."

That said, those who crave more consistency may wish to match their baseboards and [door trim](#), Gordon says, noting that generally both are painted the same shade of white.

Gordon also encourages individuals to feel free to use white trim and wood doors in a space.

"A wood door with white trim is a versatile and very popular look that supports a wide variety of design styles," Gordon says. "It works successfully when the undertones of the wood door and the undertones of the white trim coordinate harmoniously just as they should in any space that combines these materials."

Nyce agrees, echoing similar sentiments.

"Using white trim around natural wood doors will work sort of as a frame for the door, letting the door stand out as a feature," he says.

# Designer Tips for Mixing Wood and White Trim



Design by [Third Street Architecture](#) / Photo by [Christy Kosnic](#)

Designers offer additional insights to keep in mind when mixing wood and white trim, and one is that wood and white trim are seen as timeless.

"White trim and natural wood cedar shingles became emblematic of the architecture of seaside cottages and New England, evoking a sense of timeless elegance and seaside charm," says Joseph Carline, partner at [Kligerman Architecture & Design](#).

Another tip is to draw from your home's surroundings when working with wood. Carline notes that in his own work in New England, he draws upon native wood species reflective of the area, such as oak and ash.

# Questions to Ask When Designing With Wood and White Trim

- What are the undertones present in the wood I am considering?
- What does this wood look like in my space as light shifts throughout the day?
- What does this white paint look like in my space as light shifts throughout the day?
- What is the desired aesthetic effect I have for my space?

## FAQ

### **Is it ok to have white trim and wood doors?**

Yes, designers are proponents of pairing white trim with wood doors.

### **Do baseboards and door trim need to match?**

Baseboards and door trim do not need to match, designers say, but those who desire consistency may wish to opt for a matching look.

### **Should wood trim be darker or lighter than walls?**

This should be based on personal design preference and the desired effect within a room.