

Chapter 16 – Installing Skirtboards

Installing Skirtboards	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scrape wall surfaces behind the stair stringers and clean off any dirt or plaster on the 2x4 on either side of the outside stringers2. On both sides at the top of the stairway, cut a 1" wide notch in the subfloor overhang, flush with the header. Using a square, draw a 4" long plumb line on the wall aligned with the face of the header.3. On both sides at the bottom of the stairway, use a level to draw about an 8" plumb line 4" from the end of the stringer.4. On one side of the stairs, lay the 24" side of a framing square on the 2x4 next to the outside stringer. Make two marks 11½" up from the 2x4 about 3' apart at each end of the stairway. Repeat on the other side of the stairway.5. On one side of the stairs, place a 6' level on the two marks at the top of the stairway (from Step 4) and scribe a line across the two marks to a point that intersects the plumb line from Step 2 (this will be Point 1). Using the two marks at the bottom of the stairway (from Step 4), draw a line to a point that intersects the plumb line from Step 3 (this will be point 2). Repeat on the other side of the stairway.6. On one side of the stairs, measure from Point 1 to Point 2. Then, measure from Point 2 straight down to the floor. This measurement minus ¼" is the dimension to Point 3. Subtract another ¼" if there will be hard flooring at the bottom. If the DriCore is not yet installed, subtract another 3/4". Repeat on the other side of the stairway.7. Compare measurements from both sides of the stairway. If the measurements on each side are different by more than ¼", make the adjustments described in the Construction Manual.8. If the bottom of the skirtboard ends close to an outside corner or door opening, adjust the length as described in the Construction Manual.9. Locate the Skirtboard Template and if necessary, adjust angles to be cut at the top and bottom of the stairs with an adjustable bevel as described in the Construction Manual10. Mark the unfinished side of a skirtboard with the length along the top of the skirtboard and top and bottom angles using either the Skirtboard Template or the adjustable bevel angle, if necessary.11. Transfer the Point 2 to Point 3 measurement (from Step 6) to the bottom angled line from Step 10. Create a 90-degree corner with a pencil line at Point 3.12. Recheck all measurements then cut the first skirtboard with unfinished side up. Test fit on both sides of the stairway. After confirming proper fit, use the first skirtboard as a template to cut the second skirtboard. Confirm proper fit of second skirtboard.13. Stain both ends of each skirtboard14. Prior to placing the skirtboard in position, measure from the final Point 1 to the floor and mark the upper edge of the skirtboard at this dimension down from the peak. Drive a 2-1/2" finish nail into the end, leaving about ½" exposed. This will provide a "handle" to help lift the board into position.15. Place the skirtboard in position so both ends match with Points 1 and 2 (from Step 5). Hold the skirtboard off the basement floor using DriCore and/or ¼" x 3" x 5" shim depending on type of basement flooring to be installed.16. Nail the skirtboard to the wall with 2-1/2" collated finish nails. Putty the nail holes.17. Repeat steps 14-16 for the opposite skirtboard.
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Quality Points

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- Skirtboard is stained on both ends
- At the top of the stairs, Skirtboard is seated firmly into the notch in the floor
- Skirtboard covers any layout pencil lines on the wall
- Top and bottom skirtboard angles are parallel
- Proper spacing exists between bottom horizontal cut of skirtboard and basement floor (1/4" for unfinished floor, 1" if floor to be finished with DriCore)