Skirting and architrave *sizes* by ceiling height

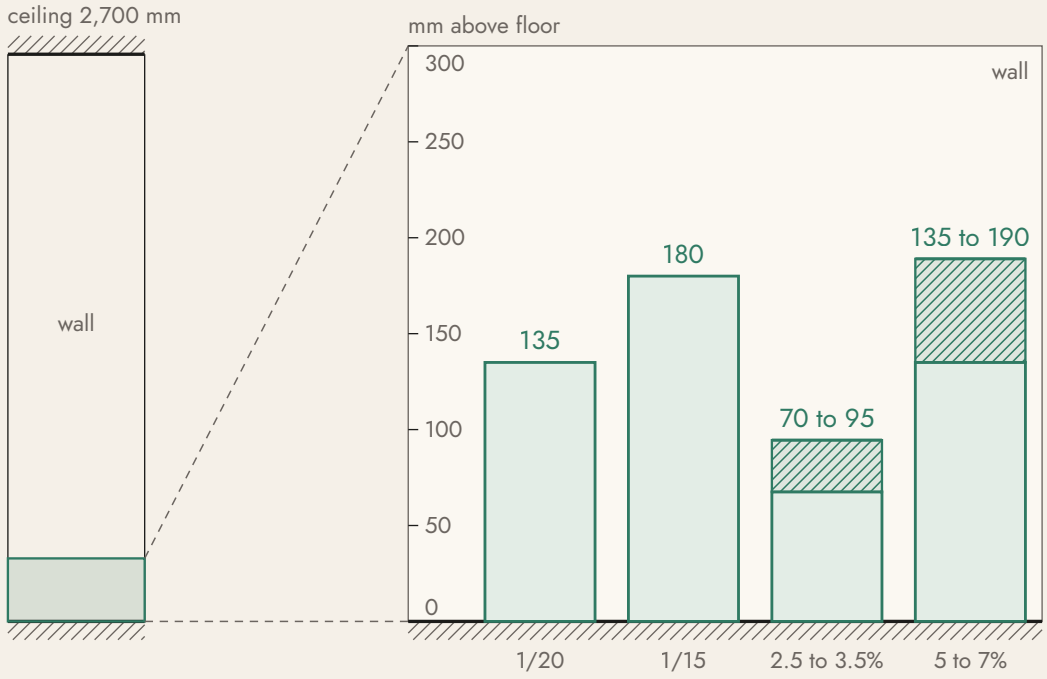
There is no standard for skirting or architrave size. This sheet works four common rules of thumb out for ceilings from 2.4 to 4.2 m, draws them to scale and shows how to fix a size by drawing.

AT A GLANCE

Ceiling	One twentieth	One fifteenth	2.5 to 3.5%	5 to 7%	Whole spread
2.4 m	120	160	60 to 85	120 to 170	60 to 170
2.7 m	135	180	70 to 95	135 to 190	70 to 190
3.0 m	150	200	75 to 105	150 to 210	75 to 210
3.6 m	180	240	90 to 125	180 to 250	90 to 250
4.2 m	210	280	105 to 145	210 to 295	105 to 295

Skirting height in millimetres from finished floor, worked out by us from each rule and rounded to 5 mm. These are conventions, not standards: they disagree, and none cites a primary source.

THE RULES DRAWN TO SCALE



Heights from finished floor in mm, for a 2,700 mm ceiling.
Hatched tops show the range each rule gives.

Our own working of the ratios, for a 2,700 mm ceiling. Conventions, not standards.

SKIRTING AND ARCHITRAVE TOGETHER

The sources conflict. One supplier says the skirting should be taller than the architrave is wide, but not dramatically; other guidance says the architrave is usually the thicker, or that a plinth block takes the skirting. Show the junction in elevation on the drawing, and mock up one room before production.

FIRE CLASSIFICATION IN ENGLAND

In England, Approved Document B leaves skirtings, architraves, cover moulds, picture rails and similar narrow members out of what counts as a wall lining for reaction to fire (Volume 1 paragraph 4.3; Volume 2 paragraph 6.3; 2019 edition incorporating the 2020, 2022, 2025 and 2026 amendments, as published on GOV.UK in November 2026). The wall behind them is still a lining, and the project fire strategy and building control decide. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own guidance, which this sheet does not cover.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

SKIRTING SCHEDULE LINE

Ref [S-01]: skirting, profile as detail [D-12] at 1:1, [150] mm high from finished floor level to the top of the skirting, [22] mm projection. Material [ ]. Finish [ ]. Scribed to the floor; floor finish thickness and gap to be confirmed on site. Height to be confirmed on a mock-up in [room] before production.

ARCHITRAVE SCHEDULE LINE

Ref [A-01]: architrave, profile as detail [D-13] at 1:1, [90 x 20] mm finished, with [plinth blocks / skirting butting to the architrave]. Reveal from lining [ ] mm. Head mitred. Finish [ ].

SIZES GOVERN

Sizes in this schedule are set by the designer and shown on the drawings. No proportion rule (such as a fraction of the ceiling height) is to be applied by the workshop in place of a drawn size.

TERMS USED

Skirting board
The board fixed along the foot of a wall that covers the junction of wall and floor and protects the wall.

Architrave
The moulding around a door or window opening that hides the joint between the wall and the timber lining.

Plinth block
A block at the foot of an architrave that the skirting butts to, so that the two do not have to meet at a mitre.

Finished floor level
The height of the completed floor surface, including any floor finish. Skirting heights are measured from it.

Finished size
The size of a piece after planing and sanding, as opposed to the nominal size it was sawn at.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document B Volumes 1 and 2 (England), 2019 edition with amendments to 2026: Volume 1 paragraph 4.3; Volume 2 paragraph 6.3. Read November 2026.
- BS 1186-3, wood trim and its fixing: named only; not read. No size rule is claimed from it.
- Wikipedia: Molding (decorative): definition of skirting (baseboard).
- Designing Buildings: Architrave: definition.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/skirting-and-architrave-heights. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.