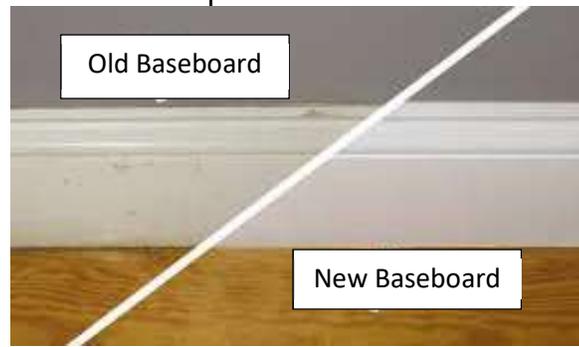


What You Need To Know About Baseboards

Baseboards are a key part of the flooring process. Once new flooring is installed, existing baseboards may not look good. If they are marred or scuffed, you can have them touched up, but they will not look as fresh and new as new baseboards. It is the overall look and feel of the entire space you need to consider. Our goal is to have good looking baseboards when the job is complete. We want them to look better than before.

New Baseboards:

1. Our recommendation is that you choose to replace your trim and baseboards because no matter how hard we try, or a painter tries, they may still look beat up. Nothing makes the floors look better than new trim as you can see in the photo below.



Choosing to Stay with Existing Baseboards:

1. Baseboards that are newer and in good condition just may need to be cleaned and that would be the customer's responsibility. Mineral spirits used with rubber gloves is best. But Mr. Clean Magic Erasers are known to be very helpful on the fly.
2. If the baseboard has nicks or gouges, it will require repair and repainting. We are happy to refer you to a painting company who does this type of work. Just know that even when filled with wood putty and touched up, they still won't look as good as new ones.

Removing Baseboard:

1. If you choose to stay with existing baseboards, they will not look as good when we are done than before we began just because of the removal and replacement process.
2. The first thing we do is to take a razor knife and cut the top of the base where it meets the wall, this allows the base to be removed from the wall while minimizing damage.



What You Need To Know About Baseboards

3. Our crews are very careful in removing baseboards, but damage can still happen to the walls. We will patch up walls if we cause any damage. If you have matching paint, we can do minor touch ups also.

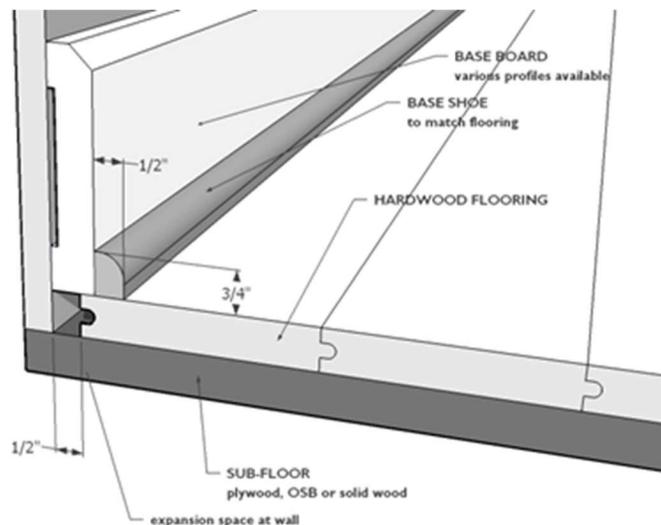


4. **Our standard procedure if we remove and replace baseboards** is to fill all nail holes, seams, and caulk the top edge meeting the wall with white caulk. If the baseboard are any other color than white, you will need to decide if you want it caulked. Caulk will shrink over time, so the nail holes will become visible once the caulk dries. Depending upon the condition of the base before we started. Most customers are completely satisfied with the outcome and may hire a painter to finish it off or paint it themselves.
5. **We do not repair or paint existing baseboard.** If your existing baseboards are painted, and you want to re-use them, you can hire a painter to come back in after we are done and repair and re-paint them. Currently we do not offer this repair and paint baseboard service in-house but we have a painter we can recommend to you. Just realize that when we finish the floors and leave the job, the base will not look as good as it did before because the new flooring will make the condition of the baseboards show up more predominately. You will be happiest once you address the baseboards.

Base Shoe:

Base Shoe is the best option to eliminating the problems with baseboard and new flooring. By using Base Shoe we do not disturb the existing baseboard at all especially if it is newer baseboard. It is just added to the bottom and provides a clean, finished look. Base Shoe is available to match most floors we sell. Base Shoe is normally $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall and $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, with a slight curve starting at the top. Some companies do not offer base shoe, but $\frac{1}{4}$ round instead. $\frac{1}{4}$ round is normally $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ ", or pie shaped and is more bulky looking. We recommend using unfinished base shoe and stain and finish it to match the floor instead of going to a $\frac{1}{4}$ round.

What You Need To Know About Baseboards



Example of a Base Shoe

Another Option:

Kentwood uses Base Cove instead of Base Shoe. In the picture below, $\frac{1}{4}$ round is pictured on top, Cove Base is on the left, and base shoe is the bottom right. Kentwood is the only company that likes to use Base Cove, and it can be a nice look. Normally we would not install Base Cove as painted, but sometimes we do underneath stair treads to cover a gap or just for decoration. Some Customers do not like the curves on any of these products, so we may use a square base shoe. This normally looks good with square baseboard and will sometimes satisfy those customers who are averse to base shoe. We can order this pre-primed, so it can be painted to blend in with the existing baseboard.





What You Need To Know About Baseboards

Potential Problem Areas to Be Aware of:

Where we run into problems is with customers who may have a hard time visualizing exactly what “not as good as it did before” will look like. You may agree with this in theory, but then might be upset when you see the finished product. This is especially true with baseboard that has been glued to the wall originally, such as most condos, and baseboard that is over 4 inches tall, and customers who have never hired a contractor or had work done in their house.

Some recommendations:

- We do not recommend baseboard over 4 inches tall ever to be removed. The larger the baseboard, the harder to make it look good afterwards and the harder it will be to lay flat on the floor. Taller base will not bend as much as lower, so there will be gaps under the base after re-install, this is unavoidable.
- The only way to fix this is to “scribe” the base, this is the process of cutting the bottom to flow with any irregularities. This takes a great amount of time and is not usually bid into the project. Again, base shoe is the best solution. One of the main purposes of base shoe is to cover the gap left by tall baseboards. Originally, especially in older homes, tall baseboard would be installed, then the floor would be installed up to them, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ ” gap, then the base shoe would be installed. Base shoe, being only $\frac{3}{4}$ ” tall, is very flexible, and allows the installer to push down the base and eliminate any gaps. So tall baseboards are designed to have base shoe, extra work will be required to use tall base without base shoe.