

Renovating on a budget? How to achieve matching doors, frames, and skirting boards without compromising

For a lot of people, renovation is a scary word because it calls to mind dodgy DIY mishaps, escalating costs, and having to scrimp and save to get the finish you want. Worse again, renovating on a budget can often mean having to settle for boring doors or frames and skirting until you can afford to upgrade.

But is it a Catch 22? Do you have to live on beans on toast for a couple of months to get that gorgeous finish you want or is there another way?

As it happens, there is.

The 4 steps to renovating on a budget

1. Figure out exactly what you need

Planning is a fail-safe for the cheap-skates out there. You'd be surprised how much money you can save by being savvy and actually totting up exactly what you need, instead of going gung-ho and guesstimating.

Tot up a list of what you need, right down to the measurements. How much MDF or timber do you need for your skirting boards? Are you painting the door and the skirting boards or just one or the other? Are you going for a gloss or matt finish?

Plan it all out and shop to that. Otherwise, you'll end up at the till with a new drill, some cheesy typography canvas art, and a potted cactus that *somehow* ended up in your basket.



Photo credit: <http://www.houzz.com.au/photos/30898774/surrey-house-contemporary-kitchen-london>

2. Shop around

Once you know what you need, the trick is to be clever and shop around. Check out hardware shops online and in-person, and be sure to include the cost of delivery. You might think you're going cheap by saving £4 on a paintbrush until you realise that you'll be spending an extra tenner on the shipping. Oo-er!

3. A lick of paint goes a long way

If your budget has no wiggle room, you'd be surprised how effective a new coat of paint is. You don't have to go full-scale Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen with florals and rich colours. With a reduced budget the easiest way to achieve matching skirting, doors, and frames is to slap on a layer of white paint.

You don't have to defer straight to white either. Done poorly, white can look cheap especially as scuffs and marks are very visible. You can try a different colour, like a light blue. If you're feeling brave, your door can even contrast as long as the frames and skirting match.

As long as you're willing to get stuck in, painting can be a cheap and effective way to get a matching set.



Photo credit: <http://www.houzz.com.au/photos/15939703/the-new-hampton-transitional-kitchen-other-metro>

4. Ditch timber altogether

MDF mouldings are the easiest way to match your skirting, doors, and frames without having to forfeit value or finish. If you're all-white with white (sorry, that pun was terrible), feel free to stick with good old-fashioned timber. But remember that moisture can lead to the warping or cupping of timber and in the not too distant future you might have to rip your skirting up and do it again.

Not very economical!

SAM Wrap profiles come in over 50 real wood veneer, paper or PVC finishes, so you'll have no trouble matching everything up—and all while not being restricted to the white paint that just about everyone goes with.

With SAM, renovating on a budget means a high-quality finish every time. Our mouldings come in a variety of finishes so you can get the matching skirting boards, frames, and doors you dreamed of—while saving a few bob.

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