Tile Trim

Trim is one of the most important details you’ll need to consider for your tile project. While trim can be tricky, it doesn’t have to be. Our comprehensive guide takes the guesswork out of trim to ensure all your bases are covered.

**WHY TRIM?**

- Trim gives your installation a clean, finished look by creating seamless transitions and hiding mud set and thin set.
- Trim is vital for wet environments to keep water from pooling in corners.
- Trim can reinforce stress points between the wall and floor by repelling water.
- Fireclay Tile is one of the only companies that offers fully customizable tile trim. Contact your Design Consultant or email hello@fireclaytile.com for details.
Due to the handmade nature of our trim, some variation both within one piece and from piece to piece is to be expected. Pieces may not be perfectly straight or flat. Glazes run when fired so the color on curved edges (Quarter Rounds, Bullnoses, Cove Bases, etc) may vary from flat pieces.
Trim Glossary (continued)

**FLAT LINER**
A thin, flat trim piece. Glazed edge(s) upon request.

*Uses:* Flat Liners can be used to frame statement tile and backsplashes. We can add a glazed edge to a Flat Liner upon request as an alternative to Bullnose or Quarter Rounds. Flat Liners with Glazed Edges are popular trim pieces for specialty shapes and tile patterns that aren’t straight set.

*Size(s):* 1x6

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**FINGER COVE**
Concavely curved Quarter Round trim piece that’s glazed on the inside.

*Uses:* Finger Coves are a good way to frame out the inside corner of an installation in a wet environment. It keeps the corner from retaining water inside the grout, such as in a shower floor or niche.

*Size(s):* 1x4 and 1x6

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**SQUARE CAP**
A tile with a rounded, concave edge.

*Uses:* The Square Cap wraps around an outside corner to create rounded edges for a finished look. It pairs well with a sink cap and can be used when tile transitions over a sink, window sill, or niche.

*Size(s):* 1½x6

*Other Available Piece(s):* Corner

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**COVE BASE**
A tile piece that has a concavely curved edge. A regular Cove Base has a flat top edge that allows you to add tile right above it. A Cove Base Round Top has a glazed, rounded top like a Surface Bullnose.

*Uses:* A Cove Base is often used to join wall tile to floor tile, especially in wet environments like the bathroom and shower. The concave edge keeps water from collecting in the grout. Commercial projects are required to have Cove Bases so water isn’t retained in the grout. However, it’s recommended for residential applications as well.

*Size(s):* 4x4, 4x6, and 6x6

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**SANITARY COVE BASE**
A tile piece that has a concavely curved edge and a tapered bullnose base that sits flush with the floor.

*Uses:* A Sanitary Cove Base is often used to join wall tile to non-tile floors, especially in wet environments like the bathroom and shower. The concave edge keeps water from collecting in the grout. Commercial projects are often required to have Sanitary Cove Bases so water isn’t retained in the grout. However, it can be used in residential applications as well.

*Size(s):* 4x4, 4x6, and 6x6

*Other available pieces:* Inside and Outside Corner

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Trim Glossary (continued)

**V CAP**
A V-Shaped edge to use in tandem with Outside Cove Base

**COVE BASE OUTSIDE CORNER**
A thin, convex corner piece that’s glazed on the outside.

**Uses:** This trim piece is paired with Cove Base Outside Corners. V Caps match the angled edge of Cove Base Outside Corners for a cohesive appearance from the floor up a wall to finish a vertical corner. This trim piece is a tile-to-tile transition.

**Size(s):** 4”, 6”

**COVE BASE INSIDE CORNER**
A thin, concave corner piece with a beaked tip that’s glazed on the inside.

**Uses:** When two Cove Bases intersect at an inside a corner, you’ll need a Cove Base Inside Corner to create a junction and keep water from being retained in the grout. Do not use a Cove Base Inside Corner to continue up a wall vertically. This piece does not match up with the Finger Cove.

**Size(s):** 4” and 6”

**Other available pieces:** Sanitary Inside Cove Corner
Trim Glossary (continued)

RADIUS BULLNOSE
A trim piece with a rounded edge that extends further down than a Surface Bullnose.

Uses: If your installation needs to round an outside corner around a wall, a countertop, or when it meets a window, a Radius Bullnose can be used to create a soft edge. It also keeps water from pooling, especially in wet environments like bathrooms or behind the sink.

Size(s): 2½x6, 4x4, 6x6
Available Piece(s): Corner, Stop-Ends

DOUBLE RADIUS BULLNOSE
A Radius Bullnose with two curved edges.

Uses: A Double Radius Bullnose has two rounded edges that extend on either side to cap off shower curbs and other situations where the installation might jut outwards. NOTE: If you opt for Double Radius Bullnose trim, do not begin building your shower curb until you’ve received your trim to ensure a proper fit.

Size(s): 2½x6
Other Available Piece(s): Stop-Ends

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Architectural Molding

Decorative trim pieces inspired by classic architecture. Our exclusive collection of Architectural Moldings features decorative trim that enhances traditional spaces. You’ll often find our Architectural Moldings bordering off tile wainscoting or lining the top of a tile installation where the wall and ceiling meet. Reference our Architectural Molding Resource or contact a Design Consultant for more information.

Other Available Pieces: Stop-Ends, Glazed Edges

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**SHOWER NICHE TRIM**

Tiled shower niches have the dual function of incorporating storage into your shower without taking up space. It’s also an opportunity to add an extra pop of color or pattern.

For shower niches, it’ll be useful to order longer tile trim to reduce grout lines on surfaces where soap and shampoo might rest. It’ll also make your niche easier to clean.

Quarter Rounds will offer the most classic look, while Glazed Edge pieces are best for contemporary and modern styles.
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Trim Use Cases (continued)

**PONY WALL TRIM**

Pony walls are used as a shower or toilet partition and can offer additional privacy. They also offer a unique architectural detail in your bathroom. Tiling your pony wall with the same tile as your shower creates a seamless transition between spaces.

When tiling a pony wall, you’ll essentially need three types of trim: (1) a Right Corner, (3) a Left Corner, and (2) an Edge piece. See illustrations for reference.

A Quarter Round will achieve the most traditional look, while a Glazed Edge will be the most modern. Keep in mind that specialty shapes do not come in Glazed Edge options. Your Design Consultant can provide you with a visual rendering to find the trim that best suits your style.

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**Quarter Round with Beak**
Beak (1) and Quarter Round (2)

**Bullnose**
Long Edge (1), Left Corner (2), and Right Corner (3)

**Glazed Edge**
Right Corner (1), Left Corner (2), and Long Edge (3)

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FLOOR TRIM

Cove Base Trim can elevate the look of your floor tile. While not a necessity, Cove Bases can add a finished and refined look to your space depending on your aesthetic. Cove Bases also make corners more stable and easier to clean since you won’t have a grout line at a 90-degree angle.

If your floor tile transitions into wall tile, you’ll want to choose Cove Bases with Straight Tops to connect the two planes. If your floor tile won’t transition into wall tile, you should opt for Cove Bases with Bull-Nosed tops for a finished look.

If you opt for Cove Bases, they’ll likely meet at an inside or outside corner. Miter cutting Cove Bases can be tricky, so Cove Base Inside and Outside Corners offer easy solutions for your installer.

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Cove Base
Inside Corner (1), Cove Base (2), Outside Corner (3)

Cove Base, V Cap, and Glazed Edge
Cove Base Inside Corner (1), Cove Base (2), Cove Base Outside Corner (3), V Cap (4), Glazed Edge Left Corner (5), Glazed Long Edge (6), Glazed Edge Right Corner (7)

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Trimm Use Cases (continued)

**FLOOR TRIM**

Sanitary Cove Base Trim takes your floor trim to the next level with a tapered bullnose base that sits on top of the flooring material. This trim piece typically serves as a tile to non-tile transition. Not only does Sanitary Cove Base offer a clean design aesthetic, but it will also make your space easier to clean by creating a smaller seam between your wall and floor.

This can be especially important in a commercial setting where sanitation directly impacts the health, safety, and satisfaction of your customers and staff.
WINDOW SILL TRIM

A thoughtful detail that ties your space together, tiled window sills can set your kitchen or bathroom installation apart. If your window sill is deep enough for setting soaps, plants, or accents, tile trim also offers a waterproof and easy-to-clean surface.

Similar to a shower niche, window sills will typically require Bullnose, Quarter Round, or Glazed Edge Tile. The longer the trim, the less grout lines you’ll have around the window.

If you have a particularly deep window sill, you’ll also want to consider a wider trim piece to reduce grout lines. Your Design Consultant can help you determine which trim size is right for you.
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**Trim Use Cases (continued)**

**FIREPLACE – FIREBOX TRIM**

Fireplace tile is a beautiful way to highlight the architectural focal point of your space. When tiling your fireplace surround, you’ll want firebox trim for a polished and professional look.

If your fireplace surround has field tile in a straight set or offset pattern, Glazed Edge trim should be a sufficient solution.

For specialty shapes and patterns like herringbone, Flat Liners with Glazed Edges offer a modern finish, while Bullnoses match well with transitional and traditional styles. For a classic look, consider Quarter Rounds or Round Liners.

**Bullnose**

Long Edge

**Flat Liner**

Long Edge with 45 degree miter to be cut by installer.

**Glazed Edge**

Long Edge (1) and Short Edge (2)
Trim Use Cases (continued)

**FIREPLACE – HEARTH TRIM**

Whether it matches your fireplace surround or you want to update it on its own, tiling your hearth can lend your fireplace extra character.

If you’re thinking about adding tile to your hearth, you’ll only need tile trim if it’s on top of or above the floor. If your hearth is flush with the floor, you won’t need trim since the floor’s edge will cover the tile’s exposed edges.

When designing your hearth trim, you’ll need to specify the types of edges you need for your hearth, as well as the amount. Your Design Consultant can help you calculate how much you’ll need. See diagram for examples.

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**Bullnose**
You can specify which edge you want bullnosed: Long Edge (1), Right Corner (2), or Short Edge (3)

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**Quarter Round**
45 degree miter to be cut by installer.

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**Glazed Edge**
You can specify which edge you want glazed: Long Edge (1), Right Corner (2), or Short Edge (3)

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**Trim Use Cases (continued)**

**FIREPLACE – RETURN**

If your fireplace protrudes out of the wall, tiling the “buildout”, or the plane that projects from the wall, can lend visual continuity to your space. This tile will typically match the tile you choose for your fireplace surround.

Since your tile will be turning an outside corner, you’ll need return trim. For field tile in a straight set or offset pattern, Glazed Edges should be sufficient. If using Brick, we also offer Brick Standard Corner trim.

For specialty shapes, you can use Flat Liners with Glazed Edges or Round Liners. Your Design Consultant can help you determine which style is best for you.
Trim Use Cases (continued)

**ARCHES + CURVED NICHEs**

Need trim for an archway or curved niche? We’ve got you covered! Round liners, Surface Bullnose, and Glazed Edges are a few of the most common trim types for arches and curved niches. Trim can also help define a space, or reinforce a particular style or era. Use Round Liners and Surface Bullnose to create a soft edge, and a Glazed Edge for a more angular look.

Typically, the more angled the curve of the arch, the smaller the tile will need to be. If you aren’t sure what size is best for the needs of your project, check in with your Design Consultant.

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**Round Liner**

These pieces may need to be cut to fit the curve.

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**Surface Bullnose**

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**Glazed Edge**

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### This vs. That

#### Quarter Round vs. Radius Bullnose

Both Radius Bullnose and Quarter Round trims create smooth transitions when your tile installation wraps around a wall corner. The difference is mainly aesthetic. If you want to keep the color consistent throughout your installation, a Radius Bullnose may be your best option. However, if you want a tile border in a contrasting color (perhaps to frame a niche or window sill), a Quarter Round can create a polished, curved contour.

#### Quarter Round Beak vs. Quarter Round with Miter

If your Quarter Round Trim joins at a 90-degree angle, you’ll need to piece the two together with either a Quarter Round Beak or a miter cut. The advantage of a Quarter Round Beak is that it offers a polished, customized transition between two intersecting Quarter Rounds. Alternatively, your installer can connect Quarter Rounds by cutting the edges into angles so that they meet, i.e., a miter cut. This will still create a flush, 90-degree angle. However, the result may be less polished than the look a Quarter Round Beak can offer.

#### Surface Bullnose vs. Glazed Edge

Surface Bullnose and Glazed Edge trims are both used to hide exposed mud set or thin set once an installation transitions into drywall. A Surface Bullnose gives you a subtly curved edge for a classic look. For modern spaces, a Glazed Edge offers a sleek alternative. Whichever one you choose, be sure to specify with your Design Consultant which edges need to be Bullnose or Glazed.

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### Flat Liners, Round Liners, and Architectural Moldings

Flat Liners, Round Liners, and Architectural Moldings are all transition pieces in instances where a tile installation will change from one field of color or pattern to another. The difference among these pieces is simply aesthetic. Flat Liners will lie flat against the wall and offer a contemporary look, while Round Liners and Architectural Moldings protrude further out, adding classic detailing to more traditional spaces.

#### Cove Base vs. Tile-to-Tile

Commercial kitchens and commercial bathrooms associated with kitchens or food prep are required to have Cove Bases*. Although you’ll often find residential installations with simple Tile-to-Tile transitions, these areas can be more vulnerable to water and dirt in the long run. However, Tile-to-Tile transitions achieve a more modern look that some might prefer.

*Cove Bases make for stronger installations.

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### Talk to the Experts

Still have questions? We’ve got answers. Whether you’d like to learn more about styles, sizes, pricing, or all of the above, our in-house tile experts are here to help you every step of the way. Contact your Design Consultant or email hello@fireclaytile.com for complimentary design assistance.