



# Repairing skirting boards

Heritage construction skills



## REPAIRING SKIRTING BOARDS

In this case study, Darryl Evans (Heritage Carpenter and Joiner) describes how he repairs and replicates skirting boards at the Port Arthur Historic Site.

### Context

Darryl is carrying out scheduled conservation work (including skirting board repairs) on the entry portico of the Commandant's House.



*Darryl at the Commandant's House*



### Challenges

There are two main challenges associated with replicating skirting:

- It can be difficult to source large replacement boards
- It can be difficult to match the moulding on original skirting boards, especially the crown mould section.



*Matching moulding at the Commandant's House*

### Solutions

The following 'trick of the trade' is a handy way to match the moulding on a section of original skirting:

- Use a profile jig (also known as a contour gauge duplicator) to capture the profile of the skirting board, trace the profile onto a piece of paper and take it to a specialist joiner to replicate
- The Port Arthur Historic Site's Works Depot has machinery that allows Darryl (a specialist joiner) to replicate skirting on-site.

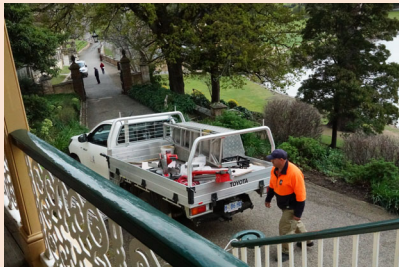


*Replicating skirting at the Works Depot*

# REPAIRING SKIRTING BOARDS

## Step 1 - Planning and preparing

- Identify scope of repair
- Photograph damaged skirting for future reference
- Obtain historical data, including materials used in previous repairs
- Capture the profile of the existing skirting
- Identify the original method of fixing
- Select appropriate materials for the repair work
- Select appropriate tools and equipment for the repair work
- Cover nearby surfaces with appropriate protections (*if required*).



*Preparing for repairs at the Commandant's House*



*Photographing damaged skirting for future reference*



## Step 2 - Repairing skirting

- Carefully remove damaged skirting using appropriate tools
- Check condition of timber or blockwork behind skirting and determine if additional repairs are necessary
- Repair damaged skirting using appropriate methods
- Use shellac to seal the end grain of the repaired skirting before reattaching (to reduce the potential advancement of fungal decay).



*Removing damaged skirting*



*Checking condition of timber behind skirting*



*Inspecting and repairing damaged skirting*

## REPAIRING SKIRTING BOARDS

### Step 3 - Fixing and finishing

- Carefully attach repaired skirting using original method of fixing
- Ensure joints are fixed flush and true
- Touch up nail holes and sand back in preparation for painting
- Photograph repaired skirting for future reference
- Record material details for future reference
- Carefully remove cover protections from nearby surfaces (*if used*).



*Finishing off at the Commandant's House*

### Result

- All lines should match up
- All joints should be fixed flush and true
- All fixings should be covered to prevent moisture getting in.



*Conservation work at the Commandant's House*

*"I like to make sure all the lines are spot on"*  
Darryl Evans (Heritage Carpenter and Joiner)

### Background

This case study supports the development of heritage trade skills in Tasmania. It is part of a broader set of support materials that have been developed by Keystone Tasmania.

### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Marty Passingham, Darryl Evans and the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA).

### Want to learn this heritage trade skill?

If you are interested in learning how to repair skirting boards, contact Keystone Tasmania to register your interest in a training course.

❖ 03 6223 7804

❖ email@keystone.com.au

❖ www.keystone.com.au