

Trim (sewing)

Trim or trimming in clothing and home decorating is applied ornament, such as gimp, passementerie, ribbon, ruffles, or, as a verb, to apply such ornament.

Before the industrial revolution, all trim was made and applied by hand, thus making heavily trimmed furnishings and garments expensive and high-status. Machine-woven trims and sewing machines put these dense trimmings within the reach of even modest dressmakers and home sewers, and an abundance of trimming is a characteristic of mid-Victorian fashion[1] As a predictable reaction, high fashion came to emphasize exquisiteness of cut and construction over denseness of trimming, and applied trim became a signifier of mass-produced clothing by the 1930s[2]. The iconic braid and gold button trim of the Chanel suit are a notable survival of trim in high fashion.



Elaborately trimmed fashions for April 1861 from Godey's Lady's Book.

In home decorating, the 1980s and 1990s saw a fashion for dense, elaborately layered trimmings on upholstered furniture and drapery.

Today, most trimmings are commercially manufactured. Scalamandré is known for elaborate trim for home furnishings, and Wrights is a leading manufacturer of trim for home sewing and crafts.

Types of trimming include:

- Bias tape
- Braid
- Buttons
- Cord
- Embroidery by hand or machine
- Gimp
- Lace edgings or insertions
- Passementerie
- Piping
- Ribbon
- Rick-rack
- Ruffles or frills
- Tassels