

How to Install Wallpaper

Surface Preparation

Before you start

- Remove all switch and outlet plates.
- The wall surface should be clean and dry, structurally sound and free of grease, mildew or other stains.
- Correct wall irregularities using drywall compound, spackling or other materials for repairing walls.

Wall Surface Preparation

Prime wall with a primer. One of the most important steps in a wallpaper project is insuring the wall is prepared properly.

New Drywall - Apply a premium quality opaque/white wallpaper primer.

Painted Walls - To check for poor quality latex paint, cut an "x" in the wall & apply clear tape over it. Remove the tape quickly, if there is paint on the tape, you need to prime with a primer.

Hanging over Grooved Paneling -

Prime with an adhesion promoting primer. Check the groove stain in particular. Grooves may be filled with drywall compound and sanded smooth. Follow with a stain blocker, as white lines can show through new wallpaper.

Where to Start...

Determine the start and end points, including the area of the mismatch. Choose an area for the mismatch where it will be least noticed - never a focal point. Often, it is placed behind a door or near a corner.



Making a Plumb Line

It's a fact - most walls and ceilings are slightly off square. This is where a plumb line comes in. Begin each room with a new plumb line.

Once the starting area is decided upon, use a plumb line or a pencil and a level for a straight vertical line (*ALWAYS use pencil, NEVER ink*) on the wall. Line up the first strip of paper on this line and proceed around the room.

Booking Wallpaper Strips

Proper booking is essential as it allows the activation of the pre-paste and relaxing of the wallpaper.

Apply paste or pre-pasted activator using a 1/2" roller or paste brush to a wallpaper strip. Fold the top down, paste to paste, approximately one third toward the bottom. Then fold the bottom up to meet the top edge making a "book".

Do not crease folds. Wait the suggested time as recommended by the wallpaper manufacturer.

Hanging Wallpaper

Unfold the top of the wallpaper strip and place at the top of the wall with one inch overlapping onto the ceiling (to be trimmed shortly). Line the strip up with the plumb line and begin smoothing, first toward the ceiling, then begin a left to right and right to left pattern, working out from the center and down.

Continue smoothing, checking the plumb line as you go. Unfold the strip at the bottom allow it to drop as you continue smoothing.

Remove any bubbles as you go. Once the strip is smoothed, the top and bottom edges can be trimmed.

To **trim**, place a straight edge against the ceiling or base board and slide your razor knife along the straight edge.

Rinse the wallpaper, as well as the ceiling and baseboard, to remove any paste residue.

Repeat the process with the second strip, aligning the pattern, smooth, trim top and bottom, rinse and dry. The seams should not overlap.

If necessary, a seam roller may be used. Do not use excessive pressure as this may squeeze out adhesive.

Challenging Areas

Inside Corners. Measure from the last strip hung to the corner and add 1/2". The 1/2" will wrap around and onto the other wall. Hang the next piece **OVER** the 1/2" piece, overlapping slightly.

Outside Corners. The best way to hang on an outside corner is to wrap the strip around the corner, slitting the top and the bottom of the strip at the corner.

When doing a room with an outside corner, add 1" to the distance from the last strip to the corner. The 1" will be wrapped around the corner. The remainder of the strip can be pasted against the wrapped inch.

Hanging Around Windows and Doors - Do not pre-cut a strip to fit. When you reach the area, hang the strip right over the obstruction, cut away most of the wallpaper, trim and adjust until the edge of the wallpaper is flush with the trim. Smooth out and wash all paste residue from the trim, ceiling and wallpaper.

