

GUIDE TO WALLCOVERING INSTALLATION



VISION

wallcoverings

Pacific Wallcoverings Ltd has prepared this manual to help the installation of wallcoverings to a professional standard.

It includes a comprehensive guide on the correct preparation of a variety of wall surfaces; the important steps to follow before you start wallpapering. Proper surface preparation is crucial to achieving a good finished result with paint and with wallcoverings.

Although all the information presented here has been carefully checked for accuracy, Pacific Wallcoverings Ltd disclaims all or any liability attendant to its use or misuse, and does not guarantee its entirety.

Every effort has been made to provide information that is up to date at time of publication. However, given the world of often rapidly changing technical advances, there may be new technologies or material changes that are not included in this edition.

Pacific Wallcoverings thanks John Howe, Training Manager of Pacific Wallcoverings, Brian Miller and Peter Edmonds for their valuable contribution to the content of this manual.

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INTRODUCTION

WHY WALLPAPER?

Wallpaper is definitely back on the design agenda, getting attention for its new textures, modern colours and designs, and its rediscovered practicality.

Wallcoverings add colour, texture and visual interest to an interior. Specifiers wanting to add some pattern and texture can choose from a vast array of options. The choice ranges from 'show-off' designs for 'statement' walls to plain textured neutrals and subtly patterned background papers.

There are practical and cost-effective advantages also:

- Wallpapering is a 'one coat' installation process; a single application gives complete colour coverage. No need for two or more coats...
- There's a combination of colour, texture and pattern in one product, with 'touch appeal'.
- Wallcoverings have a practical 'concealer' function. Textured wallpapers can hide less than perfect walls.
- A Level 4 plaster finish is the minimum required for textured wallcoverings, saving time and costs on plastering.
- Wallpapers are available in colours that complement or match most paint colours.
- Easy-care properties: most wallcoverings are washable, and durable.
- With new technology, wallcoverings are now easy to repair, remove and replace.

WALLPAPERING - The Finished Job

THE look of the finished wallpapered room depends not only on the skill of the person who is hanging the wallcoverings, but also that they follow the basic and vital steps of correctly preparing the surface to be wallpapered.

THE preparation of any and all surfaces prior to wallpapering is crucial to achieving a good job. In fact, the preparation of the wall surface is more important than the physical hanging of the wallpaper.

IF time is not spent on the basics of good preparation, the finished room may look less than satisfactory.

NOTE: wallcoverings can be hung on any surface providing the correct preparation has been carried out.

It is easy to blame the wallcoverings when something goes wrong, but first always look at what time and effort was put into the preparation.

- DO NOT expect wallcoverings to cover and hide all imperfections on the surface being redecorated.

The finished room will only look as good as the amount of time and effort put into the correct preparation of the wall surface prior to hanging the wallcoverings.

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WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

OVERVIEW

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION OVERVIEW

There are two major reasons why surface preparation is important:

1. To ensure a satisfactory installation and adhesion of the wallcovering to the surface.
2. To make it easy to remove the wallcovering and protect the wall surface when redecorating is desired in the future.

The maxim "You should always size the walls before installing wallcoverings" has been around for many years. The saying is as valid today as it was when first stated.

Sizing used as an auxiliary adhesive has been recommended for many years; providing extra tack during installation and to eliminate porosity of a surface before installation. This gives a longer wet life for the wallcovering being hung and produces a better surface so the installer can slide the wallcovering into position more easily.

Today, the vast array of paint products and types of wallcoverings available has made surface preparation requirements more complex.

Different types of wallcoverings require different types of adhesive and different lengths of time to soak before installation, and different types of wall surfaces require different types of surface preparation techniques to ensure a satisfactory finish.

Surface preparation problems can result when the installer does not understand why certain preparation procedures are necessary. They may therefore eliminate these steps or they may depend on someone else (the homeowner, plasterer etc.) who is not properly trained, to prepare the surface for them. Therefore, knowledge of wall surfaces is as important as choosing the correct adhesive for a particular wallcovering.

Almost all problems associated with wallcovering failures are caused by either:-

- Poor or incorrect surface preparation.
- Use of the wrong viscosity (thickness) of adhesive.
- Using the incorrect adhesive for the product being hung.
- Incorrect soaking and expansion time of wallcovering prior to installation.
- Disregarding the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions.

After a wallcovering has been applied, it will begin drying. During this time, there is a great amount of torque or pressure pulling against the wall's surface. If the paint or sealer on the wall is weak, the wallcovering will pull it off the wall, creating an adhesion failure.

So, how does an installer predetermine the quality or bond strength of an existing paint, or decide what type of sealer to use?

There are several ways to test the bond strength of the existing paint. The first is the **rub test**.

This requires a soft cloth dampened with a little methylated spirits. Rub the cloth vigorously over a small area for about 10 to 15 seconds. If the paint transfers to the cloth, it means the paint is water sensitive and will more than likely be adversely affected by the drying tension of the adhesive. If the paint transfers totally to the cloth during the test an adhesion failure will definitely result.

A similar test, the **sponge test**, may also be conducted. Simply tape a soft sponge (moistened with water) to the wall for about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove the sponge and wipe the surface with your fingertips. If the paint covers your fingertips, this would indicate that an adhesion failure could occur.

Another test which should be performed is a **bond strength test**. This will require the installer to etch a small "x" on the surface of the wall using a sharp cutting knife.

Caution: do not cut into the wall. Etch only the paint surface. Next, apply a small piece of masking tape or other packaging tape over the "x" and give it a quick jerk. If the paint is stable on the wall it should provide a good sur-

face for wallcovering. However, if the paint releases onto the tape it probably will not be strong enough to withstand the torque and pressure associated with the drying process of the wallcovering adhesive. This will often be the case when there are multiple layers of paint present, or when a water-based paint has been applied over an oil-based paint.

In the case of water sensitive paints, coating the surface with slower drying pigmented sealer is recommended. This will penetrate and seal the water-sensitive paint, providing an adequate surface for the new wallcovering. This paint must be left for 1 week to cure.

This, and any other painted surface (including Gloss Enamel), should be sanded with 80 grit sandpaper then dusted. This provides a key for the size and adhesive to adhere to.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

COMMON WALL SURFACES - New Zealand

- GIB® Plasterboard Colours

- Grey – Standard
- Red – Fire resistant
- Green – Aqualine
- Blue/Grey – Brace line

- Fibrous Plaster
- Lathe and Plaster (in some areas only – mainly South Island)
- Pinex Hard Board
- Pinex Soft Board

NOTE:

Proper surface preparation is vital to a good long-lasting wallcovering installation. Never eliminate important surface preparation procedures, because they will have a definite effect on the finished look of the product and its ability to be removed when redecorating is desired.

All tradespeople should be fully aware of the necessary preparation work required for any or all surfaces, and able to anticipate and deal with any problems that might occur.

SURFACES REQUIRING SPECIAL PREPARATION:

- Concrete
- Concrete Block
- Scrim

WALL SURFACE FAULTS DETECTABLE BEFORE HANGING WALLPAPER:

- Dampness/efflorescence
- Mould
- Chalky, flaking paint surface
- Dirty or greasy surface
- Unevenness
- Cracks and plaster nibs

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

OIL BASED PIGMENTED SEALER

An oil based pigmented sealer

- is the only sealer recommended to combat the possibility of old yellowed or sunburned paper-faced plaster board, or board containing water soluble stains to bleed through to new wallpaper. This recommendation is made by Winstone Wallboards Ltd, the manufacturers of GIB® Plasterboard.
- should be used when installing semi-transparent wallcoverings, to minimise show-through of surface conditions. Such cases are obvious when installing semi-transparent wallcovering over new plasterboard, or when installing over dark coloured surfaces that have been patched with light coloured filler.
- should be used on all large areas of filler and on all areas that have been “skim coated”. Failing to seal with a pigmented sealer would see the drying tension of the new wallcovering pull the skim coat, or filler, off the wall.

In the past, there has been much debate about whether or not a pigmented sealer should be used as part of the preparation process for surfaces that are to be wallpapered. The majority of opposition against using pigmented sealer has resulted from a negative experience of the wallpaper failing to adhere properly, usually on the seams (joins), where they can lift; in extreme cases the paper can fall off the walls. This outcome is not the fault of the sealer but the result of poor preparation of the sealed surface prior to hanging wallpaper.

For years tradespeople and D.I.Y.ers alike have been re-decorating kitchens and bathrooms that have been previously painted with many coats of enamel, which in fact means it is sealed with many coats of pigmented sealer. These areas have been very successfully wallpapered, but only because the surface was correctly prepared before papering.

Any lifting of the wallpaper is a breakdown in adhesion, usually caused by lack of adequate key i.e. sanding and dusting before sizing.

The choice of a sealer is very important. Some sealers when dry are fatty (greasy), or dry with a glossy finish. A sealer that dries to a matt or flat finish is best. Sealers should be thinned about 5 per cent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.

Once dry and left 1 week to cure, the entire surface must be sanded with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key to ensure adhesion; the entire surface should be dusted to remove all dust particles completely, then given a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size before hanging.

NOTE: Do not use undercoat as a sealer under wallpaper. Undercoats contain oils which will negatively affect the adhesion of both size and paste.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION SIZES

- There are two different types of size: powdered and latex.
- 1. SHUR STIK® and HallsBeeline®, granulated or powdered, are both good general sizes compatible with most wallcovering pastes.
- 2. SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed - this product is the ultimate in assisting the paper to adhere to the wall. It is the only size that reactivates or rewets, which gives a much better bond of the paper to the wall and helps eliminate edge lift and springing joints.

WHY SHOULD WALLS BE SIZED?

Sizing a surface during the preparation gives the paper-hanger several advantages:

- Gives a longer wet life of the product, so the product stays workable longer.
- Gives more slip and slide, so makes it easier to position during hanging.
- Holds down the seams.
- Helps prevent seams/joins opening.
- Adds to the adhesion of wallpaper to the wall.
- Makes it easier to remove the wallpaper when time comes to redecorate.
- Protects the wall surface during the stripping process.

ALL SIZES HAVE A WALL LIFE

- Size on a wall can have an active life of as little as 3 days, with a maximum of 5 days after which time the surface should be re-coated.

ALL SIZES HAVE A POT LIFE

- Once mixed, size can only be active for as little as 24 hours with a maximum of 48 hours, after which time it should be discarded and fresh size mixed.

PASTES, ADHESIVES & STRIPPERS

Pastes/Adhesives:

SHUR STIK® granulated paste & HallsBeeline® flake :

These are both good solid adhesives that are non-toxic, non-staining and suitable for most wallcoverings..

Metylan® Special:

Also a good high solid adhesive; non-toxic, non-staining, suitable for all wallcoverings and recommended for use with all non-pasted imported products.

As it has been noted, the viscosity - referring to the mixture and thickness of the adhesive as it is mixed and/or applied - is just as, if not more important, than the adhesive selection itself. NOTE: it generally does not take a lot of adhesive to secure the wallcovering to the wall. On the other hand, too much adhesive can contribute to staining and could cause slight shrinkage because of the length of time the wallcovering takes to dry out, or for the moisture to dissipate from the adhesive.

Therefore, it is important to follow the mixing ratios as specified on the product instructions.

Metylan® Active wallpaper stripper:

Designed for the easy removal of existing wallcoverings.

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WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

GIB® Plasterboard

This is the most common wall surface in New Zealand.

GIB® Plasterboard is now available in four colours:

- Light Grey – standard
- Green – designed for wet area application
- Red – a fire-resistant plasterboard
- Blue/Grey – brace line for bracing

SUNBURNING

This can happen when GIB® Plasterboard is fixed to the walls without paper or paint for a period of time. The surface tends to burn and will slowly become darker and darker.

- The main concern is caused not only by the surface darkening, but by the plaster/filler staying white. This causes a very strong contrast between the GIB® Plasterboard and the plaster, which can cause an effect called “ghosting” or show through. This is where the white joints can show through the new wallpaper.

Wallpaper is not designed to cover this degree of contrast.

WATER STAINS

These can be found on both old and new GIB® Plasterboard and on any of the above colours, and on other brands of paper-faced plasterboards.

- Water stains can be caused by water coming from behind the board or water being applied to the face of the board.
- Water stains can usually be identified by showing as a patchy look with the patches showing lighter than the rest of the board, but around the entire stain will be a thin dark line, usually dark brown.

- Water stains can come in all shapes and sizes, and if not treated, will bleed through new wallpaper.

SOLUTION - SUNBURN AND WATER STAINS

- The surface should be completely dry.
- Sand to remove nibs etc. with 150/180 grit sandpaper.
- Dust the entire surface, then apply a coat of oil based pigmented sealer. The sealer is to be thinned 5 percent, to ensure full penetration into the substrate.
- Allow to dry and cure (1 week), sand again with 80 grit sandpaper, dust, size with a good coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size prior to hanging new wallpaper.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

SCRIM

Scrim is a sacking type loose-weave product which is stretched over boards, usually nailed horizontally around the room.

- Scrim makes up less than 1 per cent of all wall surfaces in New Zealand and is being replaced with GIB® Plasterboard or plasterboard, mainly because scrim is increasingly difficult to purchase.
- Even when scrim is tight on the wall it is still a very unstable surface and is the only surface where the wallpaper has to be lapped as opposed to butting the seams. The lapping is necessary because the scrim is always moving, i.e. in damp weather the surface can bag or expand, but in hot dry weather will tighten so if the seams were not lapped these would open and close according to the weather.
- Any wallpaper can be hung on scrim providing the correct preparation is carried out. All products can be hung and joints butted if the installer uses the old tried-and-true method of cross lining. Cross lining allows the wallpaper to be hung and the seams or joints butted.

Steps to follow for cross lining over scrim covered walls:

- Strip all existing wallpaper from scrim.
- Wet scrim.
- While wet/damp tighten scrim (out first, then down).
- Ensure all fixings are rust resistant.
- Once tightened, leave to dry completely.
- Paste lining paper with SHUR STIK® granulated paste, HallsBeeline® flake or Metylan® Special adhesive, mixed to a medium to thick consistency.
- Hang lining paper **horizontally**, starting from skirting.
- Hang each wall in turn returning onto opposite wall by 30 millimetres.
- Lap each length approximately 10 millimetres.
- Once finished, allow to dry completely.
- Apply two coats of size.
- Hang the chosen wallcovering and butt joints in the normal way.

If the customer does not want to go to the trouble of

cross lining they will have to lap all joints and in doing so will have to use SHUR STIK® Stick Back if using a pure vinyl wallcovering. This can also apply to some vinyl coated products.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION STRIPPING WALLPAPER

Always use a proprietary brand of wallpaper stripper, i.e. Metylan©Active wallpaper remover. Do not use liquid detergent - the residue can cause problems with adhesion.

- Get as much of the wallpaper off dry.
- Use water with wallpaper stripper added.
- Before wetting the lining to remove, with a large brush put a wet line at waist height around the room and leave 2 minutes. This will stop the water running straight to the floor on the first spray.
- Start wetting from the skirting and work up.
- Let the water do the work by soaking into the paper and softening the paste and size.
- Give the water time to be absorbed in the wallpaper.
- Try not to damage walls.
- Once all paper has been removed, allow surface to dry completely before sanding etc.
- To remove all imperfections, sand/dust. Then fill all imperfections with sandable filler, allow to dry, sand smooth and dust. Sandable filler is a filler that turns to powder when sanded.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- For best results prior to installing new wallpaper,, a good even coat of SHUR STIK© Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

Option A:

Installed and stopped, under 4 weeks, stopping dry and set correctly, with no discolouration or water staining showing.

- Sand with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- For best results, it is recommended to apply 2 good even coats of SHUR STIK© Latexpre-mixed size. Two coats of size are recommended, because with a very porous surface the first coat will be absorbed, and the second coat will do the job of sealing and even up the porosity of the surface.

Option B:

Installed and stopped, for over 4 weeks, showing signs of discolouration and staining

- Sand with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- Seal entire surface with pigmented sealer; sealer to be thinned approximately 5 percent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.
- Once dry and cured, sand the entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for the size and paste to adhere to.
- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK© Latex pre-mixed size is recommended prior to installing the wallcovering.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

- papered with Simplex or lightweight wallpaper

NOTE: Pacific Wallcoverings does not recommend hanging new wallpaper over existing wallpaper or old lining paper.

- All existing wallpaper must be removed.
- Allow the surface to dry.
- Fill any imperfections with an appropriate sandable filler.
- Sand smooth with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- If the surface shows signs of discolouration or staining, coat entire surface with a coat of pigmented sealer. Thin the sealer by 5 percent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.
- Allow to dry and cure, then sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK © Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

- papered with Duplex embossed wallpaper

NOTE: All the embossed wallpaper must be removed. Under no circumstances should any new product be hung over this type of surface.

- Once the old wallpaper is removed, allow the surface to dry completely.
- Sand the entire surface with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Fill all imperfections with the appropriate sandable filler.
- Sand smooth with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- If surface shows any signs of discolouration at all i.e. water stains or sunburning, the entire surface should

be coated with a pigmented sealer; the sealer to be thinned by approximately 5 per cent to ensure full penetration in the substrate.

- Once dry and cured, sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to.
- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
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PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

- painted with full gloss enamel (oil based)

- Wash entire surface with sugar soap.
- Rinse entire surface with clean water and let dry.
- Sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to and kill the gloss.
- Sand up to ceiling line and down to skirting.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK © Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

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- Start wetting from the skirting and work up.
- Let the water do the work by soaking into the paper and softening the paste and size.
- Give the water time to be absorbed in the wallpaper.
- Try not to damage walls.
- Once all paper has been removed, allow surface to dry completely before sanding etc.
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Option B:

Installed and stopped, for over 4 weeks, showing signs of discolouration and staining

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- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
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WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

- papered with Simplex or lightweight wallpaper

NOTE: Pacific Wallcoverings does not recommend hanging new wallpaper over existing wallpaper or old lining paper.

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- Allow the surface to dry.
- Fill any imperfections with an appropriate sandable filler.
- Sand smooth with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- If the surface shows signs of discolouration or staining, coat entire surface with a coat of pigmented sealer. Thin the sealer by 5 percent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.
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PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

- papered with Duplex embossed wallpaper

NOTE: All the embossed wallpaper must be removed. Under no circumstances should any new product be hung over this type of surface.

- Once the old wallpaper is removed, allow the surface to dry completely.
- Sand the entire surface with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Fill all imperfections with the appropriate sandable filler.
- Sand smooth with 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- If surface shows any signs of discolouration at all i.e. water stains or sunburning, the entire surface should

be coated with a pigmented sealer; the sealer to be thinned by approximately 5 per cent to ensure full penetration in the substrate.

- Once dry and cured, sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to.
- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD

- painted with full gloss enamel (oil based)

- Wash entire surface with sugar soap.
- Rinse entire surface with clean water and let dry.
- Sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to and kill the gloss.
- Sand up to ceiling line and down to skirting.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD - papered with Simplex or lightweight wallpaper and over-painted with acrylic or latex paint

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that all existing painted wallpaper is removed, before continuing.

- If surface is in good condition with no loose or lifting edges and the wallpaper has no embossing at all, sand entire surface, concentrating on seams using 120/150 grit sandpaper.
- Lapped seams can show through new wallpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- Coat entire surface with pigmented sealer. Sealer should be thinned by approximately 5 per cent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.
- When dry and cured, sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to give a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to.
- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

PAPER-FACED PLASTERBOARD - painted with acrylic paint

- Wash entire surface with sugar soap.
- Wash with clean water and let dry.
- Sand entire surface with 120/150 grit sand paper.
- Dust entire surface.
- Coat entire surface with pigmented sealer - the sealer to be thinned by approximately 5 per cent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.
- Leave 1 week.
- When dry and cured, sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- For best results, a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION FIBROUS PLASTER

This surface can be found in all areas of New Zealand, mainly in older homes, though the product is still available and is still being installed in some homes.

While fibrous plaster is a very good surface to work on, it tends to crack as it gets older and fibres do start to show. There is always the temptation to pull at these fibres, but this will only damage the surface, so loose fibres should be cut, not pulled.

Because this surface is mainly plaster, it is by nature very porous and can also show rust marks as well as water stains, so to prepare this surface to accept wallcoverings the following steps are advised:

- Once all existing wallpaper has been removed and surface is completely dry, sand entire surface using 120/150 grit sandpaper
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- Coat the entire surface with pigmented sealer. Sealer to be thinned by approximately 5 per cent to ensure complete penetration into the substrate.
- Allow to dry and cure.
- Sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper to provide a good and adequate key for size and paste to adhere to.
- Dust entire surface to remove all dust particles completely.
- For best results, a good even coat of pre-mixed SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size is recommended.

SMOOTH CONCRETE WALLS (i.e. Tilt slab construction)

UNPAINTED

A sharp coat of sealer is required.

SHARP COAT: This means a coat of oil based pigmented sealer that has been thinned up to 15 per cent with turps. This makes the sealer quite thick, which allows it to penetrate deep into the concrete giving a very good key. Once this layer has dried, another full (undiluted) coat of oil based pigmented sealer should be applied which will bond with the first coat, giving a very good surface for the wallcovering to adhere to.

- Surface must be completely dry.
- Remove any and all imperfections with an emery stone.
- Dust to completely remove all dust particles.
- Apply a sharp coat of oil based pigmented sealer
- When dry, apply a full coat of oil based pigmented sealer.
- Allow to dry completely and cure.
- Sand entire surface with 80 grit sand paper to give a good and adequate key.
- Dust to completely remove all dust particles.
- Size with a good coat of Shur-Stik® Latex Size.
- Hang the wallcoverings according to the manufacturer's specifications.

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

SURFACE PREPARATION FOR CONCRETE BLOCK

PAINTED WITH ACRYLIC

This surface requires plastering to fill the indentations made by the pointing, (the mortar that is placed between the blocks). All excess mortar must be removed with an emery stone or similar before any other work starts.

Once the surface is brought to the desired smoothness and cleanness:

- Fill the pointing depression with an appropriate filler.
- Sand smooth with 100 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface to completely remove all dust particles.
- Coat entire surface with an oil based pigmented sealer.
- When dry and cured sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper.
- Dust entire surface completely to remove all dust particles.
- Coat entire surface with a good coat of Shur-Stik® Latex size.
- Hang the wallcoverings according to the manufacturer's specifications.

INSTALLING WALLCOVERINGS

WALL SURFACE PREPARATION

SOAKING TIME AND WET EXPANSION - for wallcoverings with a paper base

SOAKING TIME is the time it takes for a wallpaper to fully expand and relax prior to hanging.

WET EXPANSION is the amount the paper will expand during the soaking time.

Most wallcoverings are applied with some type of water based adhesive system. The water-based adhesive may be a mixture of water and starch, cellulose or other types of adhesive property. (A description of adhesives is on page 12). When the adhesive is applied to the wallcovering, the moisture will cause the wallcovering to expand, especially if it contains paper as its base. For this reason, once the adhesive has been applied, the wallcovering should be left folded, paste side to paste side, and allowed to soak for the time recommended by the manufacturer, which could be from 2 minutes to 25 minutes in the case of Anaglypta and imports. By being folded the adhesive will not dry out. Most wallcoverings that contain paper in their make-up will expand between 1 percent to 2 per cent during soaking.

Once the wallcovering has expanded during its recommended soaking time, it is ready to be installed.

Following application, the water in the adhesive will dissipate and dry away. Excess adhesive underneath the wallcovering during installation will slow down the drying process. Generally this dissipation will take between 24 to 48 hours. However, it may take as long as a week or more, depending upon the thickness of the adhesive, the porosity of the wall surface and the wallcovering itself. If the adhesive has lumps, providing these are soft or mushy, they will normally dry out, but if the lumps are hard the adhesive has not been mixed properly and when dry will show as a lump underneath the wallcovering.

Many installers believe that when the wallcovering does not stick properly, they should automatically add more adhesive. This could in fact be the worst thing to do because too much moisture can cause other problems, especially at the seam area.

If there is extra adhesive applied to the seams, the seams will dry last, which could cause shrinking.

If a wallcovering does not stick to the wall properly, do not look only at the adhesive; consider the surface preparation and the soaking time that has been allowed for prior to installation.

PRE-PASTED WALLPAPER

Wallcoverings that are manufactured with an adhesive already applied to their backing are classified as a pre-pasted or ready pasted wallcovering. These can be vinyl coated or solid vinyl and can be used in any room of the house or in commercial applications.

There are four major reasons why prepasted wallcoverings might fail to adhere to walls properly:

- Poor surface preparation
- Lack of adhesion
- The adhesive volatile factor (water evaporation rate)
- Poor installation techniques

Generally, all wallcoverings will telegraph any imperfection, indentations, bumps etc. Therefore, the installer must repair all imperfections with the appropriate filler and sand and dust the wall surface to provide a good surface prior to installing the wallcovering.

To eliminate uneven porosity and to permit the wallcovering to dry evenly, the wall surface must be sized evenly with the size being mixed to the manufacturer's instructions.

Otherwise, the paste will be absorbed very quickly in some areas while taking much longer to dry in others. This will result in other problems which will be covered later in this manual.

It is possible for prepasted wallcoverings not to adhere properly because there may not have been enough adhesive applied at the factory. It is also possible for the installer to over-soak the wallcovering in the water trough, which will cause the adhesive to wash off causing lack of adhesion. If there is simply not enough adhesive applied at the factory, the wallcovering should be returned to the supplier for replacement, or the installer has the option of repasting the wallcovering, using SHUR STIK® granulated paste, HallsBeeline® flake or Metylan® Special adhesive and allowing the wallcoverings between 8 to 10 minutes to relax and expand before hanging.

Another possible problem is the **adhesive volatile factor**. This term refers to the rate in which the water evaporates from the adhesive once it has been either activated or applied.

During hot summer months (especially on new construction) the adhesive volatile factor is high. However, when the temperature is cooler and/or the humidity rate is high, the evaporation rate will be much slower.

It is highly advisable to always pre-plan the job prior to beginning the installation.

However, if an installer reapplies a strip too many times during the initial alignment, failure may result. Each time the strip is removed the paste and moisture are reduced, either by evaporation or simply because the wall surface has absorbed the moisture from the adhesive. If an installer removes a strip of wallcovering more than one or two times during the initial installation process, it may become necessary to reapply additional adhesive to compensate for the loss of moisture and adhesion. Otherwise, an adhesion failure will occur, even if the preparation of the surface has been carried out properly. This problem is more likely to occur with do-it-yourself paperhangers, because they often re-adjust the strip many times to obtain accurate placement.

Once the strip has been installed properly, the wallcovering must be allowed to dry. This is referred to as the dissipation process, which is the evaporation of the moisture from the adhesive. Generally, most prepasted wallcoverings will dry within 24 to 48 hours. However, it is possible to take as long as a week or more, depending upon the porosity of the wall surface, whether it is winter or summer and/or the amount of humidity in the air.

While the adhesive is drying out (dissipating), the wallcovering will contract very tightly to the surface of the wall. During this process, all the adhesive wrinkles which are present during the installation will disappear. There is a tremendous amount of torque or tension that occurs between the wallcoverings and the wall during this dry out period. This is why it is so important to apply a good coat of size or sealer prior to the installation of the wallcovering.

Many failures are due to the installer applying too much pressure to the material during the installation. This is especially true at the seam or joins area. Some installers feel they need a "steam roller" instead of a "Seam Roller" to get the seams to lay flat.

THIS IS NOT TRUE.

THE PASTING AND HANGING OF IMPORTED NON-PASTED WALLCOVERINGS

Too much pressure on the seam will force the adhesive away from the seam area, which is the most critical area to have the proper amount of adhesion.

Never apply too much adhesive when repasting pre-pasted wallcoverings. This will generate an excess amount of adhesive which will retard drying and could cause shrinkage problems, especially if the surface has not been prepared correctly.

It is very difficult to salvage a poor installation. That is why all the necessary preparation steps must be taken prior to beginning a project. In some cases it is possible to rescue the edges of loose seams once dry by applying moisture with a small brush, allowing time for the wallcovering to relax and expand, and then applying a small amount of adhesive. Lay the paper flat and cover with a warm cloth, do not rub or use a seam roller.

Over the years New Zealand has imported many wallpaper ranges from manufacturers throughout the world. Some of these wallpaper ranges hang like normal wallpaper should, but there are those that refuse to act the way we expect, by curling and having seams that just will not lie flat against the wall.

Here are some procedures that may help in making the installation of these imported products more successful.

Once again, some of the problem may not only be the wallcovering but could also be in the way the wall surface has been prepared. Always make sure that every surface to be papered is dry, sound, well sanded, dusted and sized, or sealed with a pigmented sealer where necessary.

It is strongly recommended that after dusting, all surfaces should be given a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size. The reason for this is that this type of size is the only one that has the ability to re-activate or re-wet when wallpaper is hung over it. This re-activating of the size ensures a good bonding at the seams, which helps them to lie flat against the wall and also gives good movement of the wallpaper during the installation.

Product curling is caused by the base layer (or web) of the product being paper; when wetted by the paste it absorbs moisture and must expand. All paper once wet will expand between 1 per cent & 2 per cent. The top layer of the product is solid vinyl and does not expand at the same rate, hence the curl. Once the base or web has fully relaxed and the pressure evens up, the curl will disappear – SO, SLOW DOWN.

To help eliminate the curl, after pasting and booking the paper, loosely roll the sheet. The rolling of the booked paper will hold the edges together and prevent the edges from drying out, therefore reducing the chances of the seams lifting. Leave rolled sheets to relax for double the length of time the instructions say and add a further 5 minutes.

In summer when the dissipation or evaporation rate is high, cover rolled lengths with a wet towel to contain the moisture and stop the lengths from drying out. This will give the installer plenty of time to work so there will be no need to rush.

When the product has been relaxed and is being hung

PASTE-THE-WALL WALLCOVERINGS

with the latex size on the wall, reactivating or re-wetting this will also help to set the seam and prevent edge curl. If the seam lifts slightly do not use a seam roller. This will only add to the problem by forcing the paste away from the seam and onto the face of the paper.

The two products recommended to hang all non-pasted imported products are SHUR STIK® Latex pre-mixed size and Metylan® Special Paste.

Imported Non-Pasted Wallcoverings

When using a pasting machine, be very careful not to pull the paper through the machine too fast, as this can cause problems with not enough paste being laid down onto the paper, causing dry patches and not enough moisture to attain maximum expansion and stickability. For non-pasted products, use the paste recommended by the manufacturer (if any) or use Metylan® Special. Do not thin the paste too much. If the correct paste ratio can not be achieved with the pasting machine, revert back to the paste brush and bucket method.

There has to be enough paste applied to the back of the paper to both relax the paper and adhere it successfully to the wall – DON'T RUSH. Some imported products may require more time to achieve a good job.

NOTE: it is the consistency of the paste not the amount that is important.

A new and advanced wallcovering product is now available on the New Zealand market. For the first time in the history of the industry we have a decorative product that does not have paper as its base.

The new base is synthetic, and termed either a fleece or non-woven base. This product can be printed and embossed just like a conventional wallcovering, with additional advantages for installation:

- Just apply the paste direct to the wall
- The wallcovering does not require soaking or time to relax
- Does not expand when wet
- No peaking joins
- No opening joins
- No need to cut lengths
- No waiting

However, the ability to move the product on the wall is determined by the consistency of the adhesive; if it is too thin, the product will not slide into position.

Adhesive: - The recommended adhesives are Metylan Special® or SHUR STIK® granulated, mixed 200g to 4 litres of water, or HallsBeeline® flake, mixed according to the instructions

Size: - the only size recommended for this product is SHUR STIK® granulated size.

Preparation: the preparation of surfaces is as for any wallcovering, and as laid out in this manual. Because the base or web of this product is thinner and less dense than traditional wallcoverings, a pigmented sealer must be part of the preparation when using light colourways, as ghosting or show-through may occur.

NOTE: only paste a workable area of any one wall i.e. 3 to 4 drops wide, to prevent the paste drying out before application of the wallcoverings. And as is the case for other wallpapers, it is the consistency of the paste that counts, not the amount that is applied.

PAINTABLES: PAINT-ON WALLCOVERINGS

The preparation of surfaces for paintables such as Anaglypta and the like, is as for any wallcovering, and as laid out in this manual.

All paint-on papers should be pasted, soaked and relaxed for the correct time, before being installed. Refer to the label around every roll for the specified relax time.

Paintables must be allowed to dry perfectly before painting. Failure to do so can cause the product to crease and bubble when the paint is applied. In some cases, it may be a week before the product is dry enough to be painted.









The first coat of paint should be an oil based pigment-ed sealer. This will allow the product to then be painted in whatever finish is required, and will stop any form of staining or bleeding through to the surface.

PROBLEM SOLVER

PROBLEM SOLVER

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

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FAULTY WALLCOVERINGS

While manufacturers take care to ensure proper quality control procedures are followed before the product is despatched, sometimes wallcoverings that are faulty end up in the customer's hands.

For this reason it is highly advisable to inspect each roll for any possible defects **prior** to installing the wallcovering.

The following should be checked before starting:

- Make sure the correct quantity of wallcovering was received.
- Verify that all rolls for each separate area have the same pattern and batch number, or lot numbers, to ensure uniformity.
- Check for physical damage, perhaps from rough handling by carriers.
- Inspect for edge-trimming consistency. If two separate rolls are trimmed differently at the edges, this is a sign of either poor trimming or different batch or lot numbers.
- Inspect for stains or dark patches near edges.
- Check for difference in colour or tonal value, especially on dark background papers.
- Inspect for pattern inks that may be missing.
- It is the sole responsibility of the tradesperson to shade all rolls before installing.

There are times when product flaws do exist. However, if the installer takes the time to inspect the wallcovering prior to installing in many cases the flawed area can be worked around.

If flaws cannot be worked around, the wallcovering should be returned to the supplier for replacement.

DO NOT CONTINUE TO INSTALL FLAWED MATERIAL IF YOU FIND IT IS DAMAGED OR FLAWED EVEN AFTER INSTALLATION HAS STARTED.

In almost all cases, manufacturers do not hesitate to replace damaged or faulty wallcoverings. However, they do have an issue with 'replacing' labour especially if it was possible to identify the problem either prior to the job or following the installation of 3 rolls of wallcovering.

NOTE: It is the total responsibility of the tradesperson to fully check the wallcovering for any and all defects such as SHADE, MARKS, WHITE EDGE, TRIMMING etc. before the installation starts.

01//PEAKING JOINS

There are three major reasons why joins peak.

- The paper was not soaked or relaxed long enough before hanging.
- The paper being stretched during the hanging process.
- Seams pushed too close together during hanging.

If the seams peak during installation, remove the strip and wait for the product to fully relax and expand before continuing.

This may be caused by one of 3 possible reasons:

- Working too fast (slow down). All paperbacked wallcoverings will expand between 1 & 2 per cent while relaxing.
- The installer applied too much pressure during installation, causing joins to peak.
- Incorrect soaking or relaxing time of wallcoverings before hanging.

The more moisture present during installation, the longer it takes for the wallcovering to set up or start the drying process following the application.

Generally the seams of wallcoverings are not overlapped except in special situations such as corner areas. This is because most corners are not built perfectly square. The wallcovering should be cut at the corner area in order to realign the strip properly on the adjoining wall. In such cases, the seam in a corner will be overlapped.

Most overlapped seams fail to adhere properly because the decorative surface contains a vinyl layer. Conventional wallcovering adhesives are not designed to bond vinyl to vinyl, so this can lead to a potential failure. Therefore, a specific vinyl to vinyl adhesive must be used in those situations. Shur-stik® Stick Down is specifically designed for use in this circumstance.

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02//LAPPED SEAMS

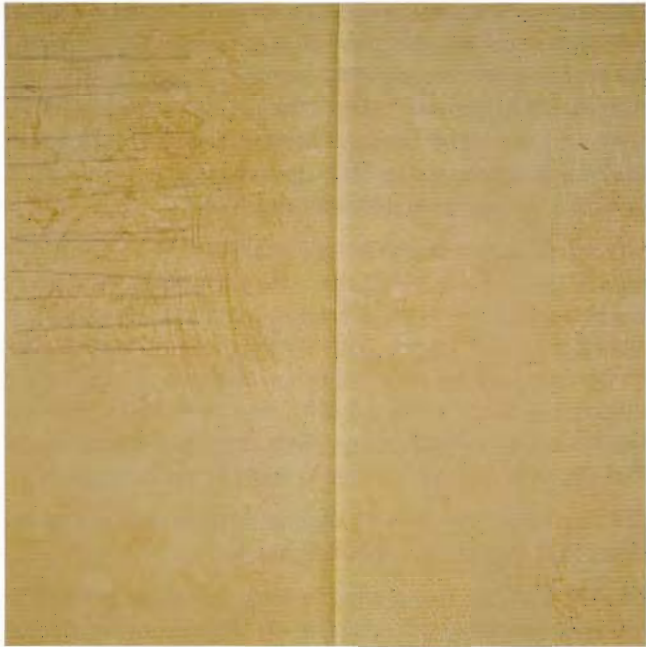
When it is necessary to overlap vinyl over vinyl, a special adhesive must be used, one that is specifically designed for bonding overlapped vinyl together. These types of adhesives are commonly referred to as vinyl over vinyl adhesives i.e. Shur Stik® border adhesive, Shur Stik® Down or Metylan® Border paste. They contain special resins which permit a strong bond between the layers.

Since overlapped seams are generally not as aesthetically pleasing as a smooth butt seam, they should be avoided as much as possible. One technique used to eliminate such seams is double cutting. This simply requires the installer to lay one surface over the other and with a very sharp disposable blade knife, cut with one movement through both layers of wallcoverings. Then, remove the excess and join the new edges together to form a new butt seam.

This technique can only be used with plain papers and designs that require no matching at all.

CAUTION: When using vinyl to vinyl adhesive, be sure to immediately wipe off adhesive on the decorative side of the wallcovering using a damp cloth. This is vital because once it dries it turns very shiny on the surface of the wallcovering and is impossible to remove.

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01//PEAKING JOINS



02//LAPPED SEAMS



03//CURLING EDGES/LIFTING JOINS



05//EXPANSION BUBBLES

03//CURLING EDGES

There are some cases when a wallcovering will curl at the edges immediately following the application of the adhesive. This is not a major problem with New Zealand made products but is caused by the web (backing) of the wallcovering expanding faster than the front immediately following the application of moisture. This can be caused by applying a paste or putting prepasted wallcovering into the water trough.

It is important for the installer to book the strip (fold paste side to paste side) immediately following the pasting process. If the installer is slow in applying the paste, he/she should apply the paste to the centre of the strip before the edges. This technique will help prevent the edges from curling too fast before it can be booked (folded together).

Once the material has been booked, it should be rolled in a manner similar to a rolled newspaper, being careful to avoid creasing the folds. This technique will not only hold the edges together, but will also prevent the edges from drying out during the soaking or relaxing process.

Edge curl during installation is generally because of improper surface preparation and/or the wrong adhesive being used, or incorrect soaking time. Make sure the surface is properly sealed, sanded, dusted and sized and that the appropriate adhesive is being used.

Too much moisture may cause edges to curl, or allow the adhesive to penetrate the backing of vinyl coated wallcovering and stain the decorative surface. Too much moisture stops adhesion at the seams which may cause the installer to use a seam roller which will only compound the problem.

If a seam curls during installation some will apply more paste to the seam area. However, this will again compound the problem by adding more moisture, which in turn will delay the drying of the seam causing it to dry last. This can cause the seam to open during the drying process.

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04//BUBBLES

There are several reasons why bubbles may form underneath wallcoverings during and following installation.

Extreme porosity of the substrate (wall surface) is commonly a major culprit.

Surface preparation is critical. In some cases a pigmented sealer must be used to reduce and help eliminate the porosity. When using a sealer, once dry this must be prepared as a painted surface before sizing and installation of the wallcovering. If the surface is not sealed when wallcovering is installed, the porous areas on the wall will quickly absorb the moisture from the adhesive and cause an air pocket to form, which is revealed as a bubble.

Poor quality water-based paint can become soft and could also cause bubbles to form. On solid plaster or fibrous plaster walls, apply a coat of oil based pigmented sealer and then a coat of size to prevent the surface from gassing, causing bubbles.

All wall surfaces must be sanded and dusted thoroughly prior to applying any sealer or size in order to remove all contaminants. Otherwise, these objects can be highlighted and telegraphed under the wallcovering following the installation. This will in turn cause small bubbles to form around the contaminants.

Sometimes air bubbles can be caused by air bubbles being in the adhesive. This can be caused in two ways:

- By excessive whipping while mixing the adhesive, causing aeration (trapped air bubbles).
- With all granulated adhesives, if the adhesive is not mixed properly it will leave lumps. These can be dry in the center and can omit air as they absorb moisture causing bubbles.

Bubbles can appear when installed over existing wallcovering that has not adhered completely to the wall surface. The moisture in the adhesive will cause loose areas to swell and expand in the existing wallcovering, causing bubbles to appear.

There are times when bubbles will appear after a wall or area has been completed for an hour or two. This can happen if when the size was applied, areas were missed, allowing the drying paper to suck air, causing the bubbles. These will normally settle down if left alone.

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05//EXPANSION BUBBLES

Since all wallcoverings require a water-based adhesive system, it is very important to allow wallcoverings to soak and relax for a given period of time before starting installation (the exact soaking time is on the instruction sheet on every roll of wallcovering). Otherwise, the wallcovering will continue to expand once it has been applied to the wall surface. This will cause expansion bubbles to form. If this occurs, remove the strip from the wall, fold and leave to relax for a longer period of time.

Expansion bubbles can only be caused by the wallcovering being hung too soon after being pasted and not given enough time to relax and expand before hanging.

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06//TRIMMING ERRORS

Sometimes patterns will not match up properly from roll to roll or the seams will not butt because the rolls were incorrectly trimmed either at the factory or on the job.

The most common causes associated with edge trimming are: -

- Overtrimming
- Undertrimming
- Scalloped edge

OVERTRIMMING is a result of too much of the selvage being trimmed away. When an excess amount of material has been trimmed away, there is no way to compensate for the missing pattern. If it is noticeable at a glance or is unacceptable, the installer should stop and return the wallcovering to the supplier for replacement.

UNDERTRIMMING is the complete opposite to overtrimming. Not enough of the selvage has been trimmed away, which results in a slight double image forming at the seam. This excess may be trimmed on the work table using a straight edge and cutter.

SCALLOPED EDGE is the result of the trimmers in the factory moving back and forwards as the wallcovering is passing through. This results in the seams weaving in and out when they are supposed to be cut perfectly straight.

NOTE: The installer should identify this problem within the first roll hung; the remaining product should be returned for replacement.

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07//OPENING SEAMS / JOINS

Opening Seams occur when the seams of the wallpaper spring or open during the drying process. This can be as little as part of one millimetre to one or two millimetres.

NOTE: THERE IS NOTHING IN ANY WALLCOVERING, EITHER IMPORTED OR LOCAL, THAT WILL MAKE OR CAUSE THE SEAMS TO OPEN.

There are many reasons for seams to spring or open during the drying process of the wallpaper. ALL wall coverings that have paper as their web or base will expand and relax once wetted, but during the drying process will rely very heavily on the preparation of the substrate to have been carried out correctly to hold the wallpaper in place, not allowing the product to move or open.

Opening Seams can occur by the installer

- not sanding with the correct grit sandpaper, or not sanding at all.
- not dusting the entire surface, to remove all dust particles.
- not sizing the entire surface, so to seal off the porosity of that surface.
- not sizing the surface at all.
- stretching the product, during the installation.
- force drying the product, either by putting a heater or a dehumidifier in the room, or by the heat of the sun coming into a room during or even after installation.
- using the incorrect paste.
- applying paste too thinly.
- incorrect use of Seam Roller.

All these factors can and do have a bearing on whether the seams will or will not open during the drying process.

To prevent the seams from opening, make sure that all the recommended preparation steps are carried out, as per normal trade practice.

08//WHITE EDGE

This is a common problem that is especially evident when installing dark coloured background wallcoverings, because the edges show white when butted together.

White edge will show as soon as the product is hung; it does not have to dry first, it is immediately there and will be evident as soon as two pieces are butted together.

It is the responsibility of the installer to determine if the product can be installed without giving offence to the customer. It is the installer's call to either have the product replaced or to carry on.

If a dark background paper is to be hung, it is wise to colour the ends of the rolls before unrolling.

Some installers use water based felt pens, some use food colouring, others chalk or pastels, to colour the product before it is installed, as it is almost impossible to colour the white edge after the product is on the wall.

To help in this matter, Pacific Wallcoverings have for some time now been colouring the vinyl and spraying the ends of some dark products before despatch.

However, it is the responsibility of the installer to colour the ends of the rolls of wallcovering before hanging.

This problem should also be identified by the installer by the time the first roll is hung.

09//DAMAGED EDGES

Damaged edges are generally caused by improper handling either by the carrier from factory to supplier, or from supplier to installer. Often the edges are only damaged within the first half metre or so. The installer should notice any damage during the hanging and determine whether or not to use the roll or have it replaced.

With most vinyl wallcoverings, the edge damage should in many cases straighten out with the correct soaking and installation. Vinyl coated products will damage more easily.

It is up to the installer whether to hang the affected wallcovering or have it replaced.

There is no way an installer could not see this defect during hanging.

10//PASTE ON SEAMS

It is very important that installers avoid getting any adhesive on the decorative surface of wallcoverings.

An installer must always avoid applying too much pressure to the seam area immediately following the application of the wallcovering. The use of a seam roller will cause excess adhesive to be forced through the join, therefore contaminating the decorative surface, and can push the adhesive away from the seam, causing the edges to curl away from the wall surface.

Some wallcoverings are not as resistant as others to the solvents incorporated in the make-up of many types of adhesive, especially the premixed types. Therefore, if the adhesive is allowed to contaminate the decorative surface and allowed to dry, some inks will flake off the surface of the wallcovering. So, the installer must take care to keep all adhesive off the surface both during and after installation.

If an adhesive is allowed to dry and stay on the decorative surface of most wallcoverings, the adhesive can and does tear the ink of the surface of the wallpaper, leaving ugly white marks.

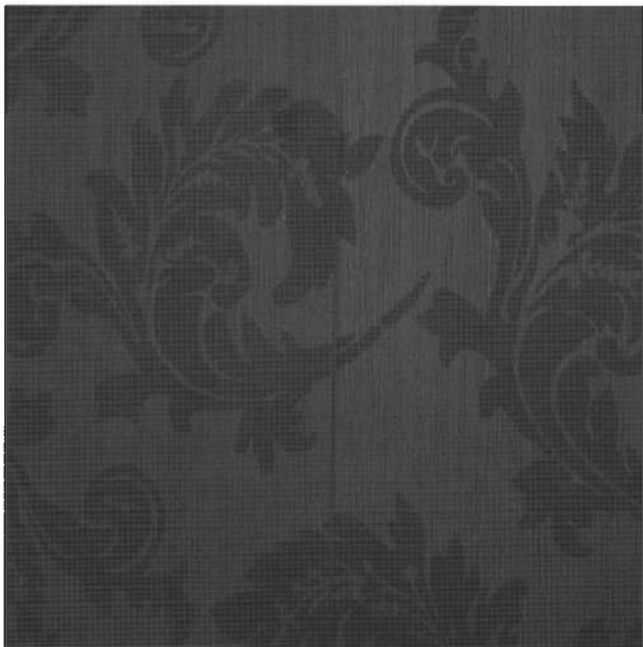
It may be possible to remove paste from a seam once it has dried. In some cases, the adhesive may be brushed off using a soft but stiff brush. If this is not successful, try removing the paste with a soft natural sponge and a mixture of 5 parts warm water to 1 part ammonia. The ammonia will help break down the dry adhesive allowing it to be removed.

A mixture of 5 parts warm water to 1 part white vinegar can be used to break down pre-pasted adhesive so the surface can be cleaned easily.

Do not overwet; too much of the ammonia or vinegar solution in the seam can break down adhesive behind the wallcovering and cause the wallcovering to lift at the seams.

IMPORTANT: When using either the ammonia or vinegar solution to break down the adhesive on the surface of the wallcovering, **be sure to first test on a scrap of wallcovering to make sure the solution doesn't stain the wallcovering.** In all cases, take care to avoid getting the cleaning solution in the seam areas.

Use a sponge or soft cloth, and wipe down the seam rather than across it.



06//OVER TRIM



06//UNDER TRIM



10//PASTE ON SEAMS



11//INK FLAKING OFF

11//INK FLAKING OFF

Occasionally the ink on the decorative surface will begin to flake off following installation. Adhesive contamination is the culprit.

In almost every case, ink flaking is a direct result of the decorative surface having been contaminated with adhesive residue that has been allowed to stay on the surface of the wallcovering and dry. In the case of adhesive drying on the surface, this could take between one week to six months to become apparent.

Care must be taken to prevent contaminating the decorative surface of all wallcoverings during the installation process.

It is most important to wash each strip with clean water to remove excess adhesive as you go. When installing wallcoverings with glossy surfaces, the wallcovering should also be dried immediately following the rinsing procedure to wipe off all residue.

NOTE: Before trying to remove paste from the surface of the wallcovering, check the direction of the embossment grain.

If the embossment is horizontal it is advisable to remove the paste using horizontal strokes. If the surface is washed vertically when the embossment grain is horizontal, the adhesive contamination problem will be increased rather than solved.

CAUTION: Always test a sample piece on the wall itself in an inconspicuous place before applying any type of cleaning agent or solution. Even clean water can cause a staining problem on some wallcoverings that may actually look worse than the dried paste itself.

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12//SHADING

Shading on wallcoverings is normally the fault of the manufacturer's printing process.

EDGE SHADE is where there is a colour variation from one side of the sheet to the other.

With plain all-over designs and some textural type designs, the technique of reverse hanging can be applied. This involves reversing every other strip to match up shading variations.

SHADE ROLL TO ROLL is where there is a colour variation between rolls in the same batch number. This product should not be installed and should be taken back to the supplier for replacement.

UNEVEN EMBOSS is where the embossment of the wallcovering is deeper or lighter on one edge. This will give an effect of shade variation. This is normally most prevalent when looking along a finished wall where the light dark variation is most conspicuous.

NOTE: An installer should check all rolls prior to commencement of the job. Most shade problems can be seen during the installing of the first three rolls.

It is the responsibility of the installer to **SHADE** all rolls prior to the commencement of the job and not continue if shading is discovered.



13//BUMPS AND RIDGES

Bumps and ridges are a direct result of poor wall surface preparation or using an adhesive that is contaminated with foreign matter or dried paste.

All walls should be prepared by sanding and filling etc. In some cases it would be advisable to apply lining paper to provide the good surface required for the particular wall-covering.

Lining paper can also help eliminate any existing discolouration on the wall surface that may otherwise penetrate the decorative surface of the wallcovering and leave the finish unsatisfactory.

It is important to note that the decorative surface and pattern of the wallcovering will play a very important part in how many or how few imperfections will show through.

The drying tension or torque of the wallcovering can in fact dislodge a filler that has not been sealed, and show up as lumps under the wallcovering once it has dried.

14//OUT OF SQUARE

There are times when an installer will be hanging wallpaper perfectly plumb, however the pattern motif (design) will run up or downhill as the installation progresses.

Check first that the ceiling line, chair rail, corners, window and door architraves are in fact straight and level.

Since there are very few structures that are perfectly plumb and level, it is unlikely that all patterns would look proper without some adjustment by the installer.

In structures where it is obvious that the ceiling line, chair rail, door and window frames and other obstacles are not plumb or level, it is advisable to steer away from patterns that might accentuate the problems.

Settling of foundations, in older structures, is also a major cause of unevenness.

In very rare cases this could be a manufacturing defect caused by the print cylinder or the tension of the web (base paper) during the printing process.

15//PASTE LUMPS

Paste Lumps are generally present in the adhesive prior to being applied to the wallcovering. They are commonly formed during the mixing process. To eliminate the problem it is advisable to add the powdered adhesive very slowly into the water while at the same time continuously stirring.

Extra care must be taken during the mixing process to avoid whipping the adhesive too fast, because this may cause aeration of the adhesive. This is a condition that occurs when the adhesive is filled with tiny miniature bubbles which can resemble a suds mixture.

NOTE: Any form of contamination in an adhesive can show behind the wallcoverings, therefore it is advisable to strain all adhesives prior to using.

16//FOREIGN MATERIALS ON SURFACE

There are many foreign materials that may be found on the decorative surface of wallcoverings. These can range from adhesive residue to food, crayon, lipstick, fly spray etc.

Many wallcoverings on the market are solid vinyl, which are designed to withstand the normal wear of day-to-day activities. However, some wallcoverings are designed solely for their aesthetic value and need to be treated accordingly.

For this reason a consumer should be aware of the different wallcovering types and their relative durability as associated with dirt and other contaminants. Basically there are three different classifications of wallcoverings with regard to cleaning durability. They are as follows:

- Washable
- Scrubbable
- Delicate

WASHABLE wallcoverings are exactly that - washable. The surface of this wallcovering will withstand occasional sponging with a mild detergent and water. The vinyl coating on this type of wallcovering is not able to withstand scrubbing to remove a stain or contaminant. These types of wallcovering should be used in low traffic areas.

SCRUBBABLE wallcoverings can withstand scrubbing with a brush and a prescribed detergent solution. Scrubbable wallcoverings are able to withstand more stains and dirt because of their vinyl layer. For this reason they can be used in every room of the home and most commercial locations.

PAINTABLE wallcoverings, when painted, should be cleaned, when necessary, according to the paint manufacturer's instructions.

DELICATE wallcoverings primary purpose is to provide a decorative effect. However, they may be cleaned with a light dust, or with a dry cleaning sponge or a dry cleaning eraser, but test a small inconspicuous piece first.

If you are not sure how to clean the wallcovering, start first with cold water and then try warm soapy water and a soft sponge. Take care not to over-wet the surface of the paper.

It is important to always use the most gentle cleaning procedures that will do the job if the wallcovering needs to be cleaned. Heavy physical scrubbing and abrasive cleaners should be avoided as much as possible.

There are many commercial spot removers on the market. Some may change the texture or alter the colour slightly. In all cases, grease splatters should be removed immediately. Hot grease will penetrate even solid vinyls. On products where grease stains are noticeable, i.e. oil, crayon, lipstick etc., applying talcum powder will help absorb the grease from the surface of the wallcovering.

If this does not remove all the stain, hold a piece of brown paper over the stain and apply a warm iron - this will absorb the grease.

17//MOULD

There is nothing present in any wallcovering that will cause mould. Mould is not the fault of the wallcovering.

Whenever heat and moisture are found in combination, conditions are ripe for mould to grow.

Mould spores are organic and being airborne are continually in the air especially in areas with a lot of trees or areas subject to dampness. Mould can show up under wallcoverings in a variety of colours - grey, green, blue, black, pink and yellow.

It is a good practice to wash the walls prior to an installation with an anti-mould solution, especially if a mould problem is suspected.

The spores are attracted to dampness and can be absorbed into the wall lining. The walls may dry out but the spore can lie dormant for years. Mould spores must have moisture to survive. Bring the dormant spores together with moisture and they will start to grow. In modern homes, lack of ventilation can contribute to mould growth.

Mould will manifest itself in two ways:

1. Showing up as black spots, normally towards the ceiling. If the mould is on fabric, furniture, or walls, the spots can be removed and leave no sign of discolouration, meaning that this mould is caused solely by the lack of ventilation.
2. The surface of the wallcovering will start to discolour with spots of various colours, i.e. grey, green, blue, black, pink etc. Any one of these colours, or a combination of all colours, means moisture is behind the wallcovering and has revived the mould spores that were dormant on the wall surface.

When walls are stained because of mould, remove the wallcovering and wash the entire surface with anti-mould solution. When dry, coat the entire surface with a pigmented sealer. This will seal in all spores and stop colour bleeding through the decorative surface of the new wallcovering.

- When the sealer is dry, sand the entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper.
- Dust the entire surface to remove all dust particles.

NOTE: It takes a long time to eliminate a mould problem once it has formed underneath a wallcovering. For this reason, an installer must take certain precautions to avoid the problem prior to installing wallcovering in the first place. Here are a few recommendations to follow:

- Wash all suspect walls with an anti-mould solution prior to hanging wallcoverings.

This will kill all existing mould spores.

- Stop any dampness and you can stop the mould. Good ventilation can stop a lot of mould problems.

Mould must have moisture to survive. Mould can also be introduced by an installer who has contaminated equipment, such as paste brushes, pasting machine, buckets etc. Installers should wash and clean their equipment before starting.

18 // BLEED THROUGH / GHOSTING

Most stains or staining of the decorative surface of the wallcovering are usually transferred from the wall surface that the product has been installed over.

These discolourations could be caused by a number of contaminants on the wall surface such as oil, old yellowed or sunburnt plasterboard, old stained wallpaper that has not been stripped, or surfaces containing water soluble stains. All these contaminated surfaces can, when wet, transfer the stain through the web or backing paper to the decorative surface of the wallcovering during the drying process.

All stains that can be transmitted through the backing paper of the new wallcovering should be identified by the installer before starting to install the wallcovering. Old wallpaper can, over the years, absorb dirt and grease, and when wetted by the adhesive from the new wallcovering, this can be transmitted through the backing paper to the decorative surface of the new wallcovering, showing as a brown or dark patch.

Plasterboard or dry wall is susceptible to yellowing or sunburn. This is caused when plasterboard has been installed and there has been no covering on it at all for some months. The sunlight burns the fibres of the outer layer of thick paper and slowly the plasterboard darkens to the point where two problems arise.

- The first is the paper face of the plasterboard gets darker and darker but the plaster or filler between the plasterboard stays white. This results in a heavy contrast between the dark plasterboard and the white plaster. If a wallcovering is installed over this surface ghosting or show through will occur.
- The second problem is the sunburnt plasterboard which, when wetted by the adhesive of the new wallcovering, will produce a brown stain which will transmit through to the decorative surface of the wallcovering.

Water soluble stains: These can be identified by the plasterboard showing lighter in an area. This area will have a dark brown line around the outer perimeter. This stain will be transmitted as the above.

Good preparation can eliminate all problems regarding ghosting, bleed through, and water stains.

To identify if a stain has been transmitted from the wall surface the wallcovering has been installed over, look at the seams. If the stain runs across a seam this proves that it is not a wallcovering problem. Manufacturers cannot make wallcoverings with matching stains.

To eliminate all forms of show through or bleeding, coat the wall surface with an oil based sealer.

Once dry, sand entire surface with 80 grit sandpaper and dust entire surface to remove all dust particles.

Size with a good even coat of SHUR STIK® Latex premixed size.

19//PATTERN MATCHING

When installed properly, the wallcovering will not shrink back to its original state. Therefore, in order to make an accurate comparison from one strip to another, each strip must be allowed to expand for the same length of time. Once they are aligned, they should match perfectly, unless there is a trimming defect or there is more than one batch or lot number.

This phenomenon is also very visible when working with borders.

When installing a wallcovering and the top of the sheet is matching but the pattern doesn't match at the bottom, this is not a fault of the product. If the product was at fault, the pattern would not match at the top or the bottom.

If any pattern matches at the top 700mm/900mm, but mismatches at the bottom, the wallcovering has been stretched.

When Wet Does Not Match Wet

There are times when installers will install two strips of wallcovering together that have been pasted and allowed to soak (relax) for the same amount of time. However, they still do not match.

In this case check that all wallcoverings are of the same batch or lot number. Identical batch or lot numbers should align properly.

It is possible for wallcoverings to be overworked or overstretched during the installation process. This can be avoided by the installer not brushing downwards too hard.

With extra long lengths, the installer should fold the paper in a concertina fold which is draped over a part roll of wallpaper. Folding and holding long lengths of paper in this way will reduce the stretch caused by the natural weight of the paper being suspended for an excessive amount of time.

It is recommended not to try and join a wet strip against one that has dried completely.

NOTE: If the job cannot be finished in one period of time do not stop in the centre of a wall. Always stop in a corner so that next day the job can be restarted from this point. If there is any mismatch this will be hidden by the natural shadow of the corner.

When Wet Strip Does Not Match Dry

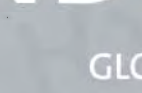
It is possible for an installer to align a dry strip of wallcovering against a previously installed strip on the wall and discover the pieces don't match or align properly.

The reason for this is simply because the previously installed strip expanded when the adhesive was applied or the wallcovering was immersed in water.

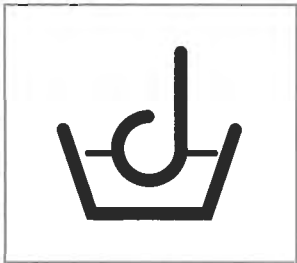
During the wallcoverings soaking time, it is common for a product to expand as much as 1 to 2 per cent over a period of from 2 minutes to, and in the case of Anaglypta, 25 minutes.

APPENDIX

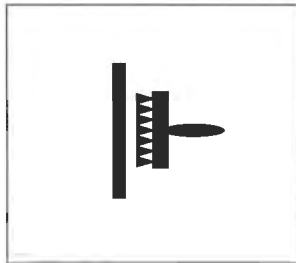
GLOSSARY



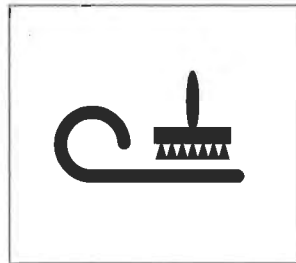
INTERNATIONAL SYMBOLS



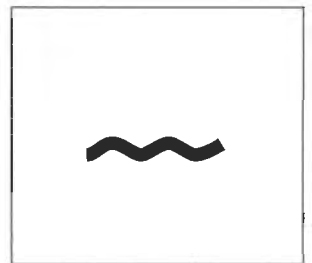
READY PASTED



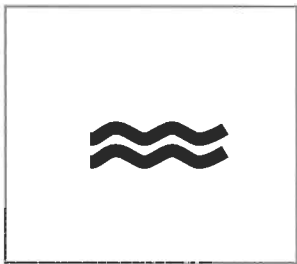
PASTE THE WALL



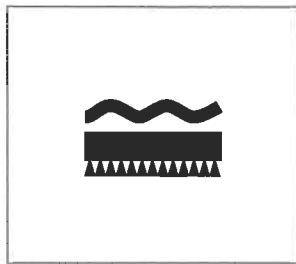
PASTE THE PAPER



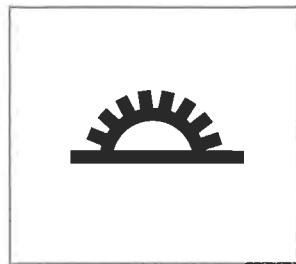
SPONGABLE



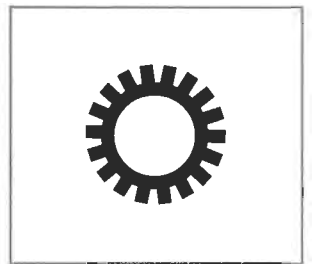
WASHABLE



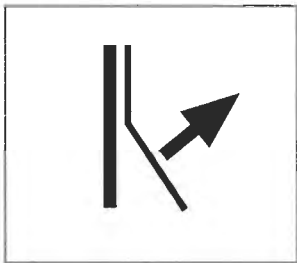
SCRUBBABLE



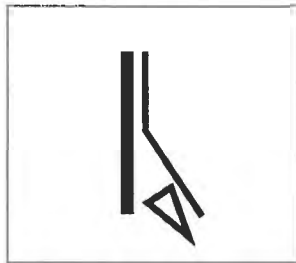
MODERATE LIGHT FASTNESS



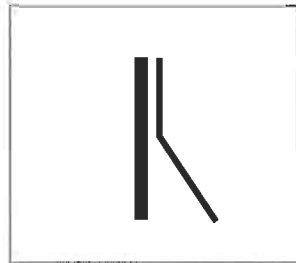
GOOD LIGHT FASTNESS



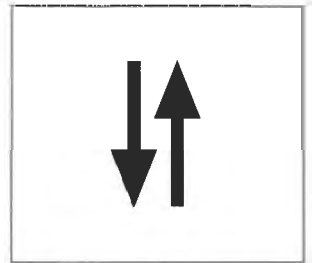
STRIPPABLE



WET REMOVAL



DRY PEELABLE



REVERSE HANG ALTERNATE LENGTHS

GLOSSARY

ANAGLYPTA

The tradename of a paint-on wallcovering range

BATCH-LOT NUMBERS

The number indicating which batch or job lot the piece (roll) of wallcovering was printed under. Colours and other features may be slightly different from batch to batch.

BLOCK PRINTING

A process of producing a pattern on wallcoverings by means of wood blocks, into which the design has been cut. A different block is used for each colour. Also called hand blocking.

BORDER, FRIEZE

A border or frieze is a form of wallcovering usually used as a decorative strip. Their dimensions are dependent on the size and type of design. They can have a dramatic effect around windows and doors and around the room just below the ceiling line.

BUTTING

Hanging strips of wallcovering edge to edge without overlapping.

COLOURWAY

A combination of colours in which a design is printed. A wallcovering design is usually available in several colourways.

CELLULOSE PASTE

A non-staining odourless adhesive.

DUPLEX

A term applied to a wallcovering made from two webs (base papers) which have been combined together by the use of an adhesive before the wallcovering is embossed.

EMBOSSING

A raised or textured effect made by impressing a design with steel rollers into a wallcovering material with or without the use of heat.

FLOCK

Wallcoverings that imitate the surface of velvet or damask, by the application of cut or ground fibres standing more or less on end and bound by adhesive to the surface of the wallcovering.

FOIL

A thin metal film bonded to a base web and printed on to give a decorative effect.

GROUND

The background colour on paper or vinyl, on which the design is printed or embossed.

INK-EMBOSSSED

Unlike regular embossed wallcoverings, these are imprinted with ink at the same time as the wallcovering is embossed.

LINING PAPER

A plain wallcovering for hanging on to walls and ceilings, by means of an adhesive, as a preparatory or foundation layer prior to the application of a wallcovering such as foil, or as a base for other decorative finishes. Lining paper should be installed horizontally.

METALLIC

Any wallcovering that gives the appearance of sheet metal or foil. It may be plastic or metal foil laminated to backing or web. May also be printed with metallic inks.

MURAL

A wallcovering in which the design extends to more than one width in order to create a scene or design covering an area larger than a single width of wallcovering.

OFFSET MATCH (DROP PATTERN)

A term applied to a wallcovering where the pattern repeats itself diagonally dropping half the design in each sheet. When the wallcovering is cut, every second length will be the same.

PASTE THE WALL

Wallcoverings with a non-paper backing, applied after first pasting a section of the wall with adhesive.

PEELABLE

Applied to a wallcovering from which the decorative surface can be removed from the base web by dry methods. Part of the base web remains and can either be removed or used as a base for a new wallcovering.

PEAKING JOINS

Where the wallpaper is still expanding after installation, resulting in raised rather than smooth joins.

PIECE

A single roll of wallcovering usually measuring 10.05m by 52cm. The width may vary by 10mm depending on design; pieces or rolls in a variety of widths and lengths are manufactured.

PREPASTED

Wallcovering that has had adhesive applied at the factory. Rather than pasting the wallcovering before hanging, these only have to soak in water to activate the paste.

PRIMER SEALER

A preparatory coat of special oil based paint applied to surfaces to eliminate show through, ghosting, or staining of the new wallcovering.

RAIL ROADING

The horizontal rather than the vertical application of a striped wallcovering.

RANDOM MATCH

A term given to a design that has no apparent match points. Does not have to be matched.

REPEAT

The distance between identical points in a wallcovering design.

SEALER

A preparatory coat of special oil based pigmented sealer, applied to wall surfaces to eliminate show through, ghosting, or staining of new wallcoverings. Essential for preparing the surface prior to installing wallpaper. A sealer that dries to a matt or flat finish is best. Sealers should be thinned about 5 per cent to ensure full penetration into the substrate.

SIZE

A coating applied to all surfaces prior to hanging wallcovering. Its purpose is to even the porosity (suction) of the surface. It also adds to the adhesion of the wallcovering and gives better slip and ability to move the product on the wall. It also makes it easier to remove wallcoverings when redecoration is required.

SANDABLE FILLER

This is a filler that once dry and sanded, turns to powder and is able to be dusted away.

STRAIGHT MATCH

A wallcovering design with pattern details that match directly opposite from one side of the sheet to the other.

STRIPPABLE

Wallcovering that can be removed from the wall surface backing, leaving none of the wallcovering on the wall.

NOTES

NOTES

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PACIFIC WALLCOVERINGS LTD

4-11 Mohuia Crescent
Private Bag 50907
Porirua, New Zealand

Phone: (+64) 04 237 8029
Fax: (+64) 04 237 8131
www.visionwalls.co.nz

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