

# Mylar-Laminated Vinyl Wallcovering

## Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Mylar-laminated wallcovering is a specialty product and should be handled with the utmost care. When the wall-covering is wet, use caution with items that may scratch the surface. Scratching the wet surface may result in ink peeling off. Do not use steel blade knives for smoothing the wallcovering or seams. The wallcovering surface is softer than steel blades and damage to the Mylar-laminated surface will occur.

Examine the material carefully to ensure that the pattern, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Check that the quantity and dimensions match the required specifications, prior to cutting *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

Mylar-laminated vinyl wallcovering can act as a vapor barrier and consequently should not be installed on walls that are susceptible to excessive condensation or moisture infiltration. This may be more likely to occur in Humid and Fringe Zone 1 climates. The building's exterior envelope must be weather-tight, and the HVAC system must be operating before and during installation. Verify that the wall surface to be covered is completely dry and free of any indications of prior mold/mildew growth. If walls show any of these indications, do not proceed with installation until the condition has been fully corrected under the direction of a qualified professional. *Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

### SURFACE PREPARATION

All surfaces must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease and mildew. Stains such as ink, grease, crayon, or other foreign matter should be spot treated with a stain-killing primer to prevent bleeding through the new material. **Since Mylar-laminated wallcovering will accentuate imperfections on the wall, proper surface preparation is key to good results.** Once prepared, apply a premium, pigmented acrylic primer/sealer so the wallcovering will be easier to hang and easier to remove when redecorating.

**New drywall** should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines ([www.gypsum.org](http://www.gypsum.org)), although a Level 5 is preferred. Follow with a pigmented primer.

**Newly plastered walls** should completely cure for 60-90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer. An adhesion test should be performed to ensure compatibility of the primer with the adhesive.

**Painted surfaces** should be tested for moisture resilience. Hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, rub the surface vigorously with a cloth, and if little or no paint is removed, the surface should be sound. If a large amount comes off, sand or wash the surface with ammonia and water to remove the paint. Once dry, apply a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer. Painted walls should also be tested for adhesion.

**Existing walls** present varied conditions, but essentially, glossy surfaces should be sanded, and mildew should be cleaned from the surface with a solution of two cups household bleach per gallon of water. **Existing wallcovering must be scraped and removed prior to installation.** We do not recommend hanging vinyl wallcovering over existing vinyl. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

### HANGING GUIDELINES

Wallcovering rolls are numbered consecutively and should be cut and installed in reverse sequence, starting with the highest numbered roll. All panels should be hung in sequence as they are cut from the roll, using only full widths of material whenever possible. Install under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color uniformity.

Measure the wall height, allowing for the designated pattern match, then add 4" and table trim the wallcovering. When hanging, overlap edges, making sure to check the horizontal and vertical alignment of each drop to make sure the pattern is straight and does not drift. Using a protected straight edge and appropriate double-cutter, double cut the seam, centered between the overlap. Large, dominant pattern repeats require more careful planning as far as

starting point, ceiling line, chair rails, door/window headers, etc. Patterns are meant to match at eye level and may run off slightly at the top and bottom of the wall.

*If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three lengths have been installed. Upon approval, returns will be subject to a 35% handling and restocking charge. Requests for return authorization must be made within 30 days of ship date.*

## ADHESIVE APPLICATION

**Wet Hang**—Apply a liberal, even coat of a high solids, commercial grade, clay adhesive to the entire back of the wall-covering with a 3/8" nap roller, or run strips through a pasting machine using a maximum tack, commercial grade, clay strippable adhesive. **Whip or stir adhesive at full strength; do not dilute.** Fold each sheet over and allow up to 5 minutes max booking time to ensure minimal moisture absorption between the Mylar and backing.

**Dry Hang**—Apply a liberal, even coat of a high solids, commercial grade, clay adhesive to the back of no more than 3 drop sections of the wall with a 3/8" nap roller. When double cutting, pushpin back loose top corner to avoid having the material fall. At the point of double cut you will need to open the seam area and reapply a light coat of adhesive (wet Velcro technique), to avoid seaming issues. Lightly work seam back together and follow the remainder of these instructions.

## INSTALLATION

To help ensure a successful installation, the first drop should be hung perfectly vertical. We suggest checking both vertically and horizontally with a plumb-bob or laser level. With a soft bristle brush (do not use sharp-edged tools) adhere the wallcovering to the wall, overlapping the ceiling and baseboard. Smooth from the middle to the outside edges, being careful not to stretch the material, and work out all air bubbles. Do not use steel blade knives for smoothing, as damage to the Mylar-laminated surface will occur. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. Hang the second panel according to the designated pattern match, and smooth out firmly. Double cut the seam down the middle of the double-lapped thickness, being careful not to score the wall. Remove the top and bottom strips and work into a tight seam using a seam roller or PVC smoothing blade wrapped and protected with a soft (microfiber) cloth. **If using a seam roller, be careful not to use a side-to-side motion as this may cause the Mylar to separate from the backing.** Before applying the next strip, trim the top and bottom as with the first one, and proceed in the same manner around the room.

Fill in over and around doors and windows as you come to them with strips cut in consecutive order from the roll. To avoid any wrinkling or creasing that may occur with Mylar-laminated wallcovering, we recommend cutting a seam at inside corners. The wallcovering can be wrapped around outside corners, however repositioning once wrapped may cause noticeable creases. Always continue wallcovering around corners approximately 6", making no corner cut. If this is unavoidable, do not overlap and cut; butt each strip separately resulting in a tight corner seam. Trim excess material from base moldings, door and window frames with a suitable razor knife and cutting guide. Take extra care in keeping the adhesive off the face of the wallcovering, as adhesive residue will discolor seams or leave a dull area. Remove excess adhesive immediately with a natural sponge, frequently rinsed in clear, warm water, and dry with a soft, lint-free cloth.

*After installation, the walls and wallcovering should be monitored for potential moisture or vapor infiltration, which must be promptly eliminated.*

## MAINTENANCE

Mylar-laminated vinyl wallcoverings are easily cleaned using clear, warm water and mild soap with a natural sponge. A cloth or towel should only be used to tamp dry (do not rub). Stubborn stains can be removed with a laundry spot remover or rubbing alcohol. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration over time.

*Note: The above is intended only as a guideline. Wallcovering installations must conform to current hanging instructions included with each shipment. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.*