

# Acoustical Wallcovering

## Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Non-woven Embossed and *Felted* Acoustical Wallcoverings

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the material carefully to ensure that the material, 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.*

We recommend that Acoustical wallcovering be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to and after installing, at 60–80° F, with relative humidity at 50% or less. Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 4% using a reputable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. If walls show mold, mildew or visible moisture damage, or if moisture content exceeds recommendations, 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. With all surfaces—once properly prepared—apply a good quality, acrylic or latex wallcovering primer/sealer. If an oil-based primer was used, apply an acrylic or latex primer over it before hanging, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. If the surface does not have a uniform color, use a pigmented primer.

**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. Unless firmly bonded to the wall, old wallcovering should be scraped and removed. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

### HANGING GUIDELINES

Wallcovering rolls of 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 the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

Embossed acoustical wallcoverings require a straight hang (do not reverse) to produce the most even effect, while *Felted* acoustical wallcovering should be reverse hung. The material should be table trimmed on both selvages to ensure a clean, straight edge. A new, sharp blade and a paperhanger's straightedge should be used on each panel. Cut the panels to the height of the wall plus 2", to allow for trimming at the ceiling and baseboard.

*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**

Acoustical wallcovering is meant to be dry hung. Apply a uniform coat of a heavy duty, clear, non-staining premixed wallcovering adhesive directly to the wall using a short-napped paint roller or stiff bristle brush, and allow it to dry overnight. Once dry, apply a second coat of undiluted adhesive and allow it to dry to its maximum tackability without being overly dry. Note: Do not mix water into the adhesive and do not paste the back of the wallcovering.

## **INSTALLATION**

Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a penciled plumb line. Use a stiff bristle brush or plastic smoother (do not use sharp-edged tools) to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. Smooth from the top of the panel down, working out all air bubbles. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. Butt the leading edge of the second panel to the edge of the first, keeping the wallcovering "pile" in one direction, without leaving gaps at the seams. Before applying the next panel, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel, and proceed in the same manner around the room.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than 6 inches from inside or outside corners. If you have to hang a partial width (e.g., into a corner), make sure the joint on the flat wall is made with two pre-trimmed edges; never join the middle of a strip to a pre-trimmed edge. When trimming around chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge.

Take extra care in keeping the adhesive off the face of the wallcovering, as it cannot be easily removed. Should any get on the surface, allow it to dry and then flake it off with a stiff brush. Do not attempt to wash the affected area, as this will only dilute the adhesive and may cause it to spread.

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

## **APPEARANCE**

Due to the lustrous pile of the sculpted patterns, perfect seams and shading cannot be guaranteed. Needle punch non-woven textiles have a nap that can reflect light in different ways, depending on the angle of the light source to the material. Shading is normal and part of the aesthetic beauty of acoustical wallcoverings, and should not be considered a defect.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Stains on acoustical wall carpet should be treated quickly. A solution of one tablespoon of dry powder detergent to one pint of lukewarm water is effective on many water-borne stains. With solid stains, scrape up the excess working from the outside to the middle to prevent spreading. If a liquid is spilled, blot with an absorbent cloth, again working from the outside in. Then sponge with the detergent solution and blot with a paper towel. For stubborn stains, it may be necessary to sponge with a non-chlorine bleach solution or a dry cleaning solvent. Occasional vacuuming will help maintain the product's fresh look.

*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.*