

Cork Textile Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For natural cork upholstery textiles installed as wallcovering

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our cork textiles are made with natural cork, you should expect to see color variations. These variations are not defects and are considered part of the beauty of the product. 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.*

Cork textile wallcovering should be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to, during, and after installing, at 65–75°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

Since 90% of all installation problems are due to improper wall preparation, please follow these instructions. Remove old wallcovering and repair damaged areas. All surfaces must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease and mildew, old wallpaper paste, or other foreign matter. Once properly prepared, apply a good quality acrylic or latex wallcovering primer/sealer such as Roman PRO-977 Ultra Prime® Pigmented Acrylic Wallcovering Primer.

Note: Primers used for paints are not the same as a wallcovering primer. If an oil-based primer was used, it must be covered with an acrylic primer such as Roman PRO-935 R-35® Adhesion Promoting Wallcovering Primer before installation, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. Allow the primer to dry thoroughly before hanging.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred. Follow with two coats of a pigmented acrylic 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.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Cut each piece of material to the height of the wall plus 4 inches extra for trimming. Pay close attention to the pattern of the material—do not reverse strips when hanging. Use a pair of scissors to remove most of the selvages on the sides of the wallcovering. Apply a best quality clear, premixed wallcovering adhesive to the wall using a 3/8" to 1/2" clean new roller cover. We recommend Roman PRO-880 Ultra® Clear Strippable Wallcovering Adhesive. Apply a good, even coat of the adhesive at full strength to the wall—**do not thin**. Be sure to paste the wall all the way to the ceiling and baseboards with a small, clean paint brush. Apply the adhesive to the wall a section at a time as you are installing; do not paste the entire room at one time, as the adhesive may dry out before you can finish the installation.

HANGING GUIDELINES

This cork textile wallcovering should be double-cut when installing. Be careful to not apply too much pressure when cutting on drywall to avoid cutting through the drywall layer and causing a split that will be extremely difficult to repair once the wallcovering dries. Trim with new, good quality single-edge razor blades. **We recommend changing your blade with each cut.**

INSTALLATION

Establish a vertical guideline for the first wallcovering strip using a level and a pencil. Bring the first strip to the wall, **being careful not to get paste on the front of the wallcovering.** Smooth the wallcovering onto the wall using a clean, flexible plastic smoother. Wipe the edge of the smoother off after each stroke to remove any paste and prevent transferring paste at the edges onto the front of the material at your next stroke. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard.

Bring the next strip to the wall and overlap approximately 1 to 2 inches on the edge of the first piece. Smooth down the second piece. Double-cut through the two layers using a straightedge and a new razor blade. Remove all excess ends from the double cut (on top and beneath), and gently smooth the seam down, again **being careful not to squeeze any excess paste out of the seam and onto the face of the wallcovering.** Do not use a hard seam roller; seams should be lightly tapped down with a clean wallcovering brush. Note: Most professionals use 2" delicate surface tape in the double-cut process to prevent paste from getting on the surface of the material. (If a small amount of paste does accidentally get on the front, it may be removed carefully with a clean, damp—not wet—sea sponge, then blotted dry with a clean, dry cloth.)

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than six 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 at chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Note: Small pieces of cork may soften and fall off the backing during handling of Natural Cork, which is normal and therefore not considered a defect. 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.

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

MAINTENANCE

Periodic maintenance for cork wallcoverings should include light dusting or use of a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment. If necessary, a slightly damp cloth may be used to remove a stain, being sure not to soak the material. More stubborn stains can be removed using clear, warm water and a non-abrasive detergent or household cleaner. Test first in an inconspicuous area. 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.