

Linens and Linen Blend Wallcovering Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For textile wallcoverings made from linen and linen blended with other materials

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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. You should expect to see variations in weaving and color effects with linen wallcoverings, especially in those that contain natural fibers. These characteristics are not defects and are considered part of the beauty of the product. Some imperfections will be red-flagged and extra material will be supplied to compensate. Minor yarn contamination, which can be particularly noticeable on light colored materials, is inherent to natural yarns and so cannot be considered as a fault. *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

We recommend that linen/linen blend wallcoverings be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to and after installing, at 55–85°F, with relative humidity at 50% or less. Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 6% 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 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 in depth, structurally sound, normally absorbent, smooth, and clean. All surface contamination should be removed and any mold treated before application. Light colored wallcoverings require the underlying wall surface to be uniform in color.

If the walls are not absorbent (e.g., walls with an oil-based paint), then the surface should be sandpapered, cleaned with a detergent solution, rinsed with clean water, and allowed to dry.

Non-absorbent surfaces such as metal, laminate, etc. or high lime-content plaster require that a suitable primer and adhesive be applied.

If the walls are too absorbent or have a powdery surface, pre-paste with the same adhesive diluted with 20% water; let dry for a couple of hours.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred.

Do not seal the wall. It is best to apply the wallcovering to a bare plaster surface so the adhesive can be absorbed by both the wall and the wallcovering backing. If the wall is sealed, the adhesive will remain wet and will eventually soak through the backing paper and come into contact with the surface fabric, which will lead to shrinkage at the seams.

HANGING GUIDELINES

For best results, hire a qualified wallcovering installer. Linen wallcovering should be handled with care to avoid creases and damage to the pre-trimmed edges. White gloves should be used to keep the surface clean. **All panels should be hung in sequence as they are cut from the roll**, using full widths of material, whenever possible. Starting with the highest roll number, cut and number panels in sequence using a graphite pencil. Only use material from a single production lot and check that each new roll matches what has already been hung. When measuring cut lengths, add 2" to the wall height to allow for excess trim at ceilings and baseboards. Since edges are precision pre-trimmed, panels should be butt-jointed (do not double cut).

Plan the layout of panels in advance to create a symmetrical pattern on the wall. Rolls will be labeled indicating repeats, when appropriate, and whether to use a straight hang or reverse hang technique. If reverse hanging is required, hang panels numbered 1, 3, 5, etc. with the number at the top, and hang panels 2, 4, 6, etc. with the number at the bottom.

For linen wallcoverings with raised metallic designs, surface lasering, flocking, or crushed surfaces, a rubber roller should be used instead of a spatula or seam roller, which may cause damage to the surface. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

Note: Keep all labels until after the job has been accepted, so that the lot and roll numbers can be provided in the event of a shortage.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, and inspected after one hour, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Do not assume that a problem is caused by moisture and that it will disappear after drying. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three lengths have been cut and applied. 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

Use a heavy duty, premixed, undiluted wallcovering adhesive suitable for natural fiber wallcoverings. The adhesive must give a strong bond and should have a low moisture content to avoid the risk of shrinkage. Apply a thin layer of the undiluted paste using a short-napped paint roller or stiff bristle brush (do not use a pasting machine). Clay-based adhesives are recommended in areas with high humidity, although they do not allow for slippage. Use of a mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended. Fold each sheet over and allow 3–5 minutes booking time for the adhesive to penetrate the material and avoid drying of paste at the edges.

INSTALLATION

Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a penciled plumb line so the wallcovering overruns the ceiling, baseboard, floor, or corner by an inch or so. Use a flexible spatula or rubber roller (do not use sharp-edged tools) to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. Gently smooth from the middle of the panel and upwards, and then from the middle and downwards, working out all air pockets and wrinkles. If a joint roller is used, it should be made of soft flat rubber—a hard roller may damage the edges. Be careful not to press too harshly or stretch the material. The horizontal weave should be adjusted to appear as straight as possible.

Since the wallcovering is precision pre-trimmed, it must be butt-jointed. Butt the leading edge of the second panel to the edge of the first, as tightly as possible, without overlapping or leaving gaps at the seams. The material should be worked away from that seam, pressing gently so as to remove any air pockets or wrinkles (do not use a seam roller). Use a flexible spatula to flatten both edges at the joint. Adhesive should be applied sparingly so it doesn't squeeze out and stain the surface of the wallcovering. After applying 3–4 panels, trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a spatula and a sharp razor blade. Move the spatula while keeping the knife blade in contact with the wallcovering surface to ensure a clean result. Take extra care in keeping the adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Should any get on the surface, immediately remove it using a damp sponge and dry off the surface with a clean, dry cloth. Once the adhesive is dried in, it will be impossible to remove.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Do not fill in with off-cuts or out of sequence strips. Vertical joints should not occur less than 6" from internal corners. For an external corner, wrap the wallcovering a minimum of 12" around the corner. If you have to hang a partial width (e.g., into a corner), make sure the joint is made using a pre-trimmed edge, reversing as appropriate—never join a middle to an edge. Draw a plumb line on the adjacent wall using a graphite pencil, approximately 1" away from the corner. Hang the wallcovering to this line so the panel overlaps by 1" before being trimmed into the corner itself. When trimming around chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge.

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

MAINTENANCE

Vacuum with an upholstery attachment or use a soft nylon brush to remove dry dirt and grime. Linen/linen blend wallcovering should be treated for stains as soon as possible. Common stains such as scuffmarks and soiling can often be removed with a dry brush or a clean, absorbent cloth. Wet stains should be blotted to absorb liquid. Avoid using any water on the cloth, which may damage the material. If a stain is not removed, use a cloth with a minimal

amount of warm water to loosen the stain. Then, brush back and forth with a soft brush, working outside in. Avoid abrasive rubbing of stains that can cause discoloration, especially on darker colors. Oil-based stains, such as shoe polish, nail polish, permanent markers, or oil paint, are best removed using a commercial cleaning solvent. For waxy substances (e.g., chewing gum or candle wax), rub the spot quickly with ice, pick off the brittle substance, and follow with a solvent cleaner, if needed. Occasional vacuuming will aid in maintaining 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.