

Silk Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the material carefully to ensure that the pattern, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Our silk wallcoverings are manufactured using silk that is woven from homespun and hand-dyed yarns, so you should expect to see variations in the color and texture of the material. These characteristics, together with the horizontal weave, will create a paneled effect on the wall. 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 Silk 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 suitable 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. If the wall is not absorbent (e.g., covered with an oil-based primer), it should be sanded, cleaned with a detergent solution, rinsed with clean water, and dried completely. If the wall is too absorbent or has a powdery surface, pre-paste with adhesive diluted with 20% water. Do not seal the wall, as the adhesive will need to penetrate both the back of the wallcovering and the wall surface itself.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred. If installing a light colored wallcovering, make sure the surface has a uniform color.

Newly plastered walls should completely cure for 60–90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali.

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.

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 are numbered consecutively and should be cut and installed in reverse sequence, starting with the highest numbered roll. Panels should be hung in sequence as they are cut from the roll, whenever possible. The material should be precut into panels to the height of the wall plus 4", to allow for trimming at the ceiling and baseboards. A straightedge and a very sharp blade must be used, as dull blades may cause fraying of the material's edges. It is recommended that the panels for each wall be of equal widths, without leaving short strips at an end. By measuring the width of your wall first, you can determine how to yield an equal number of panels of the same width. Since silk materials have variations in shading, it's best to lie out the drops for each wall prior to hanging, and arrange them so as to produce a well-balanced paneling effect. Then, using a black graphite pencil, number the strips in sequence and mark the top and bottom to prepare for hanging.

Our silk products vary in their weaves and backing material, and so different hanging techniques are required to give the most uniform appearance. Follow the manufacturers instructions regarding whether to hang straight or reverse-hang. And, because the wallcovering is pre-trimmed, it can be butt jointed, but it is also possible to overlap and double cut, providing a new sharp blade is used for each joint. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

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

Apply a uniform coat of a heavy duty, clear, non-staining, premixed wallcovering adhesive (suitable for natural fiber materials) to the wall, using a short-napped, synthetic roller. Use of a mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended. Spread the paste about 8" beyond the width of each panel to avoid getting adhesive on the first panel when you adhere the one next to it. Also be careful not to over-paste the wall.

INSTALLATION

With a plumb line and pencil, mark a vertical line approximately 1 width minus 1" in from an internal corner. (The 1" allows for trimming into the corner itself.) Hang the first panel with its trimmed edge against the plumb line and allow the material to overrun a bit at the ceiling, baseboards, and corner. Use a plastic smoother to firm the wallcovering against the wall, eliminating any air bubbles. Start from the middle and work upwards and downwards. Do not use a hard roller or overwork the seams, as this may damage the edges of the silk. The second panel can be applied to the wall by butting—or overlapping and double cutting—as described above. After 3 or 4 panels have been hung, use a sharp blade and painter's spatula to trim the excess material at the ceiling and baseboards. Always keep the smoother blade in the cut while moving it forward. Check each drop for shading as you proceed around the room.

Avoid cutting in narrow widths of material 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 spatula (or broad knife) rather than a straight edge. Take extra care in keeping the adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Should any get on the surface, remove it immediately with a damp sponge and dry the surface with a soft, clean cloth.

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

MAINTENANCE

Our silk wallcoverings have a stain-resistant finish that provides increased protection from many water- and oil-based agents. When splashed, the contaminant will form beads on the surface that, in many cases, can be removed by gentle blotting with a clean absorbent cloth. Remove any such splashes while still wet, but do not rub, as you may push them into the material and create a stain. For stubborn or dried-in stains, try gentle rubbing (from the outside in towards the center of the stain) with a natural sponge or cloth dampened with a solution of neutral detergent and water, being careful not to saturate the surface. Test first in an inconspicuous area. With coffee, tea or fruit juice spills, which can discolor once dry, dab with a neutral detergent solution followed by lemon juice, and then use a dry cloth to remove any excess moisture. Periodic vacuuming will aid in preventing airborne dust from building up on the wallcovering surface, and 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.