

Textile Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Polyester and Polyethylene textile wallcoverings

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 textile wallcoverings, especially in those made with natural fibers. These characteristics are not defects, and are considered part of the beauty of the product. **Some imperfections will be flagged and allowances are made, but check that you can work around them.** *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

We recommend that textile wallcovering be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to and after installing, at 65–85°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 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. Once properly prepared, apply a heavy-duty acrylic or latex 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. Lining the walls is usually unnecessary, but a determination should be made by the installer.

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 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. On highly alkaline surfaces such as cement block, use an alkyd enamel, under body 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

All panels should be hung in sequence as they are cut from the roll, using full widths of material, whenever possible. When measuring cut lengths, add 4" to the wall height to allow for excess trim at ceilings and baseboards. Edges should be table trimmed using a straightedge (do not double cut). Always use a sharp blade, especially with textile wallcoverings, as dull blades may cause fraying of the material edges. Most textile wallcoverings require straight hanging to avoid shading caused by weave variations. However, there are some textile patterns where a reverse hang/random match technique may be more appropriate, so refer to the manufacturer's instructions for guidance. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

ADHESIVE

Use a premium, heavy-duty wallcovering adhesive at full strength, which is suitable for acrylic-backed wallcoverings (such as Roman® PRO-880 Ultra® Clear). A mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended. Textile wallcovering should not be applied using an adhesive paste machine.

INSTALLATION

Apply a coat of adhesive to the wall, and allow it to dry completely. Apply a second coat of undiluted adhesive to the wall, allowing it to dry to maximum tackiness without being overly dry. Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a penciled plumb line. Press the panel gently to remove any air pockets or wrinkles that may appear in the material due to handling, smoothing from the top of the panel moving down. Take care not to press too harshly against the surface. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. The horizontal weave should be adjusted to appear as straight as possible.

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 then be worked away from that seam, pressing gently so as to remove any air pockets or wrinkles (do not use a seam roller). Before applying the next panel, trim the top and bottom, and proceed in the same manner around the room.

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.

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 panel 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. Should any get on the surface, allow it to dry and then flake it off with a stiff brush.

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. Textile 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. 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. Abrasive rubbing of stains should be avoided so that discoloration does not appear, especially on dark colors. If promptly treated, most indelible stains can be removed by using a diluted chlorine bleach solution of 10 parts water to 1 part bleach. Be sure to rinse promptly with clean water and a clean cloth.

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.