

# Textile Wallcovering

## Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Polyester, Polyolefin, Rayon, and Viscose 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](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. 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 of our 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.

*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**

For **paper-backed wallcoverings**, apply a uniform coat of a premium, premixed, clear non-staining wallcovering adhesive to the back of the material, 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 slip-page. 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. Be careful not to crease when booking as you might damage the material.

For **spun fiber-backed wallcoverings**, apply a uniform coat of a heavy-duty, premixed, clear or clay-based, non-staining wallcovering adhesive to the wall, using a short-napped paint roller or stiff bristle brush. Allow the adhesive to dry completely. Clay-based adhesives are recommended in areas with high humidity, but note that they do not allow for slippage. Apply a second coat of undiluted adhesive to the wall, allowing it to dry to its maximum tackability without being overly dry. Spread the paste on the wall about 8" beyond the width of each panel to avoid getting adhesive on the previous panel. Be careful not to paste too far ahead to avoid premature drying of the adhesive.

## **INSTALLATION**

Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a penciled plumb line. Use a soft bristle brush or cloth to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. Gently smooth from the top of the panel down with a plastic smoother (do not use sharp-edged tools), working out all air bubbles and wrinkles. Be careful not to press too harshly or stretch the material. 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.

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. 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. Abrasive rubbing of stains should be avoided so that discoloration does not appear, especially on dark colors. Oil-based stains, such as permanent markers, shoe polish, nail polish, or oil paint, are best removed using a commercial cleaning solvent. A bleach solution can also be used on synthetic yarns such as polyloefin. Test first in an inconspicuous area. 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.*