Vinyl Wallcovering
Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the material carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. 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.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

It is very important that vinyl wallcovering rolls are stored in areas where the temperature is maintained at 50°–90°F. When transporting, be aware that the inside of a trailer can become very hot—a truck parked in the sun can reach temperatures of over 170°F, which can result in many types of defects. Nothing should be stored or stacked on top of the vinyl wallcovering rolls. If the rolls are allowed to sit on the floor for long periods, or if other materials are stacked on top of the rolls, flat areas, dents, inclusions, and various lines can be permanently embedded into the wallcovering. Often using a heat gun or hair dryer can remove ripples and impressions. Heating the room to 90°F can also help. If the vinyl wallcovering is stored for long periods of time (6 months or longer), special precautions need to be taken to ensure that the rolls maintain their shape, the temperature is regulated, and that nothing is stored or stacked on the rolls.

Vinyl wallcovering should 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 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. Note: Vinyl wallcovering can be micro-perforated to increase permeability, however this will not prevent mold and mildew growth if moisture is permitted to occur in a wall.

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. With all surfaces—once properly prepared—apply a heavy duty, acrylic or latex wallcovering 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.

Note: If the wallcovering has been perforated, a permeable primer should be used.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred, to avoid telegraphing of any imperfections. 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. 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—glossy surfaces should be sanded and mildew should be cleaned off with a solution of two cups bleach per gallon of water. All wallcovering should be scraped and removed; we do not recommend hanging vinyl wallcovering over existing vinyl. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

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HANGING GUIDELINES

Wallcovering rolls are numbered consecutively and should be cut and installed in reverse sequence, starting with the highest numbered roll. All panels should be hung in reverse sequential order as they are cut from the roll, using only full widths of material whenever possible. *Note: Some embossed wallcoverings may not be appropriate for direct lighting where every feature is magnified.* Be sure to test out the wallcovering first, and install under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

When hanging **non-reversible** or **matching patterns**, measure the wall height, allowing for pattern match, add 4", and table trim using a straight edge to ensure alignment across seams. Large, dominant pattern repeats require more careful planning as far as starting point, ceiling line, chair rails, door/window headers, etc. Patterns are meant to match at eye level and may run off slightly at the top and bottom of the wall.

When hanging **textured** or **random-match patterns**, reverse hang alternate strips for a more uniform appearance; overlap and double cut, being careful not to score the wall. If the pattern effect is not acceptable after three strips are hung, re-hang strip #2 without reversing.

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 40% 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 premixed vinyl wallcovering adhesive to the back of the material using a short-napped paint roller or stiff bristle brush (a pasting machine can be used at the installer's discretion). A heavy duty, clay-based adhesive is recommended for heavyweight vinyl wallcovering, while a clear or clay-based adhesive can be used for lightweight vinyls. Use of a mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended. Fold each sheet over and allow up to 10 minutes booking time for the adhesive to penetrate the backing of the lightweight vinyl material (up to 15 minutes for heavyweight vinyl), and to avoid paste drying at the edges.

Note: If the wallcovering has been perforated, a permeable adhesive should be used for adequate permeability.

INSTALLATION

Hang the first strip to a plumb line, overlapping the ceiling and baseboard, within 12 minutes of paste application. Use a stiff bristle brush to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. A plastic smoother can also be used on non-metallic vinyls, providing only light pressure is applied (do not use sharp-edged tools). Smooth from the middle to the outside edges, being careful not to stretch the material, and work out all air bubbles. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. For matched patterns, butt the second strip to the edge of the first and smooth out firmly. When double cutting non-matching patterns, place a 2-3" wide strip behind the seam to avoid scoring the wall. Flatten seams exerting light pressure with a seam roller. Low-adhesive painter's tape can be used to keep the face of the seams clean. Before applying the next strip, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel, 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 6" from inside or outside corners. When trimming at chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straight edge. Take extra care in keeping adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Remove excess adhesive immediately with a natural sponge, frequently rinsed in clear, warm water, and dry with a lint free cloth.

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

MAINTENANCE

Vinyl wallcovering is easily cleaned using clear, warm water and mild soap with a natural sea sponge. If a damp sponge fails to clean dirt and smudges, spray the soiled area with a laundry spot remover or rubbing alcohol and wipe in circular motion. Blot excess spot remover from the surface with a clean damp sponge. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration.

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.

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