



Follow all the manufacturer's instructions on the materials and equipment you're using and then refer to these tips to hang wallpaper with confidence.

BASICS

- Set a budget.
- Take careful measurements of your walls.
- Structures in older homes may not be plumb/square/level. Detailed measurements will help you work with/around those features.
- Is this a quick update or redecorating from scratch?
- Can existing furniture and decorative items be reused?
- Choose a theme/design/colour scheme that enhances your home.
- Consider the appearance of the wallpaper from within the room and from other rooms.
- Will new lighting be needed to make the most of the new look?
- What do you want to hide/emphasize?
- All paper, or paint and paper combination?
- Take samples of relevant carpet, fabric and paint colours shopping for correct matching.
- Work out timeline of work required, factor in prep and drying times etc.

TYPES OF WALLPAPER

- Vinyl coated paper
- Coated fabric
- Paper backed vinyl/solid sheet vinyl
- Fabric backed vinyl
- Solid vinyl
- Paper
- Glass beaded
- Grasscloth
- Woven, non-woven etc.
- Mural

- Digital prints
- Hand printed
- Wallpaper tiles
- Wall decals
- Pre or ready-pasted, paste-the-paper or paste-the-wall types of wallpaper etc

CONSIDER

- Light fastness
- Expected wear and tear (varieties go from very delicate to scrubbable)
- Ease of future redecoration (dry strippable, wet removal, peelable)
- Texture
- Metallic effects
- Dimensional effects like embossing
- Size of print
- Vintage, retro, modern designs etc

EXISTING SURFACE FOR PAPERING

- Extensive repairs needed?
- Oil-based/gloss paint or existing wallpaper?
- Papering onto raw or painted timber, fresh plaster walls etc?
- Lining paper required? What type and weight?

BUYING

- Purchase sufficient quantities for the job all with the same batch number.
- Allow an extra 10 per cent - more if there is a large design / big repeat.

TOOLS, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- Wallpaper
- Size (wall sealer - if required)
- Paste (appropriate adhesive - if required)
- Paste table
- Pasting brush
- Smoothing brush
- Sponge
- Plumb bob
- Tape measure
- Sharp knife
- Wall paper shears or very sharp, long scissors
- Long metal ruler
- Bucket of clean water
- Ladder
- Seam roller
- Wallpaper roller
- Water-based clear coating and brush (if required)

GETTING STARTED

- Engage paper hanger (if using one), check all references.
- Run your ideas by the paper hanger you will be using.
- Ask hanger how much money-saving labouring you can do for them.
- Make a list all tools and equipment required, then borrow, rent or buy those items.
- Empty room as much as possible.
- Move remaining items to centre of room and cover to protect them.
- Purchase and take delivery of all materials before you start.

SURFACE PREPARATION

- Refer to our painting checklist for detailed surface preparation tips:
<http://news.domain.com.au/domain/diy/the-essential-diy-painting-guide-20120215-1t4ya.html>
- Start with a sound surface, clean, dry and smooth.
- Strip any old wallpaper that is rough and not perfectly adhered to the wall.
- Use size to seal porous surfaces if required.
- Use lining paper for a really professional job (normally 1000 gms).
- Finish all painting in the room before wallpapering.

- Either loosen or remove faceplates of switches and power points etc. (paper can be slipped under a loosened fitting).
- Switch power off at the mains before working around anything electrical.
- Some manufacturers note that the pH of your walls can cause issues. Alkalinity can be a problem with foil papers.

PAPER PREPARATION

- Roll out your wallpaper on a flat area in good natural light.
- Check for any variations in pattern or colour.
- Check which way up the paper should be hung.
- Measure the height of your wall from skirting to ceiling.

WHEN CUTTING

- Mark the paper where you have to cut it.
- Allow an extra 5cm top and bottom for neat trimming.
- Cut with a utility knife and metal rule (or whatever you find easiest).
- Mark the back of each length at the top with a "T" for top.

CUTTING BOLD PATTERNS

- Start hanging at your chosen focal point.
- Cut the first length to maximise the design by placing;
 - a complete motif at the top and bottom of the wall or,
 - the pattern distributed evenly up the wall or,
 - a focal motif in the most advantageous place.
- Before cutting subsequent lengths, match pattern with previous length.
- Expect some waste.

WHERE TO START PAPERING

- Avoid starting/ending in a corner.
- Begin where most appropriate for your job and wallpaper design:
 - an inconspicuous spot e.g. behind a door
 - the middle of the wall
 - a focal point
 - 25mm less than the width of the wallpaper from a corner (The extra 25mm will wrap into the corner, the final piece of wallpaper will overlap this).

WHERE TO START PAPERING (CONT.)

- Wherever you chose to start, create a vertical line.
- Never assume any architectural feature is straight.
- Do a plumb line on every wall.
- Severely out-of-plumb walls will cause problems with obviously patterned papers.

PREPARE THE WALLPAPER

For ready-pasted paper

Follow the manufacturer's instructions which will usually be;

- Fold it up into a loose concertina shape and place in a bucket of water until the paper is fully soaked.
- Book the paper and allow it to relax for 5 to 15 minutes to soften and activate the paste.

For paste-the-paper wallpaper

Follow the manufacturer's instructions which will usually be;

- Mix the wallpaper paste.
- Lay the paper face down on a work surface.
- Use a brush to apply a smooth, even cover of paste.
- Book the paper and allow it to relax for 5 to 15 minutes to soften and activate the paste.
- Wipe down your work surface between pasting each length of paper.

For paste-the-wall wallpaper

Follow the manufacturer's instructions which will usually be;

- Mix the wallpaper paste.
- Use a brush or roller to apply a smooth, even cover of paste to the wall.
- Make sure to apply paste a little more than the width of the wallpaper.

HANGING THE WALLPAPER

- Novices will probably need an extra pair of hands to help get the wallpaper perfectly vertical while they negotiate a ladder.
- Ensure the pattern is the right way up.
- Hold the top of the wallpaper with the 5cm overhang at the top.
- Stick it to the top of the wall in line with the plumb line.
- Avoid moving the paper around too much, it can stretch, wrinkle and tear.
- Joints should be butted together closely and never overlap.

- If the wallpaper rolls are numbered they should be hung in sequence.
- Certain types of wallpapers need to be hung in lengths alternating between one way up and then the next length inverted.
- Smooth down the middle with the smoothing brush.
- Work out towards the top and bottom edges, removing air bubbles.
- Press paper gently into corners at cornice and skirting boards with the brush.
- Use a wide straightedge to press the paper even more tightly into corners for a professional finish.
- Use a sharp utility knife on the underside of the straightedge to trim the paper neatly.
- Use a seam roller to get a perfect finish between lengths.
- Remove any excess paste with a clean, damp sponge.
- Repeat process, working around the room.
- Butt the edge of each new length of paper up as closely to the previous one as possible.
- Carefully match patterns as you go.
- Try to wrap wallpaper through corners and overlap with adjoining pieces.

SAFETY TIPS

- Wear sturdy, protective clothing and footwear.
- Safety glasses.
- Dust masks.
- Make sure there are at least two of you to lift and manoeuvre heavy items.
- Lift with your knees not your back.
- Be especially careful when using ladders.
- Ensure your work area is well ventilated and well lit.
- Be very careful in older homes where there may be toxic substances like lead paint, asbestos etc.
- Take care using hazardous materials and chemicals, always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

This information is general in nature.
Consult the relevant experts to get
specific advice about your project.