HOW TO HANG WALLPAPER

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED

FOR PREPARING YOUR WALLS:
- Wall Filler
- Sandpaper

FOR INSTALLING THE WALLPAPER:
- Sharp craft knife and or,
- Wallpaper scissors (to cut the paper)
- Wallpaper paste
- Bucket - to mix the paste in
- Plumb line or spirit level
- Tape measure
- Paint brush or Roller and Roller tray - for applying the paste
- Wallpaper brush or smoother - for ensuring paper is stuck down
- Seam roller - to ensure seams are level
- Clean damp cloth - to clean off any paste on Wallpaper surface or smooth seams

ALWAYS CHECK THE LABEL BEFORE HANGING

The method you use to apply your paper to the wall is dependant on whether you choose a paste the paper or paste the wall wallpaper.

As the name suggests, paste the paper wallpaper uses the traditional technique of applying paste to the paper and allowing it to soak as advised, before hanging.

Whereas a paste the paper wallpaper offers a new technique of applying the paste to the wall. The wallpaper hangs dry from the roll so it's easier to cut, and there's no need for a pasting table.

HOW TO

STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR WALL:
1. Fill and sand any cracks or imperfections on your wall.
2. Clean the wall with detergent or sugar soap.
3. On fresh plaster, "size" the wall – this means make up a diluted solution of paste and liberally apply to the walls being decorated and let it dry.
4. This will be absorbed into the porous plaster and will stop the paste being absorbed when it is applied.

STEP 2: MEASURE AND PLAN WHERE TO START:
1. Consider the light in the room. If you are wallpapering the whole room start with strong natural light and move away from there, if creating a feature wall this is less relevant.
2. The first "drop" of wallpaper is key as all others will align to it, so it is important to ensure it is "plumb" otherwise your wallpaper could look wonky.

HOW TO HANG WALLPAPER

HOW TO

3. From the left-hand corner of the wall you are about to decorate measure 50cm and make a pencil mark to give you your starting point.
4. Using this mark, draw a plumb line using either a plumb-bob or spirit level. A plumb line is a vertical straight line, from which you will hang the first "drop" of wallpaper against and ensure it hangs straight down.

TOP TIP
The reason for this is that a roll of wallpaper is 52/53cm wide.
It means that the last "drop" you hang will go into the corner – which means if the wall is wonky or out – you can trim it in the corner, and it won't be obvious.

STEP 3: APPLY THE WALLPAPER PASTE - **PASTE THE WALL**:

1. Apply the paste liberally to the wall, ideally with a roller (it's quicker). You can paste over the plumb line and make sure you apply paste a couple of centimetres wider than the wallpaper you are about to hang. This means you can hang the second "drop" of wallpaper without worrying about applying paste over the first "drop".
2. Use a 2" paint brush to add paste at the top of the wall, around sockets, or just above the skirting. This will ensure even coverage in difficult areas and avoid the wallpaper "lifting" when dry.

STEP 3: MEASURE THE PAPER & APPLY THE WALLPAPER PASTE - **PASTE THE PAPER**:

1. Measure the height of your wall and add 100mm to get your drop length.
2. Set up a clean, dry pasting table. Double check the way your paper comes off the roll. Make sure you work with the design the right way up.
3. Find the point in the design you want to see at the top of the wall. Cut straight across the paper about 50mm above that. You'll trim the extra off after you've hung the wallpaper.
4. Measure out the drop length on the back of your paper. Mark a straight line across the back and make your cut. A dustsheet on the floor will help keep your wallpaper clean as you work.
5. Check your first drop dry against the wall before you paste or cut any more. If the ceiling height varies, cut each drop one at a time and number it on the back so you know which drop goes where.
6. Unroll your next drop on top of your first and line up the pattern on the side furthest away from you. Cut your second drop to match your first. Keep offcuts to use above doors.

HOW TO

7. Check the wallpaper label to see how long you need to let the paste soak in before you hang the paper.
8. Lay your cut drops of paper face down on the table with the first drop on top. Line up the edge of the paper with the edge of the table. Paste down the middle then out to the sides, making sure the paper is completely covered.
9. When your drop is completely covered, concertina fold it from the ends inwards so you can carry it easily. Let the paste soak in for as long as it says on the label. You risk problems with overlapping joins otherwise.

STEP 4: APPLY THE WALLPAPER TO THE WALL - **PASTE THE WALL**:

1. The wallpaper can be hung dry from the roll. Use ladders to get to the ceiling or coving, and allow a little extra product, e.g 2-3cm at the top.
2. As you hang from the roll lightly brush into place as you go down to the skirting board. Here you can lightly push the paper to the wall. Leave the roll on the floor.
3. Ensure that the paper is in the correct position and is vertically correct. Brush down the paper with the smoothing brush from the centre to the edges of the roll.
4. Cut the excess paper at the top and bottom with a knife or wallpaper scissors.

TOP TIP

This is so you can trim the top of the paper in line with where the ceiling and the wall or coving meet. If this is uneven you will get a neat finish.

5. Working to the right of this first “drop”, paste the wall again allowing a few centimetres wider than the width of the wallpaper. You should see you don’t need to get close to the first drop of paper when doing this.
6. For the second drop – look to see where the paper matches (the point at which the design fits together along the edges of the wallpaper).
7. Starting at the top match the paper as you hang it dry from the roll – lightly brushing the paper to the wall as you go. The paper will slide into place on the paste.

TOP TIP

You can cover your paste bucket with cling film to keep it fresh over-night.

HOW TO

8. When you get to the bottom of the wall – check the pattern matches, and there are no gaps. If there are bubbles, or mismatches, just loosely pull the paper back and brush it back down. The paper is forgiving! If it matches you're nearly there.
9. Repeat until you're done. Don't worry about taking breaks or giving up for the night. You can pick up wherever you left off – just make sure to reapply the paste.

STEP 4: APPLY THE WALLPAPER TO THE WALL - **PASTE THE PAPER**:

1. Line up the edge of your first pasted drop about 5mm inside the plumb line. Brush in towards the corner and take the last 25mm around it, then brush out from the centre to the edges all the way down.
2. Use scissors to gently crease the paper, then peel back and trim along the crease. Repeat at the bottom of the drop.
3. Line up the side of your next drop with your first and brush towards the join to close the gap.
4. With the join neatly closed, brush across away from the join to flatten the rest of the width to the wall.
5. Open up your pasted folds one at a time and work your way down the whole drop brushing into the join, then across.
6. Gently crease the joint between the wall and the skirting with scissors, then peel back and trim as before.

STEP 5: RELAX AND ENJOY!