



HOW-TO BOOKLET #3038

HANGING WALLPAPER



TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Sponge
- Plumb Bob and Snap String
- Sandpaper
- Pre-Paste Water Tray
- Pencil Knife
- Putty Knife
- Scissors
- Paste Brush
- Seam Roller
- TSP

Read This Entire How-To Booklet for Specific Tools and Materials Not Noted in the Basics Listed Above.

Wallpapering takes some skill and lots of patience. If the room is a “simple” one—few windows and doors, no alcoves, sloped ceilings, and so on—papering it will be almost as easy as painting it. Also, simple non-repeating wallpaper patterns are easier than the repeating ones that require extra careful planning about where the papering project should start and end within the room.

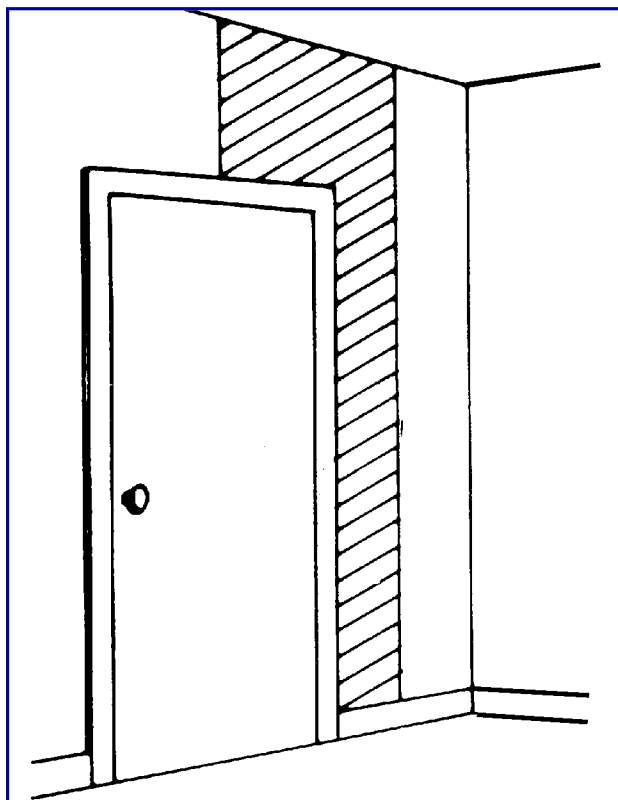
WALLPAPER SELECTION

The selection of wall coverings is very wide, ranging from the traditional paper with standard prints to durable and washable cloth backed or vinyl backed vinyls. Also available are hand scrolled prints, solid vinyls, blown or extended vinyls, natural fabrics, foils, mylars, and flocked paper.

You need to go over the choices with your retailer to suit your needs and to match your skills.

PLAN THE PROJECT

Wallpaper is sold in various widths with each roll having a certain number of square feet. American rolls come up to 36" in width, averaging 30" in most stores. Euro-rolls are by far the most readily available wallpaper, ranging 20" to 27" but measured in metric sizes. Square footages will vary from paper to paper and pattern to pattern, so always check with your retailer.



Because patterned wallpapers must be matched side-to-side along the edge of the strips, there is a fair amount of waste in trimming to keep the pattern repeating properly. For example, “repeat” will be marked on the paper. The pattern, also an example, repeats every 20". The wall you are papering is 100" from the ceiling to the floor. Divide 20" into 100". You get 5 repeats per strip.

To determine your overall requirements, measure the height of each wall and determine the square footage (Height x Width = Square Footage). Subtract major obstacles like doors or large windows, ignore small windows (smaller than 3' square).

Divide the square footage needed by the square footage in a roll of your choice of paper to determine your total rolls needed. A rule of thumb is to use 28 square feet for American rolls and 21 square feet for Euro-rolls.

It is better to overestimate than underestimate your needs, because matching hues and colors, even if you have the roll and lot number, may be difficult. Many retailers will credit you for unused rolls that you return.

WALL PREPARATION

The first step in wall preparation is to remove all cover plates, wall hangings, fixtures, and mountings. Repair all cracks, holes, and nicks. You can paper over old wallpaper, provided it still adheres tightly. If it is loose in spots, remove the loose parts and sand torn edges. If a large area is loose or there are more than two layers, it should all be removed. Don't hang a vinyl wall covering over old paper; it will pull the paper off when it dries.

Old wallpaper can most easily be removed with steaming equipment, which you can usually rent locally. Soaking with a sponged-on solution of paper remover such as TSP and water also works, but it takes much longer. Once the wallpaper has soaked long enough to soften and shred, scrape it off with a putty knife. Take care not to gouge the wall with the knife.

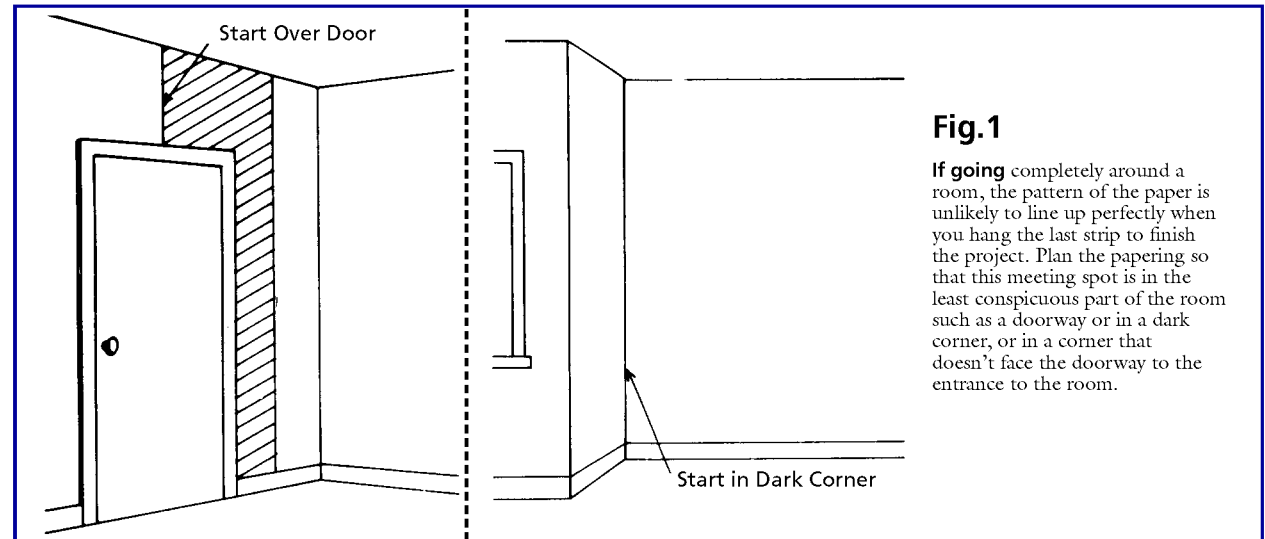


Fig. 1

If going completely around a room, the pattern of the paper is unlikely to line up perfectly when you hang the last strip to finish the project. Plan the papering so that this meeting spot is in the least conspicuous part of the room such as a doorway or in a dark corner, or in a corner that doesn't face the doorway to the entrance to the room.

New walls should be primed or painted to the background color of the wallpaper. Old painted walls may be suitable for papering if they are well bonded and withstand cleaning and deglossing. Sizing, a wallpapering undercoat, may be required with certain types of papers. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific details.

PAPERING PROCEDURE

The usual place to put the first strip of wallpaper is over a doorway or at a dark corner (**Fig. 1**). The project can also be started between windows (**Fig. 2**). When you've decided where to start, mark exactly where to hang the first drop. Don't rely on anything in the room being true; draw a vertical line with a plumbline or carpenter's level to make sure the paper will be straight (**Fig. 3**).

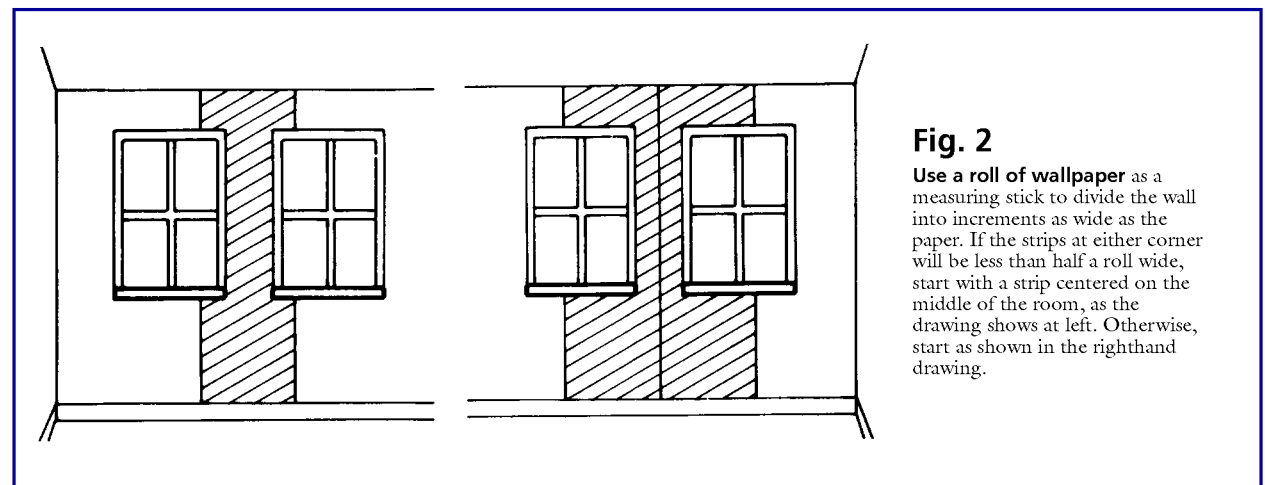


Fig. 2

Use a roll of wallpaper as a measuring stick to divide the wall into increments as wide as the paper. If the strips at either corner will be less than half a roll wide, start with a strip centered on the middle of the room, as the drawing shows at left. Otherwise, start as shown in the righthand drawing.

The hanging procedures are detailed in the following step-by-step sequences.

CUTTING PAPER TO FIT

- 1 Because wallpaper comes in rolls, it must always be cut to fit the height of the wall, and because full widths do not always fit exactly across a wall, it often has to be cut narrower along its length. To cut a piece to length, allow about a 2" overlap at the top and bottom to be trimmed off after the paper is on the wall (**Fig. 4**). This lets you adjust the sheet up and down to meet the pattern properly.
- 2 Long cuts on wallpaper should be marked at both ends, measuring in from the edge that will meet the piece already on the wall. Long cuts are usually made to fit the paper into corners and should be measured from the top and bottom of the wall because corners are seldom plumb (vertical level).

PASTING WALLPAPER

Many wallpapers today come pre-pasted. Simply unroll the sheets, cut them to length and then re-roll them turned inside out. Now immerse the reversed rolls in the water tray for several minutes or as specified by the manufacturer's instructions. Pull the top edge of the paper out of the tray and fold the paper (**Fig. 5**).

If you are not using pre-pasted paper, proceed as follows:

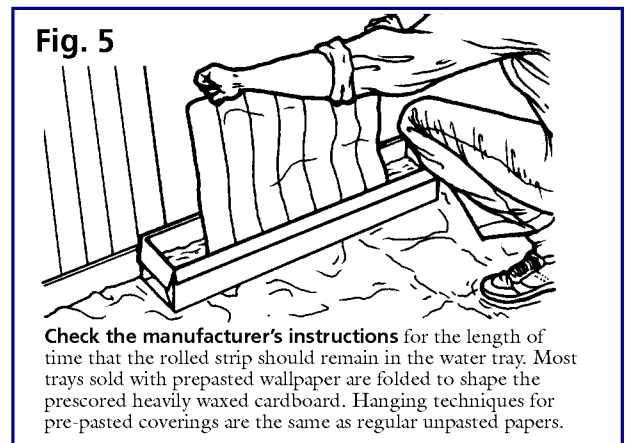
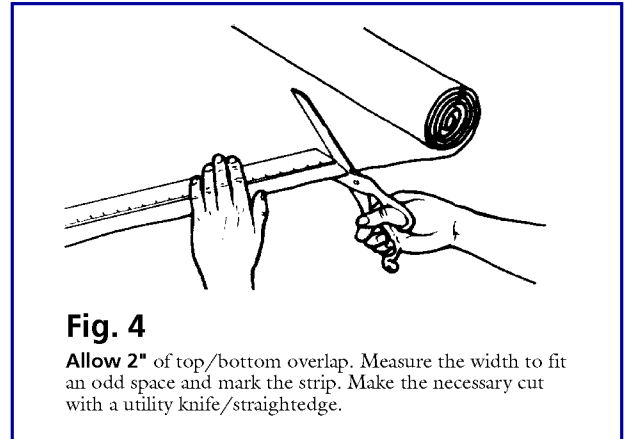
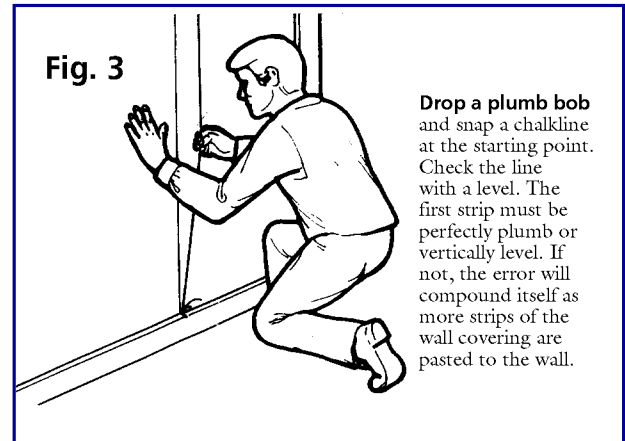
- 1 Wallpaper paste is available both premixed in liquid form and dry for mixing with water. If you are mixing it, make it up about 30 minutes before you start the papering project. Plan 1 lb. of dry mix adhesive to hang 6 to 8 rolls of paper. Some vinyl papers take more adhesive. A good rule of thumb is 1 gallon of vinyl adhesive for 2 to 4 rolls of vinyl wallpaper.
- 2 Lay a piece of the paper that has been cut to length on the pasting table with one edge flush with a long edge. Paste the paper with a paste brush from the table edge to the middle and

about half its length. Shift the paper across the table so that the other edge lines up along the other edge of the table and paste the rest of that side. Lining the paper up with the table edges prevents paste from getting on the table top and damaging paper surfaces.

- 3 Fold the paper over on itself so that the pasted surfaces are in contact with each other. The top edge should be folded to the center of the strip and the bottom edge in turn. This process is called "booking" (**Fig. 6**).
- 4 When the entire sheet is pasted, fold it into a manageable package that will be easy to carry to the wall. These packets may be set aside for a few minutes to allow the paste to soften the paper.

HANGING WALLPAPER

- 1 Decide at what point in the room you will start hanging the paper and mark a vertical line at that point on the wall. This guideline will establish the position of subsequent sheets.
- 2 Carry a pasted and folded piece of paper to the wall, holding it with the top corners between the thumb and forefinger. The rest of your hand supports the rest of the sheet. This lets you position the paper at the top and lets the rest of the sheet fall into position at the wall.
- 3 Put the top of the paper against the ceiling, leaving a few inches of overlap, and then shift it in position along the vertical guideline (**Fig. 7**).
- 4 Once the sheet is in position and laid reasonably flat by hand, use a wallpaper brush to smooth out wrinkles. Brushing action would be from the midline of the sheet toward the edges and toward the corners. Use the brush to tuck the paper into corners and along the ceiling line and at the bottom. Finish the surface by wiping it with a damp sponge or a soft, damp cloth such as toweling.



TRIMMING FOR EXACT FIT

- 1 When the paper is hung and brushed out, mark the line where it meets the ceiling, floor, or corner by dragging the back of a scissors blade along the joint. Peel the paper down enough to permit cutting, cut along the line, and stick the paper back against the wall and brush it down in place.
- 2 At windows, hang a sheet over the window that must be cut around. Notch the corners back to the edge of the window, then score and cut.

HANGING TIGHT SEAMS

- 1 Position a second strip along the edge of the first so that the pattern lines up and the edges of the sheets are butted together tightly—not overlapped or pulled apart at all—with a very slight ridge at the joint. This ridge will subside.
- 2 After the paste has started to dry and the edges have sunk back to the wall, use a seam roller to flatten the seam and press the edges of the sheets firmly into the paste. Roll once up and down. Do not roll over the seam again and again. You may create a shiny track on the paper. Keep the roller free from excess paste. Wipe it clean often.

TURNING INSIDE CORNERS

- 1 Corners are rarely straight (plumb) in any but a brand new house (often not even here), so wallpaper usually must be cut and fitted to carry the pattern around. Measure from the edge of the sheet before a corner, to the corner at the top of the wall and the bottom of the wall. Add 1/2" to these measurements and transfer the larger of the two to a sheet and cut it lengthwise. Hang the sheet against the edge of the previous sheet, letting the other edge turn the corner. Brush the sheet out and tuck it into the corner.

- 2 Measure the width of the remaining section of paper and subtract 1/2". Transfer this measurement to the unpapered wall at the corner and use a level or plumb bob to find the vertical line that touches this measurement. Mark this vertical carefully to guide hanging the next piece of paper.
- 3 Hang the second sheet, positioning it against the line and brush out as usual. Use the brush to tuck in the edge that meets the corner.
- 4 If the second sheet overlaps the corner, score it with scissors, peel it back slightly, and cut along the scored line.

PAPERING OUTLETS AND SWITCHES

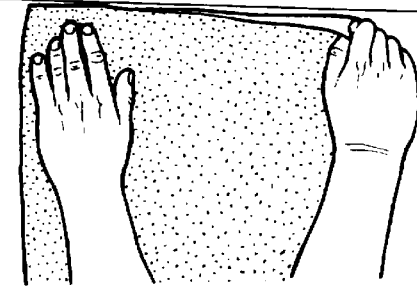
Paper over existing outlets and switches as if they are not there. Note their positions with a pencil for later cuts. Use a pencil-knife to cut diagonal lines across the outlet or switch (Fig. 8). Peel the tabs of paper back and trim the paper to expose the switch or outlet box.

A FINAL NOTE

When working with foils, mylars, and flocked paper, take extreme care in the handling, hanging, and cutting. Paper damage occurs easily and is very difficult to repair.

This booklet is a primer to help you understand the principles of wallpaper selection and hanging. Seek out expert assistance from your local experienced retailer for more specific information about wallpapering your unique project.

Fig. 7



Grasp the top of the strip this way. It will automatically unfold itself via gravity down the wall surface. Then align the strip and brush it down.

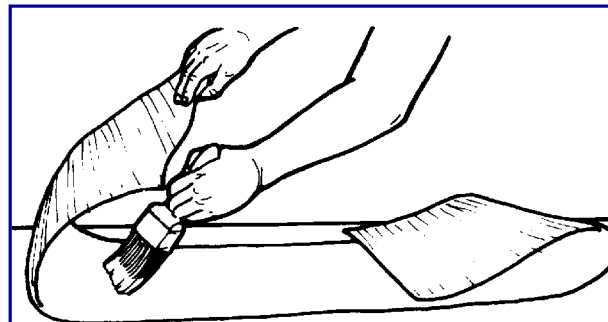


Fig. 6

Paste and fold the strips this way. Paste one-half of the strip and lightly fold it over. Then paste the other half and fold it over. Don't kink folds.

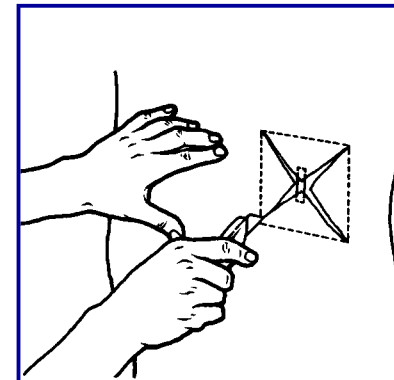


Fig. 8

Turn off the power at the fuse box or service panel before papering around a light switch. Press the paper over the edges of the switch so that it creases, and make diagonal cuts to each corner.