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DECORATING 201

THE BASICS OF WALLPAPERING



PORTSMOUTH
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Housekeeping

- fire procedure
- toilets
- photography

Series of 'How to...' workshops

Included:

- 1 year's membership
- 1 tool borrow



Workshop:

Aim:

At the end of today's workshop you should have enough confidence to wallpaper a wall

Timings:

- Preparation
- Wallpapering tips
- Wallpapering demonstration
- Wallpapering around things

Questions: If at anytime you have a question, just fire away.



Buying Wallpaper

Two types:

- Non-woven **paste-the-wall** (newer and more expensive)
- Woven **paste-the-paper** (cheaper and traditional)

Important!

Ensure you get the same **batch number** on all your rolls (this ensures the colour matches as each batch can differ slightly)



How much wallpaper do I need? 1 of 4

- Figures that you need (measure accurately)
 - the **wall width** (include windows and doors)
 - the **wall height** from the floor (or the top of the skirting board) to the ceiling
 - the **roll width**
 - the **pattern repeat** (if there is a pattern)
 - the **roll length**



How much wallpaper do I need? 2 of 4

Step 1 - how many strips across

Total wall width / wallpaper roll width = total strips needed

e.g.

Wall width is 450 cm

Wallpaper roll width is 53 cm

$450 / 53 = 8.49$

Round up to 9 strips

How much wallpaper do I need? 3 of 4

Step 2 - how long is each strip

Working height = wall height + 10 cm (this is a buffer for trimming)

If you have a pattern, this needs to be rounded up to the full number

e.g.

Wall height is 232 cm

Pattern repeat (from label) is 64 cm

Working height: $232 + 10 = 242$ cm

Working height / pattern repeat: $242 / 64 = 3.78$

Round up to 4 full repeats

Strip length = $4 \times 64 = 256$ cm

How much wallpaper do I need? 4 of 4

Step 3 - how many rolls

Total length required = total strips needed x length needed per strip

E.g.

Total strips needed = 9

Length needed per strip = 256 cm

$9 \times 256 \text{ cm} = 2,304 \text{ cm}$ or 23 m

Roll length = 10.05 m

$23 / 10.05 = 2.29$ rolls, therefore 3 rolls

Kit you might need

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Plumb line
- Pencil
- Stanley knife
- Wallpaper scissors
- Pasting table
- Pasting brush/roller
- Wallpaper smoothing brush
- Seam roller
- Bucket
- Sponge & clean water
- Ladder or step stool
- Dust sheets
- Sandpaper & sanding block
- Scraper
- Wallpaper steamer
- Filler
- Wallpaper rolls
- Wallpaper paste

Why not borrow items?

Prices to
borrow for
1 week



Wallpaper steamer £3



Wallpaper Pasting Table £2



Ladder £16



Wallpapering Hanging Kit £1



Dust sheet £1



Paint Kettles £1

Prepping the Wall

Some things that you might need to do, depending on your wall

- Remove old wallpaper
- Remove flaky paint
- Fill cracks
- Sand uneven surfaces
- Sugar soap to clean walls

Tip:

Prepare your space for dust
Make space for working



Make sure it's dry and clean before you start papering.

Priming and Lining

- Sometimes called 'Sizing' you can use watered down wallpaper paste to give a good base before papering
- Wait for it to dry before starting to paper
- Use lining paper to give the best finish (helps cover blemishes, uneven colours etc)

Tip:

Make sure your wallpaper seams are positioned differently to your lining seams



Where in the room to start

No right or wrong here

Often people paper left to right, but this is not a set rule

Some recommend that you start where the main natural light is strongest and work away from that

If doing a whole room

Start in the least obvious corner with a patterned paper - the final join might not be a perfect match



Mark the Wall

- Starting from where you're beginning, measure the width of your wallpaper, minus 2 cm and make a mark
- Draw a straight line down the wall at this point
 - use a spirit level, laser level or plumb line

This is essential so that you hang your wallpaper straight



Cut the paper

- Roll the wallpaper out on a flat surface
- Find the height of your wall and add 10cm
- Mark that length on the wallpaper and cut it with wallpaper scissors
- When cutting the subsequent strips, hold them up against the already hung wallpaper to check the pattern match and cut accordingly



Apply the paste



- If pasting the wall, you can use a brush or roller, but **only** paste the part of the wall where you're about to hang the strip of wallpaper
- If pasting the paper, lie the paper on the wallpaper pasting table, pattern side down (clean the table of paste between strips)
- Use a pasting brush to apply the adhesive from the centre outwards.
- To make it easier to apply to the wall, fold it up into a concertina shape and leave it for the time recommended on the roll

Tip:

Use the instructions on the package for making the paste - should have the consistency of porridge

Hang the wallpaper

- Lining up the strip of paper with your plumb line hang your first strip from the top of the wall
- Remember to leave an overlap at the top for a few centimetres.
- Use the wallpaper smoothing brush to smooth it from the centre outwards, from the top to the bottom
- Press gently to remove any air bubbles

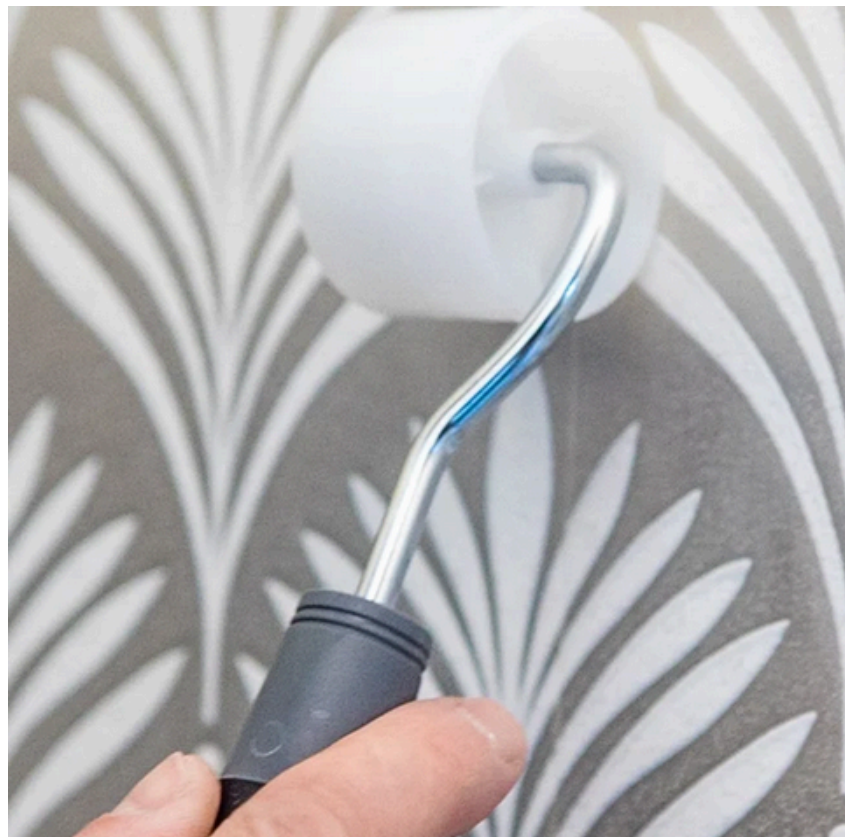


Trim the wallpaper

- Use a putty knife to firmly press the paper into the edge at the top and bottom to create a sharp crease
- Use a **sharp** knife, scissors or trimming wheel to cut off the excess paper at the top and bottom
- Be careful not to tear the paper, rather than cut it
- Now clean off any excess paste that has got onto the pattern side of the paper, or you may get shiny patches when it dries

Line up the next strip

- Repeat what you've done with the next strip
- Ensure you line up the pattern with the first strip
- Make sure it butts up against the first sheet without any gaps
- Smooth it down as before and then trip the excess
- Finally, use a seam roller to flatten the seams between the two sheets
- Now repeat...





Demonstration

Wallpapering internal corners

- **Internal corners**

- measure the gap between the edge of the wallpaper and the corner at various points
- add 25mm to the longest measurement and mark onto the paper
- cut along the line
- hang the paper as before, smooth into and round the corner onto the next wall
- now note - was the paper that you just cut:
 - more than half the width of the strip - start the new wall with a full strip of wallpaper
 - less than half the width of the strip - mark the remaining distance that would have been needed to complete the width minus the 25mm overhang on to the next piece of paper and cut. (This helps with pattern matching)
- create a plumb line from the corner, using the width of the next section of paper
- align the paper to the vertical line, so it overlaps into the corner, with the pattern matching as well as possible
- smooth the paper down and into the corner

Wallpapering external corners

- **External corners**

- simply wrap the wallpaper round the corner and gently smooth it down
- you can crease the paper's corner for a sharp line if you'd like
- before hanging the next piece, create a plumb line from the edge of the previous piece to keep the line straight

Wallpapering around sockets

- Turn off the electric circuit that your socket is on (test it's off before doing the next step)
- cover sockets and switches with the wallpaper
- use a pencil to lightly mark the 4 corners
- make a hole in the centre of these markings and cut diagonally from the hole towards the marks
- trim the excess, but leave some extra to tuck behind the socket
- loosen the screws on the sockets and feed the excess wallpaper behind it (make sure it's just a little bit of paper that goes behind)
- tighten the screws

Wallpapering around doors/windows

- use similar technique to the sockets
- think about it a bit like wrapping a gift, using cuts to make good corners etc
- lots of additional tips and videos are available online

Wallpapering around radiators/pipes

- Ideally remove the radiators before wallpapering
- if not, make sure the radiator is off and cold
- make mark where the radiator brackets are
- cut strips all the way down the paper where the marks are
- hang the paper until it goes behind the radiator
- use a long object (piece of cardboard or radiator roller) to flatten the paper to the wall)
- trim the top and bottom as usual

Final tips

- If you find bubbles appear afterwards, use a pin to create a tiny hole in the paper and smooth out the air
- If you get wrinkles when applying the paper initially, gently lift and reapply - do this slowly and carefully to avoid ripping the paper
- Avoid peel & stick paper (much harder!)



Remember

- Calculate how much you need & check batch numbers on rolls
- Prep the space and walls, including your plumb line
- Cut the paper
- Apply the paste
- Hang the paper
- Trim the paper
- Dispose of any leftover paste carefully
- Enjoy your room!



Any questions



Prepare the surfaces - Sanding



All surfaces need to be prepared for a finish. Usually this means at least giving the surface a **key** so that that the finish you are applying has something to grip to.

Also sand the areas you have filled.

Glass paper / Sand paper comes in grades
The higher the number, but more fine it is

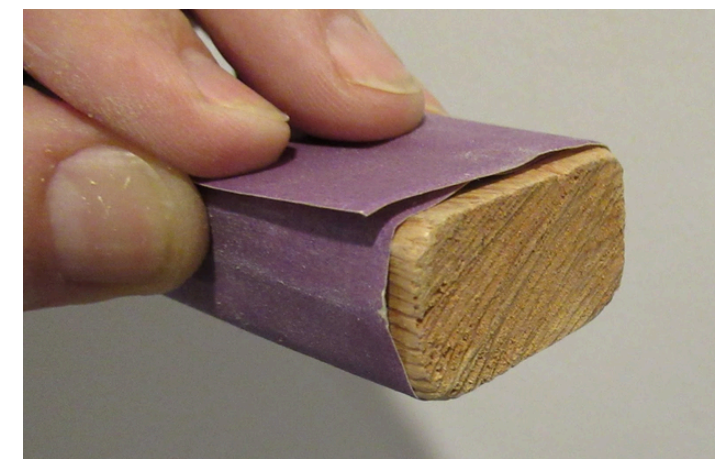
Course

Medium

Fine



Sanding Blocks



Prepare the Surfaces - Filling

Most walls will usually require some level of filling.

This will help you to cover, previously drilled holes, dents, scuffs and cracks.

Fillers come ready mixed or in powder forms



Scrim tape to help with large holes in plasterboard walls



Tip:

Remember you will sand this after it's set

Filling Tips

How to use

- Use a filler knife as less sanding required - clean before using (or a flexible piece of straight plastic)
- Mix and fluff up filler before using
- Note: Bigger holes require more layers and drying time in between layers
- Make sure lid sealed well when closing
- Clean filler knife after use

