



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

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### How to hang wallpaper

## What You Need

### **Wall prep Materials**

You may need some or all of the following: Sandpaper, Putty, Putty Knife, Oil Base Primer/Sealer, Wallpaper Sizing, Paint Roller and Tray, Paint brush, Wallpaper Remover (chemical enzyme), Drop Cloth

### **Hanging Materials**

You may need some or all of the following: Plumb Bob or Level, Pencil, Water Tray, Wallpaper Adhesive, Paint Roller and Tray, Paint Brush, Table or Work Surface, Drop Cloth, Razor Knife, Scissors, Straight Edge, Smoothing Brush or Tool, Seam Roller, Sponge or Soft Rag, Bucket, Clean Water.



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

### How to hang wallpaper

## Before You Start

Your walls must be prepared to receive wallcovering. Properly prepared walls are the foundation for a good job. Most walls need some prep - even those in new homes. The time you spend preparing the surface will make the hanging of the wallpaper easier and will ensure more satisfactory and long lasting results.

Always check the instructions included with your wallcovering for the manufacturer's recommendations.

Before beginning any surface prep, remove all nails, screws, electrical plates and any other wall fixtures. You should also remove old wallcovering. Make sure the surface is free of any loose paint, mildew, grease, or stains.

New walls should have a primer/sealer. This seals the wall and creates a smooth surface. The primer should be white pigmented because colored primers could bleed through the wallcovering. Follow the manufacturer's directions for drying and curing, then apply a wallpaper sizing solution (available from The Selvedge Group) ) which makes it easier to hang and position the wallpaper. It also makes it easier to remove it later when the time comes. Allow the sizing to dry for about 30 minutes before hanging the wallpaper.

Previously papered walls should be stripped and the walls should be cleaned with a mild detergent solution or adhesive remover. Rinse with clear water and let dry. Apply a wallpaper sizing solution which makes it easier to hang and position wallpaper. It also makes it easier to remove it later. Note: It is always best to remove old wallcovering. If this is not possible, be sure that the old wallcovering is tightly secured to the wall. Sand the seams, then prime with an oil-base primer and after drying to manufacturer's recommendations, apply a wallpaper sizing solution. This will make it easier to hang and position the wallpaper. It also makes removal easier.

Previously painted walls should have any rough spots scraped or sanded. Holes and cracks should be filled with putty. Let dry and sand smooth. Apply an oil-base primer to putty areas and let dry. If your walls have glossy paint, sand with fine grit sandpaper and rinse to remove residue. Let dry and apply a wallpaper sizing that will make it easier to hang and position the wallpaper. It also makes it easier to remove.



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

### How to hang wallpaper

## Get Ready, Establish a Plumb line

Before you begin, read the manufacturer's instructions. Check to be certain that you received the correct pattern. You should also make sure that the run numbers or dye-lots are the same.

You must first establish a plumb line, which is a straight vertical line. Most homes have settled, and the floors and ceilings are not always "plumb". This step is very important and will ensure that you hang the strips straight. You should repeat this as you begin each new wall. There is more than one way to establish a plumb line. Here are a few suggestions: Use a chalked line with a plumb bob (available at home decorating and hardware stores), or a level and a pencil.

With each of these methods you will need to start by measuring the width of your wallpaper. Choose an inconspicuous corner, preferably one behind a door (this is your starting point, and therefore also your ending point). It is usually best to work around the room clockwise (or to the right). Measure out from the starting corner the width of your wallpaper minus 3 cm and mark the wall (at the top if you are using the plumb bob). If your room has a definite focal point, such as a fireplace, you may want to position the first strip so that a prominent section of the design is centered over the mantel. If so, Hang this strip first, then work towards your inconspicuous start/stop point. Then return to the first (focal) strip and continue in the other direction - again ending at the start/stop point.

Now, place either the chalk line and plumb bob or the level on this mark and make a vertical line on the wall. This line is the edge you will use as a guide to hang your first strip of wallpaper. Approximately 3 cm will wrap into the corner and onto the next wall. The wrapped portion is where you will end up as you work your way around the room.



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

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### How to hang wallpaper

## Measuring

Walls are seldom exactly the same height all the way around a room, so you must take several measurements and find the maximum height. Add 5cm you'll need this extra for any unevenness and for trimming at the top and bottom of the walls.

If your wallpaper has a noticeable pattern, you may want to hold the roll of paper to the wall before cutting the first strip to determine the best placement of the major design motif.

Cutting and Pasting:

You are now ready to cut your first wallpaper strip.

Almost all patterns are designed with basic repeats and matches. Be sure the second strip matches the first at the top and bottom before you cut, and remember to leave some extra length at the top and bottom for trimming. When you hang the first strip, use the second strip to determine the match point and then cut the next strip. You will now be ready to hang the second strip. Continue in this way as you work around the room.

### **Unpasted Wallpaper**

Lay your first strip of wallcovering on your table or work surface and use a paint roller or brush to apply the recommended wallpaper paste. Apply the paste evenly and "book" the strip by gently folding the ends of the strip to the middle - pasted side to pasted side. Lightly press the glued sides together (don't crease).



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

### How to hang wallpaper

## Hanging the Wallcovering

Time to hang your first strip! Unbook the top of the strip and place it against the marked plumb line on the wall. Make sure you have about 5 cm of extra paper at the top of the wall. (The extra ½ on the left edge will go into the corner and onto the adjacent wall.) To help the wallpaper wrap, you will need to slit it in the corner at the top and bottom.

Use your hands to gently smooth the top half of the wallpaper, unbook the bottom half and then use a smoothing brush or plastic smoothing tool to press the wallpaper to the wall and remove any air bubbles or excess paste. It is best to smooth from the center to the edges in diagonal movements.

Hang the second strip. You should match the pattern at eye level first and then work up to the ceiling and down to the baseboards. Do not overlap the strips, just butt the edges. Do not over work the strip by pushing or pulling...this can stretch the wallcovering. Reposition by lifting it away from the wall and sliding into position.

Make sure the strips are tight against each other and the wall. Use a razor knife and a trim guide (a wide putty knife works very well) to carefully trim off any excess wallcovering at the top and bottom. You should always turn off the electrical power to any switches and outlets before trimming around them.

Make sure the seam is tight. You can roll the seam lightly with a seam roller or press with the smoothing tool. Do not use a seam roller on raised or embossed designs.

Thoroughly rinse the strips with a sponge or soft cloth and clean water. Wipe dry with a clean cloth. Any paste that is left on the surface of the wallcovering can cause damage to the wallpaper inks and is not considered a defect of the material.



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

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### **How to hang wallpaper**

Continue working your way to the first corner. When you reach the corner and the wall space is narrower than the width of your wallpaper, you measure the space and add 2.5 cm. Carefully measure and cut the next strip so to the size of the space including the extra 2.5cm. Hang this part of the split strip as you did the others, but allow the extra to wrap around to the next wall. (You do not want to wrap more than this, because corner walls are usually not perfectly parallel, and wrapping wide strips can cause major wrinkling and tearing.)

When you move to the next wall, you will be hanging the balance of the strip. Measure this portion of the strip and make a new plumb line by measuring out from the corner....this time the same width as the strip. Make a new vertical plumb line on the wall. Here you will place the right edge of the strip against the marked plumb line and slide the left edge into the corner, overlapping the half inch that wrapped around the corner - this time overlapping is good! - and match the pattern as well as you can. You now are assured that the wallcovering will be plumb. Continue until you have finished the room.

(Outside corners- Sometimes rooms have outside corners as well as the more common inside corners. You should follow the same basic instructions for outside corners, because wrapping around them can be just as problematic as inside ones. Measure to allow for a wrap, and split the strip. Hang the first portion, and then after marking a new plumb line, hang the balance of the strip on the new wall.)



# THE SELVEDGE GROUP

## Product Sheets

---

### How to hang wallpaper

## Cutting Around Doors and Windows

Hang the entire strip of paper and smooth it into place to the edge of the door or window frame. Make diagonal cuts in the wallpaper at the door or window frame corners. Remove the bulk of the paper that was covering the door or window opening and smooth the wallpaper against the molding. Now use the razor knife and trim guide to neatly trim the edges.

## Light Switches and Electrical Outlets

Remember to turn off the electrical power! Paper over the light switches and outlets. Using a razor knife, cut and trim an area slightly smaller than the switch plate or outlet cover. Replace the covers when finished. Tip: for a designer effect, you can apply your wallpaper to the switch and plate covers. Be sure to match the pattern.

### **Step back and admire your work!**

Please note these are suggestions only and The Selvedge Group will not be held liable for any mistakes made in the hanging of our wallpapers.