

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON VINYL WALLCOVERING SELECTION, USE and INSTALLATION.

Wallcovering Permeability, Moisture and Mold. Like any other building material, wallcovering materials, such as vinyl wallcovering and paint, should be selected taking into account building conditions. One of the characteristics of vinyl wallcovering is that it has little or no moisture permeability. This characteristic can be an important benefit in terms of durability, cleanability and wall protection. However, if the design, construction or maintenance of a building, or other circumstances allow liquid or vapor moisture to accumulate in a wall or wall cavity, vinyl wallcovering can act as a vapor barrier restricting the escape of moisture and increasing the risk of mold growth. Building deficiencies that can lead to moisture accumulation in a wall or wall cavity include unsealed building exteriors (roof, walls, windows, etc.), inadequate or unbalanced HVAC systems, use of wet construction materials, or leaking pipes. If the source of the moisture accumulation is not eliminated, mold growth is likely to occur. Depending on the condition of a building, moisture accumulation can be more likely in hot humid climates such as the southern coastal region in the United States.

Good design, construction and maintenance practices can prevent moisture accumulation. In all cases, moisture and sources of moisture accumulation must be eliminated before installing any wallcovering material and routine building maintenance must always include looking for and prompt correction if moisture accumulation is found. Vinyl wallcovering does contain additives to resist mold and other microbial growth on the product itself but these additives will not prevent mold growth if moisture is allowed to accumulate in a wall or wall cavity. Vinyl wallcovering permeability can be increased through perforation and alternative product constructions with varying degrees of increased permeability depending on the methods used. Whether this increased permeability will prevent moisture accumulation requires an evaluation of the building involved and local conditions. It is important to keep in mind, however, that no wallcovering material, including paint and perforated or mildew resistant wallcovering will prevent mold growth if moisture accumulation is permitted to occur.

An experienced professional who is familiar with building conditions and local circumstances should always be consulted concerning permeability requirements and the benefits and limitations of vinyl wallcovering. For more information on wallcovering permeability, moisture and mold OMNOVA recommends that you read the Wallcovering Association's study on mold issues titled "Mold Cause, Effect and Response". It is available at www.wallcoverings.org/MOLDBook.pdf. Further information is also available on OMNOVA's website: www.omnova.com/dbp.

Double Hanging. Vinyl wallcovering must not be hung over other wallcovering. If a fire were to occur, wallcovering hung over other wallcovering will result in increased smoke generation, flammability, and toxicity. Any such hanging is in violation of OMNOVA's wallcovering use instructions.

Hanging Instructions. Important—If at any time during the installation a discrepancy is discovered, **STOP**. Contact your distributor or dealer to resolve before proceeding. Before cutting, examine wallcovering to make certain pattern color is satisfactory and as ordered. Claims will not be accepted for cut yardage. Check all roll tickets to determine if more than one run or lot of the same pattern is to be installed.

Install rolls in numbered sequence, according to the numbers applied to the wallcovering backs, and to the panel map.

INSTALL ALL WALLCOVERING UNDER ADEQUATE LIGHTING. EVALUATE FOR COLOR UNIFORMITY UNDER PERMANENT LIGHTING CONDITIONS. WHEN THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, DUPLICATE THE FINAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE.

Wallcovering must be in a clean and dry condition. Do not install wallcovering unless a temperature above 55°F is maintained in both

areas of installation and storage for three days prior to and throughout installation and for three days after the installation. The building should be weather-tight with HVAC settings (including relative humidity) the same as those of an occupied building. Do not install if temperatures exceed 100°F. All materials used in connection with installation, including without limitation all adhesives, primer, pigmented primer/sealers, and adhesive promoting primer, must be good quality commercial grade materials. If there are any questions concerning the surface to be covered, a test installation of at least three strips applied three days in advance of the main installation is recommended.

Surface Preparation. Proper surface preparation is essential for a quality wallcovering installation.

1. The wall surface should be smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound and free of mold, mildew, grease, or other stains. Moisture in or behind a wall as well as all sources of moisture infiltration in or behind the wall must be eliminated. Remove any mold or mildew from walls with a commercially available cleaning solution or warm soapy water and treat surfaces with a diluted bleach solution to inhibit further mold or mildew growth. Any loose paint must be removed from the wall. (See paint testing next page.) Glossy and semi-gloss paint must be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. Any wall irregularities should be corrected with either spackling or drywall compound. Ballpoint ink, grease, lipstick, crayon, or any foreign contamination should be cleaned, or removed from the wall, or sealed with a stain killer primer/sealer to prevent any bleeding of the mark or stain through the wallcovering. Marking pen inks must be removed from the wall.
2. Ideally, new plaster walls should age 60-90 days before painting or installing wallcovering. If you cannot wait, then wash newly plastered walls with a zinc sulfate solution to neutralize the lime (2-4 pounds of zinc sulfate crystals per gallon of water). Old plaster walls should have efflorescence crystals removed.
3. Remove old wallcovering completely. After wallcovering is removed, remove remaining adhesive with adhesive remover, then rinse the wall and allow to dry. If the old wallcovering is peelable, remove both the top and bottom layer of wallcovering.
4. ANY OF THESE PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED WITH AN APPLICATION OF WALLCOVERING PRIMER CONTAINING A MOLD INHIBITOR.
5. On plastered or painted walls, apply wallcovering primer. On new drywall, apply opaque/white wallcovering primer.

Application. This wallcovering requires the use of heavy-duty clay based adhesive for 20 oz., or higher weight, wallcovering. Wallcovering that is 19 oz. or less can use a heavy duty clear adhesive. All adhesives must contain a mold inhibitor.

1. AFTER THREE STRIPS ARE INSTALLED, INSPECT THE WALLCOVERING. IF THERE IS VARIATION IN COLOR, OR A FLAW IN THE MATERIAL OR DIGITAL PRINTING, DISCONTINUE HANGING AND CONTACT THE DEALER OR DISTRIBUTOR IMMEDIATELY. OMNOVA SOLUTIONS INC. will not be liable for labor charges over three strips. Defective wallcovering will be replaced.
2. Measure the wall height, and overlap the wallcovering panel onto the ceiling and the baseboard 1 inch (or other specified bleed size) in each direction.
3. Apply adhesive to the back using a paint roller. DO NOT USE A PASTING MACHINE. Work the adhesive in to cover the back completely, especially near the edges. Fold each end toward the middle, pasted sides together, aligning the edges carefully so they do not dry out. Caution: Do not crease the wallcovering. Allow to "relax" or book for 10 minutes. This will allow the adhesive to penetrate the wallcovering fabric which is important for a successful installation.
4. Care should be exercised so that the wallboard underneath is not scored. A double cutting tool or seam pad is recommended to prevent scoring the wall. The selvage (excess trimmed edge) should be removed from the wall and the seam closed within one hour.

5. Hang the first strip to a plumb line and allow it to overlap onto the ceiling and baseboard as per the specified bleed (1 inch standard). Use a smoothing brush, broad knife, or plastic smoother to remove any air bubbles and to make sure all of the wallcovering has made good contact to the wall. Trim with scissors or razor knife at the ceiling and baseboard, around windows, etc.

6. Use a seam roller to flatten the edges at the seams, ceiling, and baseboard. Use light pressure. Do not press hard enough to remove the adhesive from underneath the wallcovering.

7. Overlap the second panel and double cut. Smooth out firmly. Repeat step #8. Sponge each strip with clean water to remove any excess adhesive. Use a soft bristle brush to clean if necessary. Change this wash water frequently. Blot these surfaces dry with a clean towel. Be certain to wash the ceiling and the baseboard to remove any paste residue. Do not leave any overlap at the seams since vinyl will not adhere to itself. Seams should be vertical, have a tight fit, and be free from air and paste bubbles. Seams should not be located closer than 6" to corners.

8. After three panels are smoothed to the wall surface and excess paste is removed, examine the installed panels for color uniformity. Proceed in the same manner around the room. Any objectionable variations in color and/or pattern match must be immediately communicated to the manufacturer's representative for inspection before proceeding further with the installation.

Testing Paint for Moisture Sensitivity. Hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, then rub the surface vigorously with a cloth. If no paint, or only a slight amount of paint is removed, then the paint should be sound. This wall can be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. If all, or a large quantity of the paint is removed, then the wall should be washed with ammonia and water or sanded and washed to remove the paint. A good quality opaque/white wallcovering primer should be used to prime the wall.

Testing Paint for Adhesion to the Wall Cut three small x's into the painted wall surface then apply a piece of Scotch clear cellophane tape over the x's. Yank the tape off vigorously. Inspect any paint on the tape; no paint flakes indicate good adhesion. This wall can be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. Paint flakes on the tape indicates that the paint adhesion to the wall surface is not adequate for hanging the wallcovering. The wall surface should be sanded with coarse sandpaper to remove or break through the existing paint. The sanded surface should be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer.

Cleaning of Wallcovering Stains should be removed as soon as possible to eliminate any possible reaction between the staining agent and the wallcovering. Time is especially important for removing materials containing colors or solvents, such as ballpoint ink, lipstick, oil, shampoo tints, and some foodstuffs. If soil remains on the wallcovering too long, permanent discoloration may develop.

Vinyl wallcovering should not be sprayed with wax or other protective coating. Such applications can discolor the material. Ordinary dirt and smudges can be removed with a mild soap, warm water, and if necessary, a bristle brush to remove dirt from the crevices of deeply textured patterns. Clean from the bottom of the wall upward to protect the baseboard and to prevent streaking. Rinse thoroughly with clean water from the top down using a sponge.

Deeply embossed wallcoverings need extra attention in case suds or loosened dirt lodges in depressed surfaces. Blot wallcovering dry with a soft, lint-free towel. For more difficult stains that are only surface deep, the use of a stronger detergent is recommended. Try an inconspicuous spot first before attempting the entire wall. Always rinse the wall well after applying a detergent. Not recommended for cleaning are steel wool or powdered abrasive cleaners because they mar the surface leaving an unsightly appearance. Do not use active solvent-type cleaning preparations, such as nail polish remover, tar and bug removers, etc., because they will remove print and/or finish from the wallcovering.