

# JUST HOW HARD IS IT TO **WALLPAPER** A ROOM YOURSELF?

NOW IT'S EASIER AND QUICKER THAN YOU THINK,  
AND SIMPLER TO CHANGE WHEN YOU WANT TO...



Pasting the paper is the traditional method; now there's newer and easier ways to hang wallpaper.  
**See inside for easy step by step instructions.**

## **NEW TECHNOLOGY MEANS WALLPAPERING IS MUCH EASIER THAN IT WAS.**

Give your walls a personality makeover with stylish new wallpapers, and  
make your money go further by doing it yourself.

**VISION**  
WALLCOVERINGS



Wallpaper is actually easy to hang if you  
and the walls are well prepared.



**VISION**  
WALLCOVERINGS



## Part 1 //

# WHY CHOOSE WALLPAPER?

### How do I decide whether to have wallpaper or paint?

You don't have to choose one or the other, they work well together. Some rooms in your home can be painted, others can be wallpapered – it's up to you. Designers happily use wallpaper and paint on different walls of the same room. Many wallpaper retailers also sell paint, and wallcoverings match most paint colours on the market, so you can easily co-ordinate the two finishes.

### Are there 'test-pots' for wallpaper?

Yes, in a way – your retailer will provide you with a good-sized sample piece of the wallpaper you like so you can try it at home. Just tape or pin the sample on the wall and see how it looks, during the day and at night.

### What does wallpaper offer?

Wallpaper is well and truly back in favour; for its new designs, textures and colours, and for its practicality: much like a cosmetic concealer, a well-textured paper can hide less than perfect walls.

And it can save time, as it is often quicker to wallpaper than to paint.

Wallpapering is a 'one-coat process' – when you have put the paper up, that's it, there's no need for a second or third 'coat' to get the colour right.

Whether it is a subtle one-colour texture or a notice-me pattern, wallpaper adds an extra finish to a room. Wallcoverings have great 'touch appeal'; adding an important extra element of texture to a room.



And most wallpaper is easy-care too – many modern papers are washable and wear well.

Now it is much easier to remove wallpaper if you want to redecorate in the future.

### So, how hard is it to wallpaper a room myself?

New technology and techniques make wallpapering an easier do-it-yourself project than it was. Of course reading the instructions, and doing the right preparation before you start is important for the success of any d.i.y. project. Most papers now are pre-pasted, or you paste the wall with the adhesive rather than the paper, which means it's quicker and less messy. Yes, you can do it yourself.

### Follow the steps here or on-line at

[www.visionwall.com.au](http://www.visionwall.com.au)

and you will soon have a fresh new look for your walls, for just a bit of time and effort.

PART 1 // WHY CHOOSE WALLPAPER

## Part 2 //

# PREPARATION

**Wallpaper is quite easy to hang if you – and the walls – are well prepared, and you follow the manufacturer's instructions for the type of paper that you are using. The more detailed how-to information that comes next will give you pretty much all you need to know to make a great job.**

### CHOOSING THE PAPER

Although there are thousands of colours, textures and designs to choose from in the wallcoverings world, in d.i.y. terms there are essentially three types of wallcoverings:

1. Pre-pasted: the majority of wallpapers on the New Zealand and Australian market are pre-pasted; that means that the adhesive is already on the back of the paper.
2. Paste-the-wall – meaning that the paste (also called adhesive) is put on to the wall rather than the paper.

3. Un-pasted paper, which means that the paste needs to be applied to the paper.

After you have chosen the wallpaper you like – most average-sized living rooms would take about seven rolls – and bought the number of rolls you need – see the Handy Reckoner – the next steps are to prepare yourself and the walls.

### BEFORE YOU START:

**The key steps before you start wallpapering are to:**

1. Read the instructions on the wallpaper roll label, so you know what type of paper it is and what the manufacturer recommends. Check the label on the rolls, and check with your retailer as to which one of the three methods of installation your paper requires.
2. Make sure you have the tools you need. See the Tool Box.
3. Then deal properly to the wall surface: preparation is the most important part. Please, take the time to do this; it will make it easier to hang the paper and to get the best result.

**Tool Box:** What tools you need will depend on the type of paper you've chosen.

Basic equipment includes: a paint roller or brushes, scissors and a knife with a sharp blade, sponges, a water trough, a measuring tape, a plumb-line or plumb bob (it's a lead weight that tradesmen use to get a straight line), the right adhesive if needed (that depends on the type of wallpaper you have chosen) and size for the wall - which one depends on the type of wall surface being covered - a ladder, a bucket and a drop cloth.

### PREPARING THE WALL:

**This is the most important part of hanging wallpaper.**

The wall surface must be clean, dry and sound, then given a good coat of size (a sort of wallpaper undercoat) so that the wallpaper is easy to position and sticks properly.

Proper wall preparation will also make future redecorating easy.

## HOW MANY ROLLS?

To estimate the number of rolls you need measure the wall height and the total distance around the room (all walls, including doors & windows).

| Wall Height from skirting | WALLS - HOW MANY ROLLS?                                       |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
|---------------------------|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
|                           | Distance around the room (doors and windows must be included) |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
| Meters                    | 8.53  | 9.75 | 10.97 | 12.19 | 13.41 | 14.63 | 15.85 | 17.07 | 18.29 | 19.51 | 20.73 | 21.95 | 23.16 | 24.38 | 25.60 | 26.82 | 28.04 | 29.26 |  |
| Feet                      | 28'   | 32'  | 36'   | 40'   | 44'   | 48'   | 52'   | 56'   | 60'   | 64'   | 68'   | 72'   | 76'   | 80'   | 84'   | 88'   | 92'   | 96'   |  |
| 2.13 to 2.29              | 6'10" to 7'6"   | 5    | 5     | 6     | 6     | 7     | 7     | 8     | 8     | 9     | 9     | 10    | 10    | 11    | 11    | 12    | 13    | 14    |  |
| 2.30 to 2.44              | 7'7" to 8'0"  | 5    | 5     | 6     | 6     | 7     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 9     | 10    | 10    | 11    | 11    | 12    | 13    | 14    | 15    |  |
| 2.45 to 2.59              | 8'1" to 8'6"  | 5    | 6     | 6     | 7     | 7     | 8     | 8     | 9     | 9     | 10    | 10    | 12    | 12    | 13    | 14    | 15    | 15    |  |
| 2.60 to 2.74              | 8'7" to 9'0"  | 5    | 6     | 6     | 7     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 9     | 10    | 10    | 11    | 13    | 13    | 14    | 14    | 15    | 16    |  |
| 2.75 to 2.90              | 9'1" to 9'6"  | 5    | 6     | 7     | 7     | 8     | 8     | 9     | 10    | 10    | 11    | 11    | 13    | 14    | 14    | 15    | 16    | 17    |  |
| 2.91 to 3.05              | 9'7" to 10'0"   | 6    | 6     | 7     | 8     | 8     | 9     | 10    | 10    | 11    | 11    | 12    | 14    | 14    | 15    | 16    | 17    | 17    |  |
| 3.06 to 3.20              | 10'1" to 10'6"  | 6    | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 9     | 10    | 11    | 11    | 12    | 13    | 14    | 15    | 16    | 17    | 18    | 18    |  |

NOTE: These measurements are based on a standard roll of 51cms x 10metres long (covering an area of 5.1 sqm). Check the size of the wallcovering you have chosen and adjust the roll count accordingly.



**TIP:** Different wall surfaces need different preparation, so ask your retailer for their advice. Guidelines are also on the wallpaper label.

#### Key preparation steps:

1. Remove any old paper. This must be done for the best results – if not, the new wallpaper may not stick down properly, and the old pattern or texture might show through.

**TIP:** Use Metylan Active Wallpaper Remover to make removing the old paper easy.

2. Repair any imperfections in the wall or plaster, and sand it smooth with 80 grit sandpaper. Remove the dust with a soft brush. **NOTE:** You might need to use an oil-based pigmented sealer if you have chosen a light-coloured paste-the-wall paper to stop the plasterboard colour possibly showing through – discuss this with your retailer.
3. Brush the wall surface with a liberal coat of size and let it dry. This makes it much easier to position the wallpaper when it is time to start hanging.

#### PREPARING THE PAPER

##### Work out how you will hang the wallpaper before you begin:

It is best to work away from the main source of light, aiming to finish in a discreet area, such as behind a door. With patterned wallpaper, start in the middle of the wall that has the most noticeable feature – such as a fireplace – and again, plan to finish in an inconspicuous area to



avoid a mismatch if you have to cut the paper to fit.

#### Make a plumb line:

A plumb line – a straight line device that professionals use – will ensure that even if your ceilings or floors are not level, the wallpaper will still be straight.

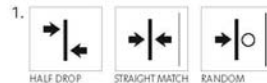
Always hang your first strip of paper next to a plumb line. This is how you do it: first, measure the width of your paper. Then, measure the same distance out from the corner in the direction you intend working. Now, come back 15mm towards the corner from the narrowest point of the plumb line, and make a mark closer to the ceiling.

Drive in a small nail to hang the plumb line from. Once it is steady, mark the wall – just heavy enough for you to see and not to show through the paper – behind the plumb line every 20 to 30cm

down the length of the line to the floor. This will give you a perfectly straight vertical line to hang your first strip of wallpaper against.

#### CUTTING THE PAPER

**First, check that each roll is the same design and batch number, and whether you have to allow for a pattern match BEFORE YOU START.**



1. Dark-coloured wallpaper may need the edges of the roll coloured with a slightly lighter shade of chalk or pastel to prevent any white edges showing.
2. Measure one wall from the skirting or bottom edge up to the ceiling. Add 10cm to allow

#### PART 2 // PREPARATION



for trimming. **Note:** If you have bought paste-the-wall paper, skip to that section!

4. Now cut the first length. Use this length as your guide for cutting the rest of the paper into lengths. Allow for a pattern match if needed.

#### PREPARING THE PAPER

##### For pre-pasted paper:

A brief soaking in water is essential, to activate the paste that is on the back of the paper.

1. Fill the water trough with lukewarm water, and place it in the centre of the room, on a plastic drop-cloth or sheet.
2. Now, loosely re-roll the cut lengths of paper, from the bottom edge, with the pattern or texture on the inside. Place the first pre-rolled length in the water, make sure it is fully covered. Leave for about 15 seconds, then pass the top edge of the length under the water trough wire and slowly draw the paper out of the trough. Check that all the paste on the back of the paper is fully wet. drawing
3. Lay the wet paper out flat on the plastic sheet, paste side up, then fold loosely – don't crease – from the bottom edge up to one-third of the length; then fold the top down to overlap the first fold by 10mm. The larger fold should be at the top of that length. drawing
4. Repeat this process for several lengths of cut paper.

5. Drain and leave the folded lengths for about 8-10 minutes. This allows the paper – and you – to relax before the next step – putting the paper on the wall.

##### For un-pasted paper:

This is when a pasting table comes in very handy – you can hire one, or borrow one; or make do with the kitchen table – but cover it first. You will also need wallpaper paste and a pasting brush.

1. Mix the recommended paste according to the instructions on the label, to ensure you have the right consistency.
2. Place the cut lengths face down on the table. Make sure they are all laid out in the same direction – all tops together, and all bottom edges together.
3. Now, paste the back of the paper with paste/adhesive, applying it evenly in a herringbone pattern, pasting from the centre out to the edges. Make sure the edges are well-coated, and the paste is evenly applied over the full length of the paper.
4. Fold the ends towards the centre, with a smaller fold to the bottom and a larger fold at the top. This will help you easily identify the hanging direction of the paper. Make sure the folds don't crease.
5. Leave each length to rest for between eight to 10 minutes. That's more relaxation time for you, too.

**TIP:** give yourself plenty of time. No need to rush ...

##### Paste-the-wall papers:

If you've never done any wallpapering before, you couldn't find a better paper to learn on than this. Paste-the-wall products have a specially developed backing which does not expand, allowing it to be hung dry, without having to soak it in water, straight from the roll. You just 'paint' the adhesive/paste (Metylan Special) onto your properly prepared wall, not on to the paper.

1. Don't paste the entire wall before starting to hang your wallpaper. Simply paste one section of the wall at a time so that the paste doesn't dry out. Allow some overlap – paste a bit more of the wall than just the width of each cut piece.
2. Slide the paper into place and check the match. No need to rush. Smooth it across using a brush.
3. Then trim off to fit at the ceiling/top and skirting/bottom edge.

And if in the future you decide it's time for a new look, 'paste the wall' wallpapers usually peel off easily – simply lift a corner at the base of the wall and peel upwards.



For further information  
visit the Vision website  
[www.visionwall.com.au](http://www.visionwall.com.au)

## Part 3 // HANGING THE PAPER

**Remember: always start hanging wallpaper away from the main source of natural light, and work away from it, finishing in the most inconspicuous corner.**

### HANGING THE FIRST STRIP:

1. Step up the ladder to the ceiling with your pasted wallpaper and unfold the top portion. Position the paper to correspond with the pencil marks you made on the wall. Press it against the wall, leaving 5cm for trimming along the ceiling line. Line the paper against your plumb line.

2. Moving down, stroke the paper against the wall, using a brush or smoother to position it. Unfold the bottom of the strip and press it against the wall, again checking it against the plumb line. When you are satisfied with its position, smooth it over fully, removing any air bubbles. Don't rush.

3. Then, use your sharp knife to cut any extra paper at the ceiling and floor, drawing. Remove any extra paste by carefully sponging it off with clean water.

4. With the next lengths, slide the paper into position so the pattern (if any) is matched and the joints are butted together. Once you have placed the second strip on the wall, your smoothing brush will help align the seams. Follow this process for the rest of the lengths.

**Tip:** Prepare in advance for corners and trickier areas like powerpoints.

### Dealing with corners:

Don't try to hang a full width of wallpaper around a corner, as they



are rarely true. Always hang the paper in two parts.

1. Measure from the edge of the last strip into the corner, and add another 15mm before you cut the strip of wallpaper to size. This extra 15mm will wrap around the corner onto the next wall.

2. Start the next strip of paper in the corner, overlapping the 15mm of paper from the last drop.

3. Use an extra adhesive like SHUR-STIK Stickdown just on the overlaps.

### TRICKY AREAS

#### Switches and Power Points:

1. Make sure the electricity is turned off, at the mains. Paper straight over the top of the fitting. Then carefully – so you don't cut into the plastic cover – make two diagonal cuts – from corner to corner – across the fitting.

2. This forms four flaps, which you can crease against the side of the fitting and then trim off snug against its edges, with your sharp knife.

Then you can put the power back on...

#### Windows and Door Frames:

1. Hang the length of wallpaper so that it overlaps the frame. Make the paper on the actual wall as smooth as possible, then make a diagonal cut in the paper to the corner point of the frame.

2. Lift the flaps and carefully smooth the paper into the frame's edges, then crease and trim the paper.

**Now, keep going, follow the instructions, stop and check, don't rush, and soon you will have a finished wall or room to stand back and admire... congratulations, you did it.**

PART 3 // HANGING THE PAPER



For further information,  
contact your retailer or call us on

VISION WALLCOVERINGS (AUST) PTY LTD  
[www.visionwall.com.au](http://www.visionwall.com.au) or phone on 02 9997 5222

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