

# How to Install Traditional Wallpaper

## BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Inspect each roll for any print defects and make sure all rolls have the same run/lot number for exact color matching prior to cutting and hanging. **If you find any defects, do not install**—contact us at [customersupport@schoolhouse.com](mailto:customersupport@schoolhouse.com).

### STEP 1

## Prep the wall

Before hanging, check that the wall surface is clean, dry, and smooth. If your wall isn't smooth, you'll need to either size the wall or apply a wallpaper liner, which might require a primer layer as well. Please check wallpaper liner packaging instructions for details. Old wall coverings should be removed completely. Fill any holes, sand down bumps, and remove electrical coverings. Wallpaper primer (we recommend Shieldz Universal Wallcovering Primer) is also recommended for better installation and easier removal.

**Note:** Do not apply to freshly painted walls (let paint dry for at least 4 weeks).

### STEP 2

## Gather your supplies

Wallpaper / Wallpaper paste\* / Measuring tape / Scissors / Drop cloth / Sponge / Bucket / Straightedge / Pencil / Level / Craft knife with extra blades / Paint roller and tray / Smoothing tool / Step ladder (depending on the height of your wall) / Apron or clothing with pockets to keep small tools handy while you work

\*We recommend a basic wallpaper paste for coated wallpaper, such as heavy-duty clear vinyl adhesive. Do not "cut" the paste by adding additional water. We use Roman PRO-880.

### STEP 3

## Cut the wallpaper strips

Measure the height of the wall. Next, measure the wallpaper strip to equal the height of the wall plus 2 or 3 additional inches to allow for trimming. Consider where you want the pattern to hit the top of the wall as well, as this might affect where you cut the first strip. Cut the next strips the same length, being sure to allow for pattern repeat and matching.

### STEP 4

## Mark your starting point

Measure the width of the wallpaper roll. All of our traditional rolls are 27 inches wide. Starting from the corner of the wall farthest away from an entry or line of sight, measure the width of the wallpaper minus one inch (to allow for trimming on the wall edge) and mark with a pencil. Using a level, draw a straight, vertical plumb line from the mark against which you can line up the edge of the wallpaper.

### STEP 5

## Apply the paste

Apply paste to your pre-cut strip by first rolling it onto the middle of the sheet then working it to the edges. All of the paper should be pasted evenly along the full length and width of the sheet.

### STEP 6

## Book the wallpaper

"Book" the strip by folding the top and bottom edges into the middle (pasted side to pasted side), making sure the side edges line up properly. Then roll up the folded wallpaper like a newspaper to ensure that the edges do not curl out and dry prematurely. It should remain like this for 5-7 minutes to allow the paste to absorb and the paper to expand and relax back to its new normal. This will also keep the seams from opening up and drying out while the paper is relaxing.

### STEP 7

## Position the first strip

Line up the first strip with the plumb line (from Step 4), allowing for an inch on both the top, bottom, and edge for trimming.

### STEP 8

## Apply and smooth the wallpaper

Use a wallpaper brush or smoothing tool to gently work the paper onto the wall, working from the top and middle, down and out.

### STEP 9

## Trim the edges

Using a straightedge and craft knife, carefully trim the edges. You may need to change the blade frequently; it is important to keep the blade edge very sharp to minimize any risk of tearing the paper.

### STEP 10

## Apply the remaining strips

Be sure to match the pattern on the wall at eye level and butt the seams tightly up against each other without overlapping them. Smooth out all air bubbles. Wipe with warm water and a sponge, taking care to remove all the paste from the surface. Rinse thoroughly a second time with clean warm water. After hanging two strips, be sure to check again for any defects and contact us if any are found.

**Note:** Due to the handmade nature of our traditional wallpaper, it is important to match at eye level so that any slight adjustments or misalignments will be negated at the top and bottom of the wall. Most hand-printed papers suggest that you allow 1/8" error in matching. We do much better, but you must allow for this type of match when considering a hand-printed paper.

## Cleaning & care

Our wallpapers are washable and can be cleaned using a mild detergent and a damp sponge or cloth. Do not scrub or use abrasive materials or harsh chemicals. Stains caused by grease and oil may not necessarily be removed.