

Deep-Embossed Vinyl Wallcoverings

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Bonaire, Shannon, Tonga, and other Vinyls with a deep emboss

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the material carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Check that the quantity and dimensions match the required specifications, prior to cutting. *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

It is very important that deep-embossed vinyl wallcoverings are not transported at a temperature exceeding 90°F. Note: The inside of a trailer parked in the sun can reach temperatures up to 170°F, resulting in many types of defects. When storing, the temperature should be maintained between 50°–90°F. The wallcovering should be acclimated in the installation area for at least six days prior to and after installing at 70°–90°F, with relative humidity at 50% or less. Nothing should be stacked on top of the vinyl rolls to prevent flat areas or dents that can be permanently embedded into the wallcovering. The material should not be hung at a temperature less than 70°F.

Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 4% using a suitable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. If walls show mold, mildew or visible moisture damage, or if moisture content exceeds recommendations, do not proceed with installation until the condition has been fully corrected under the direction of a qualified professional. *Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

SURFACE PREPARATION

All surfaces must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease and mildew. Stains such as ink, grease, crayon, or other foreign matter should be spot treated with a stain-killing primer to prevent bleeding through the new material. With all surfaces—once properly prepared—apply a good quality, acrylic or latex wallcovering primer/sealer. If an oil-based primer was used, apply an acrylic or latex primer over it before hanging, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. If the surface does not have a uniform color, use a pigmented primer.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred. Follow with a pigmented primer.

Newly plastered walls should completely cure for 60–90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer. An adhesion test should be performed to ensure compatibility of the primer with the adhesive.

Painted surfaces should be tested for moisture resilience. Hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, rub the surface vigorously with a cloth, and if little or no paint is removed, the surface should be sound. If a large amount comes off, sand or wash the surface with ammonia and water to remove the paint. Once dry, apply a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer. Painted walls should also be tested for adhesion.

Existing walls present varied conditions, but essentially, glossy surfaces should be sanded, and mildew should be cleaned from the surface with a solution of two cups household bleach per gallon of water. Unless firmly bonded to the wall, old wallcovering should be scraped and removed. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

HANGING GUIDELINES

Wallcovering rolls are numbered consecutively and should be cut and installed in reverse sequence, starting with the highest numbered roll. Cut the material into full width strips as they will be hung, and lay them flat on the floor in a heated room the day before installation to remove any flat spots that may have occurred when storing. Reverse hang alternate strips of *Tonga* and *Bonaire* in sequence, as they are cut from the roll. *Shannon* requires a straight hang. It is important to evaluate these patterns under permanent lighting conditions, since the heavy texture may be unacceptably magnified where a recessed or wall mounted light is planned.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three lengths have been installed. Upon approval, returns will be subject to a 35% handling and restocking charge. Requests for return authorization must be made within 30 days of ship date.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Brush or roll a uniform coat of a heavy duty, clay-based vinyl wallcovering adhesive with exceptional wet tack to the wall or corner, and allow it to dry to the touch. Then, apply a layer of adhesive to the back of the wallcovering with a heavy duty paint roller or trowel (a pasting machine should not be used). Fold each sheet over carefully and allow 10–15 minutes booking time for the adhesive to penetrate the material. A mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended. Too much or uneven application of the adhesive can result in an uneven surface with lumps and bumps.

INSTALLATION

After booking, and within 15 minutes of paste application, hang the first strip of wallcovering on the dried wall using a plumb line or laser level, overlapping the ceiling and baseboard. Using a brush or flat blade (do not use sharp-edged tools), press from the middle to the outside edges in a vertical motion. Work out any air bubbles or wrinkles by applying heat and using a plastic spatula. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. Since these wallcoverings make the best seams when butted (do not double cut), place the second strip next to the edge of the first and smooth out firmly. Bench cutting should not be necessary, but do check that edges are trimmed at the bottom of a groove. Flatten seams by exerting light pressure with a seam roller. Before applying the next strip, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel, and proceed in the same manner around the room.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of wallcovering for placement above doors and below windows. For inside or outside corners, trim the material to a width of 16–20 inches instead of using the full width, and wrap the wallcovering so that a minimum of 8 inches extends in each direction. A hair dryer can be used to soften the material when wrapping corners. When trimming around chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straight edge. Take extra care in keeping the adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Remove excess adhesive immediately with a natural sponge, frequently rinsed in clear, warm water, and dry with a soft, lint free cloth.

After installation, the walls and wallcovering should be monitored for potential moisture or vapor infiltration, which must be promptly eliminated.

MAINTENANCE

These deep-embossed wallcoverings are easily cleaned using clear, warm water and mild soap with a natural sponge. If a damp sponge fails to clean dirt and smudges, spray the soiled area with a laundry spot remover or isopropyl alcohol and wipe in circular motion. Blot excess spot remover from the surface with a clean damp sponge. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration over time.

Note: The above is intended only as a guideline. Wallcovering installations must conform to current hanging instructions included with each shipment. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.