Suede Wallcovering
Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Faux Suede Wallcoverings

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. You should expect to see variations in the color and shading of the wallcovering, similar to the natural finish of real suede. These characteristics are not defects, and are considered part of the beauty of the product. 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.*

We recommend that Suede wallcovering be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to and after installing, at 60–80º F, with relative humidity at 50% or less. 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 heavy duty, acrylic or latex 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. Test by hanging one strip, and after a 72-hour period, check to determine if loss of adhesive or blistering appears.

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, and dry completely. Painted walls should also be tested for adhesion (see above), as a surface with water-based paint may result in the material blistering. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

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

Suede wallcoverings require a straight hang (do not reverse) to produce the most even shading. The material should be table trimmed on both selvages to ensure a clean, straight edge. A new, sharp blade and a paperhanger's straight-edge should be used on each panel. Cut the panels to the height of the wall plus 2", to allow for trimming at the ceiling and baseboard. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

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ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Apply a uniform coat of Roman's Professional Ultra Clear Pro-880 premixed wallcovering adhesive (may be thinned slightly) to the back of the suede wallcovering, taking care to paste edge to edge, smoothly and evenly. Gently fold each sheet paste side to paste side, without creasing, and allow 5–6 minutes booking time for the adhesive to penetrate the backing.

INSTALLATION

Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a penciled plumb line. Use a "smoothie" (flexible plastic smoother) or cloth to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. Gently smooth from the top of the panel down with a plastic smoother (do not use a seam roller), working out all air bubbles and wrinkles. Be careful not to press too harshly or stretch the material, as suede will revert to its original shape once it dries. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. Butt the leading edge of the second panel to the edge of the first—as tightly as possible—without overlapping or leaving gaps at the seams. Low-adhesive painter's tape can be used to keep the face of the seams clean. Before applying the next panel, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel, and proceed in the same manner around the room.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than 6 inches from inside or outside corners. If you have to hang a partial width (e.g., into a corner), make sure the joint on the flat wall is made with two pre-trimmed edges; never join the middle of a strip to a pre-trimmed edge. When trimming around chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge. Take extra care in keeping the adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Should any get on the surface, allow it to dry and then use a razor blade to flick it off.

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.

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

MAINTENANCE

Stains on suede should be treated as soon as possible. Using a clean, absorbent cloth, brush away dry stains and blot wet stains. Spot clean with upholstery shampoo, foam from a mild detergent, or a mild dry cleaning solvent, being careful not to saturate the surface. Test first in an inconspicuous area. Clean from the outside to the middle of a spot or stain, to prevent circling. Abrasive rubbing of stains should be avoided so that discoloration does not appear, especially on dark colors. Frequent vacuuming will help prevent overall soiling, and a light brushing with a non-metallic, stiff bristle brush will aid in removing dust and grime, and maintain the product's fresh look. Hot water extraction or steam cleaning is not recommended.

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.

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