



# ENFORCE WALL PROTECTION™ HANGING INSTRUCTIONS

#### **IMPORTANT**

If at any time before or during installation you do not understand these Application Instructions, or if a discrepancy is discovered in pattern, color, or quality, STOP. Contact your Arc-Com account executive before proceeding. Any deviation from these Application Instructions will void Arc-Com's warranty.

Carefully examine all material to ensure correct pattern, color and quantity.

PVC-Free wall protection materials must be installed only under permanent lighting conditions. The wall protection material and the area to receive the wall protection must be maintained between  $65^{\circ}$ -  $80^{\circ}$  F and relative humidity at 50% or less for at least six days prior to and after installation.

## **SURFACE PREPARATION**

- 1. All surfaces to receive the wall protection materials must be smooth, clean, dry and structurally sound. Newly plastered walls must not have excess quantities of lime or alkali. Walls must not contain in excess of 5-7% residual moisture content. A moisture meter should be used to determine the moisture content.
- 2. All new walls should be primed with a suitable non-oil based primer to promote adhesion.
- 3. Existing walls present varied conditions. To ensure the soundness of an existing wall surface, we recommend the following:
  - a. Glossy surfaces should be sanded and irregularities repaired.
  - b. Conduct Tape Test: Cut a shallow "x" in the surface of the wall with a razor blade. Wrap a strip of masking tape around your finger (sticky side out), and press it to the "x." Pull the tape away while observing if any of the paint film separates from the wall surface. If the paint film separates, the wall is not sound.
  - c. Take a wet sponge, hold it against the painted surface for 15-20 seconds, checking for any pigment or color transfer from the wall surface to the sponge. If the pigment or color transfers, the wall is not sound.
  - d. If the painted surface is found to be "unsound" by either of the above tests, the paint must be removed.
- 4. Remove old wallcovering completely. DO NOT DOUBLE HANG. After the wall covering material is removed, remove remaining adhesive with a good quality adhesive remover, then rinse the wall and allow to dry. See Step 1. If the old wallcovering is peelable, remove both the top and the bottom layer of wallcovering.
- 5. Surfaces other than drywall or plaster may require special procedures and application techniques. Contact your Arc-Com account executive for recommendations prior to starting.

# **APPLICATION**

- 1. All rolls are numbered consecutively. Rolls must be cut and installed in sequence, starting with the lowest numbered roll. All strips should be numbered and hung in sequence as they are cut from the roll.
- 2. When hanging non-matched textured patterns, reverse hang alternate strips. After 3 strips are hung, carefully inspect the wallcovering. If the pattern effect is not acceptable, re-hang strip No. 2 without reversing. Approval should be obtained at this point before proceeding. If there is variation in the color and/or pattern effect discontinue hanging and contact your Arc-Com account executive. ARC-COM WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLAIMS BEYOND THREE (3) STRIPS.
- 3. Seams on non-matched patterns may be table trimmed, or overlapped and double-cut during installation, exercising

care not to cut too deeply into the wall substrate. A double cutting tool specifically designed to prevent cutting into the wall when cutting the seams is commonly available and is recommended. Due to the heavy duty construction of the product it is highly recommended that the razor blade be changed frequently in order to ensure clean cuts. Geometric and matched designs may require table trimming for match perfection. A seam roller tool is recommended for optimal finish of seams.

- 4. Only undiluted heavy-duty strippable clay based commercial grade wallcovering adhesive should be applied to the back of the wall protection product with a paint roller or pasting machine. Do not dilute paste. Allow the pasted material to book for a minimum of 15 minutes. A double pasting method is required. In addition to pasting the back of the material, a layer of the adhesive should be applied via a roller to the wall and allowed to dry to the touch prior to applying the pasted and booked material to the wall. This drying step should take approximately one hour in most climate controlled installation environments. This step will provide additional "initial tack" that is necessary to successfully install the pasted and booked material. Care should be taken to ensure that the dry pre-pasted wall is free of any debris or lumps of paste prior to applying the wall protection product. This may require a light sanding of the pre-pasted wall surface.
- 5. Inside and outside corners can be made the same as with traditional commercial wallcovering. Gentle heat applied via a hairdryer or heat gun may help with achieving good corners. Allow for a minimum return of six inches on either side of the corner for proper physical and aesthetic performance of the product. Working with a less than full sheet of material on corners may facilitate ease of installation.
- 6. Care should be taken when handling the material to avoid the creation of creases in the material.
- 7. When "railroading" (installing the rolled material parallel with the floor) begin in the middle of the section and work your way out to the ends.
- 8. Install each sheet using a stiff, short bristle brush or flexible plastic broad-knife. DO NOT USE A METAL BROAD KNIFE. Apply material in sequence above doors and above and below windows as it comes from the roll. DO NOT SKIP.
- 9. Remove excess adhesive and dirt from wallcovering surface, seams and surrounding surfaces immediately, using a natural sponge or damp cloth frequently rinsed in clean, warm water. A paste release chemical designed to break the static electricity generated may be added to the water. Dry with a soft, lint-free cloth. Do not use an excessive amount of water to remove adhesive from the seams, as it may seep into the seams and dilute the adhesive. As dried adhesive is difficult, and sometimes impossible to remove, immediate removal is imperative. Clean all seams to avoid paste staining.

#### PRIOR TO INSTALL

- Thoroughly read the enclosed installation instructions.
- Install only under permanent lighting conditions.
- PVC Free Wall Protection and the area to receive the product must be maintained between 65°-80° F at relative humidity of 50% or less for at least six days prior to and after installation.

## PREPARING THE WALLS

- Remove any old wallcovering materials NEVER DOUBLE HANG.
- All surfaces to receive PVC Free Wall Protection must be smooth, clean, dry and structurally sound. Glossy areas should be sanded and rough irregularities repaired.
- To promote adhesion all new walls should be primed with a suitable non-oil-based primer and allowed to dry according to Arc-Com's recommendation.
- A layer of commercial grade heavy duty strippable clay-based wallcovering adhesive should be applied via a roller to the wall and allowed to dry to the touch. This drying step should take approximately one hour and will provide "initial tack" necessary to successfully adhere the product to the wall.
- A light sanding of the pre-pasted wall surface may be required prior to applying the PVC Free Wall Protection product.

# PREPPING THE PVC FREE WALL PROTECTION PRODUCT

- Rolls must be cut and installed in sequence, starting with the lowest numbered roll.
- Measure wall and a prepare plumb line to ensure a straight hang.
- Mark and pre-cut strips according to wall dimensions. Seams may be precut or overlapped and double cut on wall.
- Only undiluted heavy-duty strippable clay based commercial grade wallcovering adhesive should be used.
- Apply a liberal amount of adhesive to the back of the wallcovering with a paint roller and allow to book for a minimum of 15 minutes.

## INSTALLATION

- Install each sheet using a stiff flexible plastic broad-knife or short bristle application brush. DO NOT USE A METAL BROAD KNIFE.
- Inside and outside corners may require the application of heat via a heat gun in order to achieve the best result.
- Using less than a full width sheet on outside corners may provide greater ease of application.
- A minimum return of six inches on either side of corners.
- Seams on non-matched patterns may be table trimmed, or overlapped and double-cut during installation, exercising care not to cut too deeply into the wall substrate. A double cutting tool may be used.
- It is highly recommended that the razor blade be changed frequently in order to ensure clean cuts.
- Remove excess adhesive and dirt from wallcovering surface, seams and surrounding surfaces immediately, using a natural sponge or damp cloth frequently rinsed in clean, warm water and dry with a soft, lint-free cloth.