

Vinyl Wallcovering Installation Instructions

STOP AND READ BEFORE INSTALLING

MDC Wallcoverings

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Important — If at any time during the installation a discrepancy is discovered, **STOP**. Contact your distributor or dealer to resolve before proceeding.

Before cutting, examine goods to make certain pattern color is satisfactory and as ordered. Check all roll tickets to determine if more than one run or lot of the same pattern is to be installed.

Cut panels and headers in roll number sequence, making sure that run numbers are broken at **INSIDE** corners only. Commercial wallcovering must be installed in reverse roll number sequence. Allow for matching of repeats and trimming at the ceiling and the baseboard.

Number panels and headers as they are cut from the roll and apply to the wall in the same sequence. Be sure to cut in reverse roll number sequence.

Install all wallcovering under adequate lighting. Evaluate for color uniformity under adequate permanent lighting conditions. When this is not possible, duplicate the final lighting conditions as closely as possible.

A. Tools Recommended

1. Table or working surface
2. Pasting machine. Paint roller or paint brush for primer application.
3. Break-away knife and extra blades or a supply of single-edge razor blades with blade holder
4. Scissors
5. Measuring tape or ruler
6. Broad knife, plastic smoother or smoothing brush
7. Sponges or lint-free towels
8. Pencil
9. Seam roller
10. Premixed adhesive recommended for the wallcovering

A. Tools Recommended (cont.)

11. Good quality wallcovering primer (not paint or paint primer)
Specialty primers such as metal or plaster primer may be required but reprime with a wallcovering primer
12. Level
13. Ladder
14. Bucket
15. Extra lighting is necessary if final lighting is not in place
16. Drop cloth
17. Double cutting tool (optional) or seaming pad
18. Moisture meter (optional)
19. Straight edge
20. 3" masking tape
21. Soft bristle brush
22. Seam sealer or vinyl-over-vinyl adhesive for corners

B. Surface Preparation

Proper surface preparation is essential for a quality wallcovering installation.

The wall surface should be clean, dry, structurally sound and free of mildew, grease or other stains. Any loose paint must be removed from the wall. See paint testing below. Glossy and semi-gloss paint should be sanded to dull the surface and a coat of adhesion-promoting primer applied prior to the installation of wallcovering. Any wall irregularities should be corrected with either spackling, drywall compound or other wall repair materials. Ballpoint ink, grease, lipstick, crayon or any foreign contamination should be cleaned, removed from the wall or sealed with a stain killer primer/sealer to prevent any bleeding of the mark or stain through the wallcovering. Marking-pen inks must be removed from the wall. Mildew should be cleaned from the wall surface with a solution of two cups of household bleach per gallon of water. Rinse and allow to dry. **CAUTION** — do not add detergent or ammonia to bleach/water solution; a poisonous gas may form. Any mildew stains should be sealed with a good quality stain killer primer/sealer, and any exterior and/or in-wall source of the moisture that may promote mildew growth must be eliminated.

Ideally, new plaster walls should age 30 - 60 days before painting or installing wallcovering. If you cannot wait, then wash newly plastered walls with a zinc sulfate solution to neutralize the lime (two to four pounds of zinc sulfate crystals per gallon of water). New plaster walls may need a coat of a good quality plaster primer, followed by a coat of wallcovering primer. See a local paint dealer for recommendations for plaster primer. Old plaster walls should have efflorescence crystals removed. See plaster product literature for the curing time of plaster.

B. Surface Preparation (cont.)

Concrete, concrete block, masonry and sand-finished plaster should preferably be sanded smooth. Irregular surfaces should be smoothed as much as possible using drywall compound, plaster or other wall repair materials. Liner paper may be required to assist in smoothing the wall.

Paneling should be primed with an adhesion-promoting primer. Grooves should be filled, then reprimed, and/or an appropriate wall liner should be used to cover the paneling. For best results, use a clay-based adhesive. Some wallcovering will require additional priming of the wall liner. See wall liner application instructions for priming, installation and adhesive recommendations.

Remove old wallcovering completely. After wallcovering is removed, remove remaining adhesive with a good quality adhesive remover, then rinse the wall and allow to dry. Repair the wall as necessary. Prime with a good quality wallcovering primer. If the old wallcovering is peelable, remove both the top and bottom layer of wallcovering.

For lead paint testing and waste water disposal, see local regulations for proper handling/disposal.

Any of these procedures should be followed with an application of a good quality wallcovering primer.

On plastered or painted walls, apply a good quality wallcovering primer. On new drywall, apply a good quality opaque/white wallcovering primer.

To test paint for moisture sensitivity, hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, then rub the surface vigorously with a cloth. If no paint, or only a slight amount of paint, is removed, then the paint should be sound. This wall can be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. If all, or a large quantity of the paint, is removed, then the wall should be washed with ammonia and water or sanded and washed to remove the paint. A good quality opaque/white wallcovering primer should be used to prime the wall.

To test paint for adhesion to the wall, cut three small x's into the painted wall surface, then apply a piece of clear cellophane tape over the x's. Yank the tape off vigorously. Inspect the tape for any paint; no paint flakes indicate good adhesion. This wall can be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. Paint flakes on the tape indicate the paint adhesion to the wall surface is not adequate for hanging the wallcovering. The wall surface should be sanded with a coarse sandpaper to remove or break through the existing paint. The sanded surface should then be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer.

Plaster and masonry wall surfaces should not exceed 5.5 percent moisture as measured by a moisture meter. Do not install wallcovering unless a temperature above 55 degrees Fahrenheit is maintained in both areas of installation and storage for three days before and three days after the installation.

If there are any questions concerning the surface to be covered, a test installation of at least three strips applied three days in advance of the main installation is recommended, or follow manufacturer's instructions.

C. Application

1. Before starting to hang wallcovering, clear the work area, make sure electrical outlets are off and remove wall fixtures.
2. This wallcovering requires the use of _____ **[adhesive as recommended by manufacturer]**.
3. When installing textured or non-matched patterns, reverse hanging of alternate strips is required to ensure color continuity from strip to strip. After three strips are installed, inspect the wallcovering. If the pattern effect is not acceptable, or if there is variation in color, discontinue hanging and contact the dealer or distributor immediately. **[It is recommended that the manufacturer insert the maximum number of strips for which the manufacturer will reimburse labor. It is recommended to replace defective wallcovering.]**
4. Determine whether the pattern match is random, straight across or drop match. Measure the wall height, allowing for pattern match, add 4", then cut the wallcovering. It will overlap onto the ceiling and the baseboard by approximately 2".
5. Apply the recommended adhesive to the back using either a pasting machine or a paint roller. Work the adhesive in to cover the back completely, especially near the edges. Fold each end toward the middle, pasted sides together, aligning the edges carefully so they do not dry out. CAUTION — do not crease the wallcovering. Allow to "relax" or book for 10 minutes. This will allow the adhesive to penetrate the wallcovering fabric, which is important for a successful installation.
6. Many geometric and matched patterns may require table trimming with a straight edge to ensure pattern uniformity across seams. Other patterns should be overlapped and double cut on the wall. Care should be exercised so the wallboard underneath is not scored. A double cutting tool or seam pad is recommended to prevent scoring the wall. The selvage (excess trimmed edge) should be removed from the wall and the seam closed within one hour.
7. Hang the first strip to the vertical line and allow it to overlap onto the ceiling and baseboard. Using a smoothing brush, broad knife or plastic smoother, remove any air bubbles and make sure all of the wallcovering has made good contact to the wall. Make relief cuts (diagonal cuts in windows and doors) with scissors or a razor knife. Trim with a broad knife and razor knife at the ceiling, baseboard, around windows, etc.

8. Use a seam roller to flatten the edges at the seams, ceiling and baseboard. Use light pressure. Do not press hard enough to remove the adhesive from underneath the wallcovering.
9. Place the second strip to the edge of the first strip (or overlap and double cut) and smooth out firmly. Repeat step # 8. Sponge each strip with clean water to remove any excess adhesive. Use a soft bristle brush to clean, if necessary. Change this wash water frequently. Blot these surfaces dry with a clean towel. Be certain to wash the ceiling and the baseboard to remove any paste residue. Do not leave any overlap at the seams since vinyl will not adhere to itself. Seams should be vertical, have a tight fit and be free from air and paste bubbles. Seams should not be located closer than 6" to corners.
10. After three panels are smoothed to the wall surface and excess paste is removed, examine the installed panels for color uniformity. Panels on non-matching patterns normally have a width on the wall of 51" to 53". Geometric and other matching patterns vary in "on the wall" width. It may be necessary to trim one or both selvages further to obtain uniform color match across seams. Proceed in the same manner around the room. Any objectionable variations in color and/or pattern match must be immediately communicated to the manufacturer's representative for