

THE **ESSENTIAL** GUIDE  
- TO -  
*wallpapering*

 aspiring walls

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1/206 Box Road MIRANDA NSW 2228  
PH: 02 9525-7489  
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NEW TECHNOLOGY MEANS WALLPAPERING  
IS MUCH EASIER THAN IT WAS

PASTE  
-THE-  
WALL

*Design featured: Whites and neutrals - Nautical drift, 25748*



## PART ONE

# why choose WALLPAPER

### **How do I decide whether to have wallpaper or paint?**

You don't have to choose one or the other as they work well together. Designers happily use a combination of both to decorate with. Many wallpaper retailers also sell paint, and most paint can be colour matched to accompany your wallpaper design.

### **Are there 'test-pots' for wallpaper?**

Most retailers can order or provide you with a metre sample of the wallpaper you desire. This way, you can try the wallpaper at home by pinning it on the wall to see how it looks during the day and at night.

### **What does wallpaper offer?**

*Colour, design & texture* – venture beyond using only colour in your room. Wallpaper can add another dimension to your interiors and using pattern or textured wallcoverings can add warmth and luxury.

*It's a 'one coat' process* – no need for a second coat! Save time and move back into your newly decorated room on the same day.

*Easy care and durability* – most wall papers are very durable, lightfast and easily washable.



### **Can I wallpaper the room myself?**

Reading the instructions and doing the right prep before you start is important for the success of any DIY project. Most papers now are either pre-pasted, or you paste the wall with the adhesive rather than the paper, this means the process is quicker and less messy.

With the correct preparation done, and the right tools at hand, anybody can do it...

WALLPAPER IS ACTUALLY EASY TO HANG  
IF YOU AND THE WALLS ARE WELL  
PREPARED

**TIP:** Use Metylan Active  
Wallpaper Remover  
to make removing the  
old paper easy



Design featured: Essentials, 25748



## PART TWO

# preparation - WHAT'S INVOLVED ?

**Wallpaper is easy to hang if you and the walls are well prepared, and you follow the instructions for the type of paper that you are using**

### Choosing the paper

Although there are thousands of colours, textures and designs to choose from, in DIY terms, there are essentially three types of wallpapers (and how they stick to the wall).

**Pre-pasted** - this means that the adhesive is already on the back of the paper.

**Un-pasted paper** - which means that the paste needs to be applied to the paper.

**Paste-the-wall** - meaning that the paste (also called adhesive) is put on to the wall rather than the paper.

Also, confirm how many rolls you may need: <https://aspiringwalls.co.nz/diy/roll-calculator/>

### Before you start

The key steps before you start wallpapering are to:

1. Read the instructions on the wallpaper roll label so you know what type of paper it is and what the manufacturer recommends when it comes to hanging it. It also pays to check with your retailer as

to which one of the three methods of installation your paper requires.

2. Make sure you have all the tools you need.
3. Then, deal properly to the wall surface; preparation is the most important part. Please, take the time to do this; it will make it easier to hang the paper and to get the best result.

### Preparing the wall

*Arguably, the most important part of the wallpaper hanging process.*

The wall surface must be clean, dry and sound, then given a good coat of size (a sort of wallpaper undercoat). This ensures that the wallpaper will be easy to position and sticks properly. Proper wall preparation will also make future redecorating easy.

### Key preparation steps:

1. Remove any old paper. This must be done for the best results – if not, the new wallpaper may not stick down properly and the old pattern or texture might show through. Metylan wall paper remover is a great product to use to do this.
2. Repair any imperfections in the wall or plaster, and sand it smooth with 80 grit sandpaper. Remove the dust with a soft brush or wet cloth. NOTE: You might need to use an oil-based pigmented sealer if you have chosen a light-coloured paste-the-wall paper to stop the plasterboard possibly showing through. Make sure to discuss this with your retailer.

# preparation - WHAT'S INVOLVED ?

*Key preparation steps (cont'd):*

3. Brush the wall surface with a liberal coat of ShurStik size and let it dry. This makes it much easier to position the wallpaper when it's time to start hanging.

### **Preparing the paper**

*Work out how you will hang the wallpaper before you begin:*

Examine the rolls for any visual defects before you start.

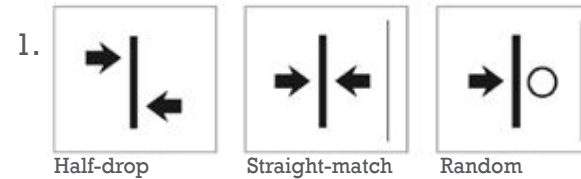
It's best to start working away from the main source of light, aiming to finish in a discreet area, such as behind a door. With patterned wallpaper, start in the middle of the wall that has the most noticeable feature – such as a fireplace, and again, plan to finish in an inconspicuous area to avoid a mismatch if you have to cut the paper to fit.

### *Use a level:*

A spirit or laser level will ensure that even if your ceilings or floors are not level, the wallpaper will still be straight. Use a pencil to mark down the length of the line to the floor. This will give you a perfectly straight vertical line to hang your first strip of wallpaper against.

### **Cutting the paper**

*First, check that each roll is the same design and batch number (to avoid slight variation) and whether you have to allow for a pattern match BEFORE YOU START.*



1. Dark-coloured wallpaper may need the edges of the roll coloured with a slightly lighter shade of chalk or pastel to prevent any white edges showing.
2. Measure one wall from the skirting or bottom edge up to the ceiling. Add 10cm to allow for trimming.

**Note:** If you have bought **paste-the-wall** paper, skip to that section!

4. Now, cut the first length. Use this length as your guide for cutting the rest of the paper into lengths. Allow for any pattern match if needed.

### **For pre-pasted paper:**

A brief soaking in water is essential, to activate the paste that is on the back of the paper.

1. Fill a water trough with lukewarm water on a plastic drop-cloth or sheet.



**TIP:** Check the wallpaper carefully after hanging the first roll (3-4 drops). Also, check the direction of the pattern



Design featured: Ashford Tropics, AB1821

# preparation - WHAT'S INVOLVED



## For **pre-pasted** paper (cont'd):

2. Now, loosely re-roll the cut lengths of paper, from the bottom edge, with the pattern or texture on the inside. Place the first pre-rolled length in the water, make sure it is fully covered. Leave for about 15 seconds, then pass the top edge of the length under the water trough wire and slowly draw the paper out of the trough. Check that all the paste on the back of the paper is fully wet.
3. Lay the wet paper out flat on the plastic sheet, paste side up, then fold loosely – don't crease – from the bottom edge up to one-third of the length; then fold the top down to overlap the first fold by 10mm. The larger fold should be at the top of that length.
4. Repeat this process for several lengths of cut paper.
5. Drain and leave the folded lengths for about 8-10 minutes (maybe longer for more heavy weight papers, check the label). This allows the paper – and you – to relax before the next step – putting the paper on the wall.

## For **un-pasted** paper:

This is when a pasting table comes in very handy – you can hire one, or borrow one; or make do with the kitchen table – but cover it first. You will also need wallpaper paste and a pasting brush.

1. Mix the recommended paste according to the instructions on the label to ensure you have the right consistency.
2. Place the cut lengths face down on the table. Make sure they are all laid out in the same direction – all tops together, and all bottom edges together.
3. Now, paste the back of the paper with paste, applying it evenly in a herringbone pattern, pasting from the centre out to the edges. Make sure the edges are well-coated, and the paste is evenly applied over the full length of the paper.
4. Fold the ends towards the centre, with a smaller fold to the bottom and a larger fold at the top. This will help you easily identify the hanging direction of the paper. Make sure the folds don't crease.
5. Leave each length to rest for between 8 to 10 minutes (maybe longer for more heavy weight papers, check the label) – that's more relaxation time for you, too!





**TIP:** If you've never wallpapered before, you couldn't find a better paper to learn on than Paste-the-wall!

### For **paste-the-wall** paper:

Paste-the-wall products have a specially developed backing which does not expand, allowing it to be hung dry, without having to soak it in water, straight from the roll. You just 'paint' the paste (powdered, granulated or pre-mixed)) onto your properly prepared wall, not on to the paper.

1. Don't paste the entire wall before starting to hang your wallpaper. Simply paste one section of the wall at a time so that the paste doesn't dry out. Allow some overlap – paste a bit more of the wall than just the width of each cut piece.
2. Slide the paper into place and check the match. No need to rush. Smooth it across using a brush or smoother.
3. Then trim off to fit at the ceiling/top and skirting/ bottom edge. Always ensure your cutting blade is super sharp.

And if in the future you decide it's time for a new look, 'paste the wall' wallpapers peel off easily – simply lift a corner at the base of the wall and peel upwards.

### Equipment checklist

- Roller
- Brushes
- Knife with a sharp blade
- Sponges and water trough
- Spirit level and pencil
- Metylan Active Wallpaper remover
- Wallpaper adhesive
- Size for the wall
- Ladder
- Bucket
- Drop cloth

Design featured: Conversational, 98644

# hanging THE PAPER

## Hanging the first strip

1. Step up the ladder to the ceiling with your pasted wallpaper and unfold the top portion. Position the paper to correspond with the pencil marks you made on the wall. Press it against the wall leaving 5cm for trimming along the ceiling line. Line the paper against your pencil mark.
2. Moving down, stroke the paper against the wall, using a brush or smoother to position it. Unfold the bottom of the strip and press it against the wall, again checking it against the pencil mark. When you are satisfied with its position, smooth it over fully, removing any air bubbles. Don't rush, the paste won't dry that quickly... you have plenty of time to get it in the right spot.
3. Then, use your sharp knife to cut any extra paper at the ceiling and floor. Remove any extra paste by carefully sponging it off with clean water.
4. With the next lengths, slide the paper into position so the pattern (if any) is matched and the joins are butted together. Once you have placed the second strip on the wall, your smoothing

brush will help align the seams. Follow this process for the rest of the lengths.

## Dealing with corners

Don't try to hang a full width of wallpaper around a corner, as they are rarely true. Always hang the paper in two parts.

1. Measure from the edge of the last strip into the corner, and add another 15mm before you cut the strip of wallpaper to size. This extra 15mm will wrap around the corner onto the next wall.
2. Start the next strip of paper in the corner, overlapping the 15mm of paper from the last drop.
3. Always use an extra adhesive like ShurStik Stickdown just on the overlaps.

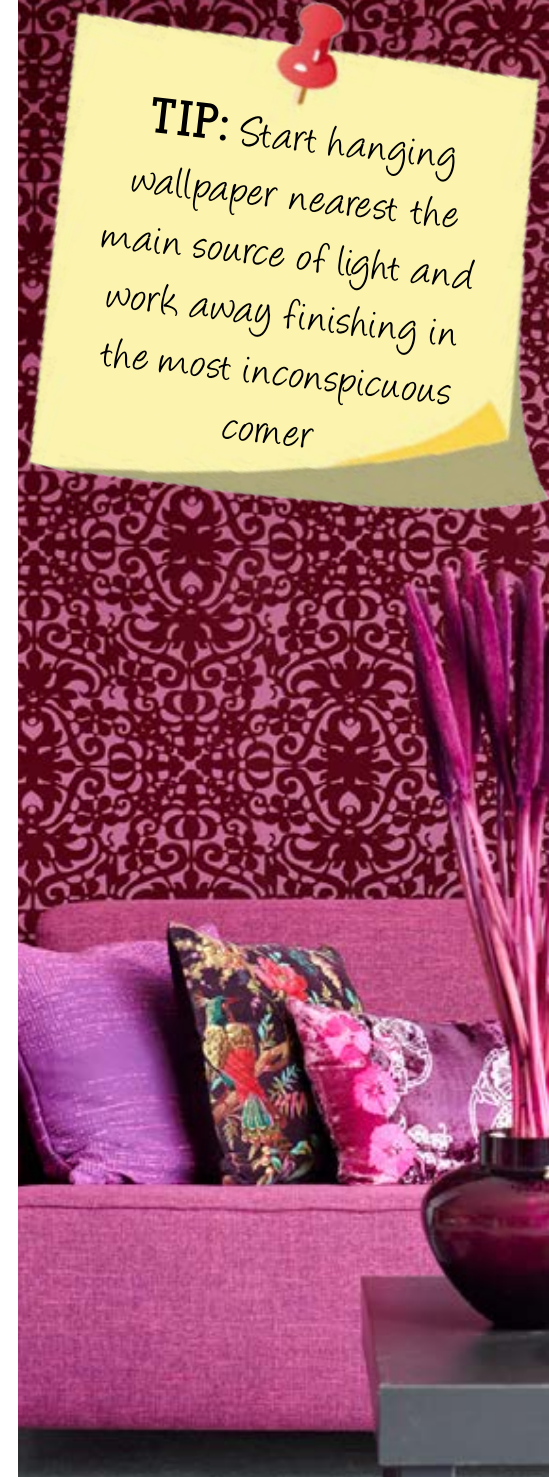
## Tricky areas

### Switches and Power Points:

1. Make sure the electricity is turned off, at the mains. Lay the paper straight over the top of the fitting. Then carefully, so you don't cut into the plastic cover, make two diagonal cuts from corner to corner across the fitting.
2. This forms four flaps, which you can crease against the side of the fitting and then trim off snug against its edges with your sharp knife.

Then you can turn the power back on...

**TIP:** Start hanging wallpaper nearest the main source of light and work away finishing in the most inconspicuous corner





Design featured: Luz, 330431

### Windows and Door Frames:

1. Hang the length of wallpaper so that it overlaps the frame. Make the paper on the actual wall as smooth as possible, then make a diagonal cut in the paper from the corner point of the frame.
2. Lift the flaps and carefully smooth the paper into the frame's edges, then crease and trim the paper.

**Now, keep going, follow the instructions, stop and check, don't rush and soon you will have a finished wall or room to stand back and admire... congratulations, you did it!**

For more *ideas* and *inspiration*, check out the Aspiring Walls website:  
[www.aspiringwalls.co.nz](http://www.aspiringwalls.co.nz)  
or phone 0800 808 474

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