

How To Hang Wallpaper

By Carol Warner

Wallpaper comes in so many patterns and colors, choosing one is often as difficult as putting it up. There are literally thousands of patterns and colors. To select the wallpaper that's right for you and your room, consider your personal taste and your room dimensions.

As for personal taste, well, to each her own, right? But if you are looking for a trend, consider purple. Purple? Yes. According to some interior design specialists, purple is becoming the popular color of the moment. It is said to be linked to spirituality, ritual and magic. Some designers call it healing, purifying, even erotic. Claims are also made that people tend to eat less in kitchens that are purple or have some purple in the pattern. Some studies even indicate that people act better in purple rooms. Experts say this claim stems from the fact that purple has long been associated with elegance and wealth. In fact, producing the color purple is very expensive.

However, regardless of color, your choice of wallpaper will depend greatly on the room size. For smaller rooms, a busy pattern can make the room seem even smaller. A solid color with a nice border may be a better choice.

Once the pattern and color is chosen, the busy work starts. You will need tools and supplies to put up wallpaper. Wallpaper comes both pre-pasted and not pasted. Therefore, some supplies, like a paste brush, won't be needed for pre-pasted wallpaper. A water tray to roll the wallpaper in before applying it to the wall will be. Further supplies that may be needed include a screwdriver; a plumb bob; a taping knife; a wallpaper brush; a paste brush; a seam roller; a straight edge; sandpaper or an electric sander; a large sponge; a utility knife; a table or flat area to lay out the wallpaper; a water tray; a step ladder; and safety glasses. You can find many of these supplies at your nearby home improvement center or your local wallpaper store. The staff at such stores should be able to guide you on how to hang wallpaper. Also, manufacturer instructions should be followed.

When the supplies are handily laid out to start working, choose a starting point on the wall. Unless you've chosen a solid color that doesn't have a pattern, the wallpaper will have to be matched up. Based upon the room set up, plan where the seams will be and where the wallpaper strips will align. The patterns will have to match up. If there are areas where mismatching will occur, the Wallcoverings Association suggests the following. "If hanging an entire room, choose the place where the partial strip will butt against a full strip, or where the mismatch will be the most inconspicuous. Choose a short area of the wall to place the mismatch, instead of having the

mismatch be the length of an entire wall. The ideal place in most occasions is over a door or window that is not on the focal wall. There are times when the mismatch will be best placed in the corner behind a door, even though that will yield a mismatch the length of the wall.”

Before hanging the wallpaper, spread it out on the table to get all of the kinks out of it. Use the paste brush to apply the paste to wallpaper that is not pre-pasted. For pre-pasted wallpaper, run it through the water tray to moisten it. Keep it flat as the water is applied and the wallpaper is put on the wall.

To apply the wallpaper to the wall, start at the ceiling and keep the piece flat. Use a brush to press out any kinks as you move down the wall. The first piece will be the hardest. Once that one is mastered, the rest will fall into place.

Copyright © 2005 Publishers-Edge

