Tips on Hanging Wallpaper

Templeton's

1. Prepare the Walls

This could mean patching holes and sanding the repaired surface clean, removing old wallpaper and glue, or simply cleaning the surface. Tell us what you're dealing with, and we'll help with the tools and materials you'll need. NOTE: if you are painting the ceiling or the trim for your project, do this *before* you hang the new paper.

If you are hanging a dark paper on a light-coloured wall, the seams where the strips meet are less likely to show if you paint the wall a dark colour first. Let the paint dry completely before you begin hanging the paper. If you are hanging paper over a glossy paint, sand the wall first. It will help the glue adhere.

2. Don't Start in the Corner

Chances are the line where your walls meet is not true, so if you align your strips this way the paper, when hung, will look like it's on a slant. Start in about a foot from the corner, mark a plumb line (hang any weight from a string), and line your first strip up along that mark.

3. Measure Before You Cut

This is where knowing the pattern repeat is important. Cut your first strip at least 3" longer than the height of the wall, and the next strips that much again PLUS the pattern repeat length. OR cut the first strip (3" longer than needed), lie it out on the floor, unroll enough for the next strip, match the pattern, *then* cut. Continue until you've cut all the strips you're going to get out of the first roll (it is less confusing to hang the paper one roll at a time).

4. Get It Sticky

If the wallpaper is pre-pasted, roll each strip glue side out, and feed it through the tray. Use room-temperature water (and a drop cloth, to protect your floor). If the paper is not pre-pasted, brush on a premixed adhesive.

5. Make It Stickier

To make sure that the paper will stick well, set up the glue even more by folding the strip in half, glue sides together, and leaving it for a couple of minutes—then unfold and hang it. Check the manufacturer's "booking time" for the exact time to leave it folded together.

6. Hang and Smooth It

Start at the ceiling, and smooth the paper (pushing out air bubbles with a sponge or smoother) down the wall so the strip hangs parallel to the plumb line. Trim the top and bottom excess with a sharp blade, and clean off any glue that has bled out onto the wall.

7. What About the Corners?

Measure the distance from the last strip to the corner, add an inch, and trim your next strip to that width. Hang the paper, smoothing it around the corner. Draw a new plumb line close the the edge of that strip on the new wall, and hang the next strip as close as possible to the edge while keeping it true to the vertical line.