

Upon receiving your digital wallcovering and prior to installation, please examine the goods within 48 hours to make certain the size, image and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. If, after reading through these instructions, there are any questions concerning the surface to be covered, the wallcovering or the installation process, a test installation of at least three panels, applied three days in advance of the main installation, is recommended. Please contact your Designtex Sales Representative or Surface Imaging Specialist for further assistance, or call 800.221.1540.

## **Mold and Mildew**

Before installing any wallcovering, the building must be checked for any moisture problems that could have an effect on mold and mildew growth after the wallcovering is installed. Do not install any wallcovering if the walls appear to have any moisture damage or if the building appears to have moisture infiltration problems. If you are uncertain if moisture problems are present, contact your architect, mechanical contractor, or general contractor for the standard of care and best application or finish for that area and that design of a building. Designtex will not take responsibility for any quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before installation. You should also refer to the Mold Handbook authored by the Wallcovering Association with respect to considerations for specifying vinyl wallcovering in various climates and for various building designs. The handbook can be found at [www.wallcoverings.org](http://www.wallcoverings.org).

## **Before Installing**

Inspect each piece upon receipt. Immediately make a claim with the carrier if the pieces are damaged. Check to see that you have received what was ordered and that all mural panels are included in the shipment. Designtex recommends installing digital wallcovering within 72 hours of delivery. If the material is to be stored, make sure the pieces are kept in a temperature controlled, dry area (not below 55° F or above 90° F), and not crushed.

## **Surface Preparation**

Proper surface preparation is essential for quality wallcovering installation. For best results, finished lighting should be in place at the time of wall preparation and wallcovering installation.

- Acceptable hanging surfaces must be clean, smooth, dry and structurally intact. Drywall or plaster should be a level IV finish.
- Wallcovering should be installed in areas with humidity between 35% and 65%
- Any mildew must be removed from the walls and surfaces treated to inhibit further mildew growth. In humid, mold and mildew prone areas we suggest the use of Zinsser Plus Mildew Proof Commercial Wallcovering System that offers protection against the growth of mildew. More extensive moisture problems may require additional steps before installation.

- Do not install wallcovering unless a surface and ambient temperature above 55° F and below 90° F is maintained.
- Prior to priming and skim coating, seal any damaged drywall facing paper.
- Crayon, pen markers, ink, screw and nail heads, heavy pencil marks and stains need to be sealed with a stain-killer prior to priming.
- For all new or refinished wall surfaces, a water-based wallcovering primer should be applied to surface before application of wallcovering. Use a wallcovering primer that dries to a solid color to help conceal drywall joints.
- Surfaces should be primed with a coat of an adhesion-promoting primer such as Roman R-35 prior to installation of wallcovering.
- Where there is a color contrast between the wall surface and the wallcovering, it is recommended to tint the wall paint primer to match the color of the wallcovering.

## **Recommended Primers and Adhesives**

Designtex recommends the use of a good quality heavy-duty clear vinyl adhesive as made by Zinsser and Roman. It is always advantageous to use a primer and adhesive from the same manufacturer.

## **Mildew-prone Environments**

Use of a mildew inhibitor is recommended. More extensive moisture problems may require additional steps before installation. New vapor permeable primers and adhesives are now available to wallcovering installers. These primers and adhesives can reduce the risk of mold for all types of wallcoverings versus the use of traditional primers and adhesives. Examples of such newly available permeable mildew systems are:

- Zinsser's V.P. Vapor Permeable™ System, specifically Shieldz V.P. Primer and Sure Grip V.P. Primer.
- Roman Decorating Products Ultra™ Plus Mildew System, specifically Ultra™ Plus Primer and Ultra™ Plus Adhesive.

## **Adhesive Application**

- Do not dilute adhesive.
- Application of the recommended adhesive can be applied to the back of the wallcovering or directly to the wall surface. If the back of the wallcovering is to be pasted, the adhesive can be applied by use of a paste machine or roller. Make certain the adhesive completely cover the back of the wallcovering, especially at the edges.
- Each pasted panel has to be "booked" for approximately 10 to 15 minutes to allow the wallcovering to "relax". This will prevent blisters from occurring when the panel is applied to the prepared wall surface.
- If the wall surface is to be pasted, the back of each panel of wallcovering should receive an application of water and then "booked" for approximately 10 minutes to allow the wallcovering to "relax". This will prevent blisters from occurring when the panel is applied to the prepared wall surface. The adhesive applied to the wall should be allowed to become tacky.

## Hangin the Wallcovering

Please note: when hanging panels, it is important to line up patterns and images at eye level, allowing any drift in lineup to run off toward the ceiling and floor. If pattern is lined up at the ceiling the pattern misalignment may begin sooner and the gap will be larger and more visible. Also, most patterns will be viewed at eyelevel therefore it is that area that needs to look aligned.

1. Apply adhesive as described above. Hang the first panel to a plumb line and allow it to overlap onto the ceiling and baseboard. Use a smoothing brush or plastic smoother to remove any air bubbles and to make sure all of the wallcovering has made good contact to the wall. Use the smoothing tools gently in order not to damage the image surface. Use light pressure. Do not press hard enough to remove the adhesive from underneath the wallcovering.
2. Trim with a razor knife at the ceiling and baseboard, around windows, etc.
3. Overlap the second panel approximately 1 inch over the side edge of the first panel until image is aligned, and smooth out firmly. Panel edges should be overlapped and double cut on the wall. Care should be exercised so that the wallboard underneath is not scored. A double cutting tool or seam pad is recommended to prevent scoring the wall.
4. The selvage (excess trimmed edge) should be removed from the wall and the seam closed within one hour.
5. Sponge each panel with clean water to remove any excess adhesive. Use a soft bristle brush to clean if necessary. Change the wash water frequently and blot 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. Seams should be vertical, have a tight fit, and be free from air and paste bubbles.
6. Proceed in the same manner for remaining panels.
7. Avoid burnishing the face of the material. Use a wallcovering brush or a plastic scraper to smooth the wallcovering onto the wall.
8. Use a seam roller to flatten the edges at the seams, ceilings and baseboards. Use light pressure. Do not press hard enough to remove the adhesive from underneath the wallcovering.

## Wallcovering Maintenance

- Regular and proper maintenance of your wallcovering permits less frequent cleaning. Maintenance is routine, on-going care which reduces soil build-up on a material's surface. Maintenance also includes promptly treating spots and stains.
- Vacuum vinyl wallcovering regularly with a proper upholstery attachment to thoroughly remove air-borne dust and lint. You may also lightly brush these surfaces.
- Do not rub or brush excessively or you may cause fuzzing. Stains should be removed as soon as possible to eliminate any possible reaction between the staining agent and the wallcovering. Time is

especially important for removing materials containing colors or solvents, such as ballpoint ink, lipstick, oil, shampoo tints and some foodstuffs. If soil remains on the wallcovering too long, permanent discoloration may develop.

- Wallcovering should not be sprayed with wax or other protective coating in the field. Such applications can discolor the material and will void its warranty.
- Ordinary dirt and smudges can be removed with a mild soap, warm water, and if necessary a soft bristle brush. Clean from the bottom of the wall upward to protect the baseboard and to prevent streaking.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water from the top down using a sponge. Dry with a clean cloth.
- Do not use steel wool, powdered abrasives or abrasive sponges (i.e. magic erasers) because they may scratch or dull the surface leaving an unsightly appearance.

## Cleaning Procedure

1. Dampen the surface of the wallcovering prior to cleaning with a damp cloth or sponge. Do not use a dry cloth or sponge on the dry wallcovering surface.
2. Clean from the bottom of the wall upward to protect the baseboard and to prevent streaking. Rinse thoroughly with clean water from the top down. Blot wall covering dry with a soft, lint-free cloth. For more difficult stains that are only surface deep, the use of a stronger detergent is recommended such as those listed above; however, the manufacturer's instructions should be followed carefully. Always rinse the wall well after applying cleaner.

Pre-test any recommended cleaning method on an inconspicuous area of the wallcovering first to determine if the method will harm the surface.