
Installation Instructions

Felt Wallcovering

STOP AND READ BEFORE INSTALLING

If at any time during the installation a product or installation issue should be discovered – STOP! Contact your distributor or dealer before proceeding. After installing the first 3 strips of any wallcovering – STOP! Once again, make sure the product is correct, that there are no quality or product issues with the wallcovering. Should a quality issue or question arise, please call our installation HOTLINE at 1-800-797-4949, Option 4, Ext. 7749 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. Designtex will not take responsibility for any quality issues raised after the first 3 strips are cut and installed.

Mold and Mildew Alert!

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 located at: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.wallcoverings.org/resource/resmgr/product_performance/wa-_mold_information.pdf.

The Designtex Group's woven textile wallcoverings are constructed with natural and man-made fibers, which can involve variations in color, texture, and character, which in some cases may enhance the natural character of the materials.

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 the rolls all have the same style and run numbers.
- If the material is to be stored, make sure the pieces are kept in a temperature controlled, dry area, and not crushed.
- **Note: Felt must be acclimated to the site conditions for a minimum of 72 hours prior to installation and ideally one week to avoid acclimating to the environment while installed which could cause shrinking and open seams.**

Surface Preparation

- Site conditions: 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. A level four is recommended.
- 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 temperature above 55 degrees Fahrenheit is maintained.
- Prior to priming and skim coating, seal damaged drywall facing paper.
- Note: Crayon, pen markers, ink, screw and nail heads, and 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 the surface before application of wallcovering. Use a primer that dries to a solid color to help conceal drywall joints.
- Where there is a color contrast between the wall surface and the wallcovering, it is always best to tint the primer to match the color of the wallcovering.
- Glossy and non-porous surfaces should be primed with a coat of an adhesion promoting primer such as R-35 prior to installation of wallcovering.

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Adhesive Application

- We recommend the use of a good quality pre-mixed, heavy duty clear non-strippable adhesive as made by Zinsser and Roman.
- It's always advantageous to use a primer and adhesive from the same manufacturer.
- This adhesive should be used at full strength. Do not dilute adhesive.
- In 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, which could 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 as described on their website (www.zinsser.com, tel. 732-469-8100) and Roman Decorating Products' Ultra™ Plus Mildew System, specifically Ultra™ Plus Primer and Ultra™ Plus Adhesive (www.romandecoratingproducts.com, tel. 800-488-6117).
- Material is designed to be dry hung (do not use a pasting machine).
- Apply a thin, even coat of the recommended adhesive directly to the wall and allow curing per the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. DO NOT APPLY PASTE TO THE BACK OF THE WALLCOVERING.
- **Note: Due to the inherent Wool content, felts may shrink during the adhesive curing time and seams may need to be reaffixed with additional adhesive.**
- Once the first coat of adhesive is completely dry, apply a second coat to the wall and allow the adhesive to set up.
- If adhesive does get on the face of the wallcovering, remove immediately with a damp sponge and dry with a clean, dry towel.

Wallcovering Installation

- For best results, we recommend dry table trimming to minimize the possibility of fraying and other potential issues, using a fresh blade on each cut. "Snap off" cutting tools are not recommended.
- **Note: Some installers find the overlap and double cut method to work. However, this method is dependent on the installer's experience. Care must be taken to not to score the wall. Seams should be vertical and have a tight fit.**
- Wallcovering should be hung straight up without alternating strips (All seams should be vertical, nap going the same way, and at least 6" away from the inside or outside of corners). For best results, apply full widths of material wherever possible. Headers and doors may cause shading. **Note: Due to the nature of the natural fibers slight color variation from panel to panel may exist and fine marks and tar spots are inherent in the product.**
- Begin hanging by cutting the first wallcovering strips to the desired length, while leaving an inch of material on the top and bottom for proper trimming (a straight line will have to be cut on the top and bottom, as the material is not factory trimmed). All top and bottom edges must be butt jointed. **Due to the thickness of the material, it may be required to stop and start a seam at the corners (inside), but this is up to the discretion of the installer.**
- Much care should be taken when trimming using a razor blade or a row cutter. Change blades after every cut. Smooth seams with wallcovering smoother or a carpet roller. Do not crush fibers.
- Care should be taken not to apply too much pressure when smoothing out wallcovering. Too much pressure can cause fabric to stretch. It can force excess paste onto the face of adjoining wallcovering. Stretched wallcovering may shrink when drying, causing seams to open. Gently work seams. Too much pressure from finger tips or seam roller may cause paste to bleed through fabric causing permanent stains.

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