

# How to: Hang wallpaper

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Not since the 70s has wallpaper been as popular as it is today.

Wallpaper expert Bob Vincent, from Bob & Dean Vincent Decorating Services, says the best option when hanging it yourself is by using a "paste the wall" technique, which is quicker and easier than the traditional "paste the paper" method.

Here are his tips to paper like a professional:

## YOU WILL NEED:

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Sugar soap                  | Sandpaper          |
| Filler                      | 255mm broad knife  |
| Wallpaper                   | 9mm trimming knife |
| Wallpaper paste             | Seam roller        |
| Latex wallpaper size        | Spirit level       |
| Pencil                      | Scissors           |
| Tape measure                | Whisk to mix paste |
| 75mm paint brush NT cutter  | Drop sheet         |
| 12 x 270mm roller kit       | Clean cloth        |
| Plastic spatula or smoother |                    |

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cover the floor before cleaning the wall with sugar soap. Fill any holes and cracks and use sandpaper to make the wall smooth (extra preparation may be needed if the surface is in poor condition).
2. Apply a latex wallpaper size product to help the wallpaper stick.
3. Open out the rolls side-by-side on the floor and match the pattern up as it will appear on the wall. The labels on the wallpaper will help you match any patterns.
4. Cut the strips of wallpaper to length, measuring the wall from top to bottom and allowing 40-50mm at each end for handling.
5. Number each strip with a pencil on the back and at the top. Roll up each strip from bottom to top with the pattern inside and set aside, keeping them in sequence.
6. Working from the corner and away from the light, mark with a pencil the width of the first strip at the top, centre and bottom of the wall. Then use a plumb bob or spirit level with an attached line to measure a straight line from the top mark to the bottom, putting new marks on the wall along this line.
7. From this first line of marks, carry on across the whole wall, adding a new mark to signify where the edge of each width of paper will be hung. This will ensure the strips are all hung level.
8. Paste the wall up to the marks where the first strip of wallpaper will be hung, rolling on an even layer of paste.
9. Attach the wallpaper at the top, concentrating on getting the pattern positioned at the top and following the pencil marks to about halfway down the wall until all the paper is unfolded, and then let it hang loose. Use a plastic spatula to apply pressure over the whole area, side-to-side and up-and-down, working away from the centre and using your hands to feel all over to make sure there are no air pockets.
10. Run the tip of the spatula along the top and bottom of the wall then slice off the excess paper with a broad knife and NT cutter, wiping off any excess paste with a cloth.
11. Paste the wall and apply the second strip, tightly butting the joins together and matching the pattern without overlapping. Use the seam roller to roll the edges down flat to the wall and wipe over the join to remove any excess paste.
12. Repeat until all strips are hung, trimming any excess and washing around the edges with a clean cloth.