

Sample Content Pages

How Much Do You Need?

WALLPAPER

Before choosing your wallpaper, keep in mind that wallpaper with little or no pattern to match at the seams and the ceiling will be the easiest to apply, thus resulting in the least amount of wasted wallpaper. If you choose a patterned wallpaper, a small repeating pattern will result in less waste than a large repeating pattern. And a pattern that is aligned horizontally (matching on each column of paper) will waste less than one that drops or alternates its pattern (matching on every other column).

To determine the amount of wall space you're covering:

- Measure the length of each wall, add these figures together, and multiply by the height of the walls to get the area (square footage) of the room's walls.

- Calculate the square footage of each door, window, and other opening in the room. Add these figures together and subtract the total from the area of the room's walls.

- Take that figure and multiply by 1.15, to account for a waste rate of about 15 percent in your wallpaper project. You'll end up with a target amount to purchase when you shop.

- Wallpaper is sold in single, double, and triple rolls. Coverage can vary, so be sure to refer to the roll's label for the proper square footage. (The average coverage for a double roll, for example, is 56 square feet.) After choosing a paper, divide the coverage figure



(from the label) into the total square footage of the walls of the room you're papering. Round the answer up to the nearest whole number. This is the number of rolls you need to buy.

- Save leftover wallpaper rolls, carefully wrapped to keep clean.

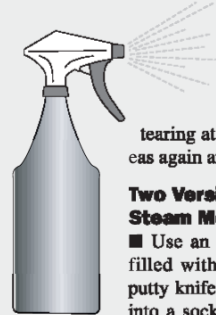
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WALLPAPER-REMOVING TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Before starting any of these treatments, you may want to cover the floor with newspaper, old towels, or other absorbent material.

The Spray Method

- Fill a spray bottle with equal parts hot water and white vinegar. Spray the mixture on the wall and allow it to soak in. After a minute or so, the paper should peel right off. Start tearing at a corner or along a seam. Spray difficult areas again and scrape with a putty knife.



Two Versions of the Steam Method

- Use an electric kettle filled with water, and a putty knife. Plug the kettle into a socket in the room where you are stripping wallpaper. Bring the water to a boil, and hold the kettle so that the steam shoots at a seam along the bottom of the wall. As the paper lifts, move the kettle up along the seam and let the steam do its work. Unplug the kettle and gently pry the paper off the wall using the putty knife.



- Borrow or rent a wallpaper steamer. Fill the small tank with water and use it like an iron on the wall. Score the wallpaper with a putty knife. Take the knife and carefully scrape the wallpaper off.

The Old-Fashioned Sponge Method

- Fill a pail with very hot water. Put on a pair of rubber gloves. Using a large sponge, soak the entire wall. Scrape and peel the wallpaper.

