

# PROJECTS IN PERSON'S DIY CRASH COURSE WALLPAPER 101

## WALLPAPER INSTALLATION FOR COATED, NON-WOVEN WALLPAPER

### Materials:

- Measuring Tape
- Scissors
- Mohair Paint Roller
- Paint Tray
- Paint Tray Liner
- Paint Brush
- Wallpaper Paste (a quality clear tub adhesive like Roman Pro 880)
- Drop Cloth
- Sponge
- Bucket of Clean Warm Water
- Metal Straight Edge
- Pencil
- Level
- Craft Knife with Several Extra Blades
- Plastic Smoothing Tool

**1. Prepare your wall** by wiping it clean with a dry cloth to remove dirt and dust and removing all electrical coverings. If the wall has cracks or divots, fill them in with filler, sand them down, and seal with a wallpaper primer. (wall filler can absorb moisture from the wallpaper paste, and cause wallpaper bubbling.)

**2. Draw a starting guideline** for your first drop of wallpaper to ensure it's hung straight. Beginning from the corner of the wall farthest away from an entry line of sight, measure the width of the wallpaper minus one inch for trimming on wall edge, and mark with a pencil. (You can also cut off the header from the end of Milton & King roll to use as a width guideline.) Use a level to draw a vertical pencil line the entire height of the wall.

**3. Cut your wallpaper strips.** Measure the height of your wall excluding base and crown moldings. Add 2-3 inches to the height measurement for trimming at the top and bottom. Measure and cut your strips accounting for pattern-matching if necessary.

**4. Apply paste.** For wallpapers with dimensionally-stable backings, like Milton & King, you can apply paste directly to the wall for a faster and easier installation. Use a paint brush to "cut in" paste at corners, ceilings, base trim and corners (anywhere that a roller can't easily get to). Then use a roller to fill in the rest of the wall with paste.

For wallpapers that require a more traditional hanging method, roll a thin layer of paste onto the backside of the wallpaper, 'book' (fold pasted side together) the pasted sheet, and let the paste soak in for 5-7 minutes. This will keep the seams from opening up and drying out while the paper is relaxing.

**5. Hang first wallpaper strip** so that it aligns with the vertical guideline from Step 2, and you have 1" excess paper at the top of your wall for trimming. Use a plastic scraper to smooth air bubbles down and out from behind the paper.

Butt join additional strips to one another so they're tightly seamed. No overlapping. When matching a repeat, match the strips at eye level, sliding it up or down until you find a perfect match.

**6. Carefully trim excess wallpaper** at the top and bottom of the strip using a metal straight edge and craft knife. Change your cutting blade often to prevent tearing.

**7. Wipe off** any paste with a warm, damp sponge that may have found its way to the face of the paper.

**8. Ventilate the room** to ensure proper drying.

See also Milton & King's installation instructions attachment and installation video:  
<https://vimeo.com/152915967>

## **WALLPAPER REMOVAL**

### **Materials:**

- Drop Cloth
- Wallpaper Scorer such as Paper Tiger Scoring Tool
- Wide Putty Knife
- Bucket
- Sponge
- Warm Water
- Dish Detergent
- Towel
- Wallpaper Stripper such as DIF Concentrate (optional)
  - Garden sprayer or sponge for wallpaper stripper
  - Gloves
  - Safety Glasses
  - Respirator Mask

**1. Room prep.** Place drop cloths at the base of the walls to be stripped. Remove all switch plates and outlet covers from the walls. Cut the power to the room. Pull away any wallpaper that is loose at seams or edges - even if only the top layer comes off, it will make the subsequent steps easier.

**2. Score wallpaper.** Use a wallpaper scorer to create small holes in the paper, which allows the water or stripper to penetrate through to the adhesive.

**3. Soak walls.** First, try wetting the wallpaper with a sponge/warm water. If the paper starts to loosen easily with a putty knife, move on to Step 4.

If the wallpaper does not easily come up with water, use a garden sprayer or sponge to apply wallpaper stripper to a section of the wallpaper. Spray only as much of the wall as you can comfortably strip in a 15-minute period. Allow the solution to soak the paper for a few minutes before beginning.

**4. Strip wallpaper.** Grab pieces of wallpaper at a bottom corner and carefully pull upward. Use a wide putty knife to facilitate the removal of the paper. Repeat the above steps until all the wallpaper is removed.

**5. Clean walls.** In a bucket, mix a tablespoon of dish detergent with very hot water. Use a sponge to wipe down the walls, scrubbing carefully to remove all traces of wallpaper adhesive. Finally, rinse down the walls with clean water and towel dry.

### **WALLPAPER CALCULATION**

**Use an online calculator!** Most wallpaper companies have an online calculator that makes figuring out how much you need a cinch. Milton & King's calculator can be found at:

<https://www.miltonandking.com/customer-service/calculator>

For the online calculator, enter in the height and length of each wall (excluding base boards and moldings) + the vertical repeat of your wallpaper.

Also, double check that the online calculator's roll width is the same as your wallpaper's roll width.

### **How to Manually Determine the Number of Wallpaper Rolls You'll Need:**

First, determine whether your wallpaper is sold as single rolls (approx. 15 ft long) or double rolls (approx. 30 ft long).

1. Measure your walls - make sure you have an accurate measurement in inches of height and width of the portion of the wall you'll be covering. Sometimes it helps to draw a rough sketch to use while you do your calculations.
2. Determine the number of strips you'll need – Take the width of your wall and divide by the width of your wallpaper. This will give you the number of strips of wallpaper that you will need. Remember to always round up!
3. Determine how many strips you can get out of a roll - This can be the tricky part as it depends on the repeat of your wallpaper. The example below is calculated based upon a double roll of 30 ft.
  1. To determine the approximate number of repeats per roll, divide 360 (30' times 12") by the repeat of your wallpaper.
  2. Take the height of your wall in inches and add 4-5 inches to account for trim on top and bottom. Then divide by the repeat - this will give you the number of repeats you need in each strip.
  3. Then divide the number of repeats per roll by the number of repeats you need per strip which will give you the number of strips you'll be able to get out of each roll.
  4. Last, take the number of strips you'll need from Step 2 and divide by the number of strips you can get out of a roll. Again, always round up!

Don't worry about factoring doors and windows into the calculation. They rarely affect the amount needed unless they take up a significant portion of the wall.

### **Dyelots**

Make sure to err on the side of a little extra wallpaper, as colors can vary slightly from dyelot to dyelot. If you need to go back and order another roll, the coloring may be slightly different than the lot you originally received.

### **WHERE TO FIND INSTALLATION MATERIALS**

- Locally, Hirshfields has a great selection and several locations around Minneapolis.  
[www.hirshfields.com](http://www.hirshfields.com)
- [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

Please do get in touch if you have questions:

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