

CLAIR™ PVC-free Wallcovering

Installation, Maintenance, and Disinfecting Guidelines

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the material carefully to ensure that the pattern, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Check that the quantity and dimensions match the required specifications prior to cutting.

In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

It is very important that the wallcovering rolls are stored in areas where the temperature is maintained at 50°–90°F. When transporting, be aware that the inside of a trailer can become very hot—a truck parked in the sun can reach temperatures of over 170°F, which can result in many types of defects. Nothing should be stored or stacked on top of the wallcovering rolls. If the rolls are allowed to sit on the floor for long periods, or if other materials are stacked on top of the rolls, flat areas, dents, inclusions, and various lines can be permanently embedded into the wallcovering. If this occurs, heating the room to 90°F can help.

CLAIR wallcovering should be acclimated in the installation area for at least six days prior to and after installing, at 60°–80° F, with relative humidity at 50% or less. Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 5% using a reputable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. If walls show mold, mildew or visible moisture damage, or if moisture content exceeds recommendations, do not proceed with installation until the condition has been fully corrected under the direction of a qualified professional. Note: **CLAIR wallcovering can be microvented to increase permeability**, however this will not prevent mold and mildew growth if moisture is permitted to occur in a wall.

Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.

SURFACE PREPARATION

All surfaces must be smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease and mildew. Stains such as ink, grease, crayon, or other foreign matter should be spot treated with a stain-killing primer to prevent bleeding through the new material. With all surfaces—once properly prepared—apply a heavy duty, acrylic or latex wallcovering primer/sealer. If an oil-based primer was used, apply an acrylic or latex primer over it before hanging, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. If the surface does not have a uniform color, use a pigmented primer.

Note: Many primers are intended for use as a vapor barrier. Use of these primers on microvented wallcovering may significantly reduce the overall permeability of the installation. Use only a breathable primer for microvented wallcovering.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred, to avoid telegraphing of any imperfections. Follow with a pigmented primer.

Newly plastered walls should completely cure for 60–90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer. An adhesion test should be performed to ensure compatibility of the primer with the adhesive.

Existing walls present varied conditions—glossy surfaces should be sanded and mildew should be cleaned off with a solution of two cups bleach per gallon of water. Painted surfaces should be tested for moisture resilience and adhesion. If the painted surface is found to be “unsound” by either of the following tests, the paint must be removed:

- Cut a shallow “x” in the painted surface with a razor blade. Wrap a strip of masking tape around your finger (sticky side out), and press it to the “x”, checking to see whether the paint film separates from the wall surface. If the paint film separates, the wall is not sound.
- Take a wet sponge, hold it against the painted surface for 15-20 seconds, checking for any pigment or color transfer from the wall surface to the sponge. If the pigment or color transfers, the wall is not sound.

All wallcovering should be scraped and removed. **Do not hang CLAIR wallcovering over existing wallcovering.** After wallcovering is removed, remove remaining adhesive with a good quality adhesive remover, then rinse the wall and allow to dry. Nicks, gouges, and other blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. If the old wallcovering is peelable, remove both the top and bottom layer of the wallcovering. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

Surfaces other than drywall or plaster may require special procedures and application techniques. Contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550 for recommendations prior to starting.

HANGING GUIDELINES

CLAIR wallcovering rolls are numbered consecutively and should be cut and installed in reverse sequence, starting with the highest numbered roll. All panels should be hung in sequence as they are cut from the roll, using only full widths of material whenever possible. *Note: Some embossed wallcoverings may not be appropriate for direct lighting where every feature is magnified.* Be sure to test out the wallcovering first, and install under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

When hanging **non-reversible** or **matching patterns**, measure the wall height, allowing for pattern match, add 4", and table trim using a straight edge to ensure alignment across seams. Large, dominant pattern repeats require more careful planning as far as starting point, ceiling line, chair rails, door/window headers, etc. Patterns are meant to match at eye level and may run off slightly at the top and bottom of the wall.

When hanging **textured** or **random-match patterns**, reverse hang alternate strips for a more uniform appearance. Seams on non-matched patterns may be table trimmed, or overlapped and double-cut during installation, exercising care not to cut too deeply into the wall substrate.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three lengths have been installed. Upon approval, returns will be subject to a 35% handling and restocking charge. Requests for return authorization must be made within 30 days of ship date.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Apply a uniform coat of a premium grade, full strength, heavy-duty clear, strippable adhesive to the back of the wallcovering using a pasting machine, or directly to the wall using a paint roller. Use of a mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended. Adhesive should be maintained at temperatures between 65° and 78° F prior to use. Fold each sheet over and allow up to 10 minutes booking time for the adhesive to penetrate the backing of the wallcovering, and to avoid paste drying at the edges. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions on coverage and set time.

*NOTE: For best results, **microvented wallcovering should be dry hung** by applying the adhesive to the wall surface.*

INSTALLATION

Hang the first strip to a plumb line, overlapping the ceiling and baseboard, within 12 minutes of paste application. Use a stiff, short-bristle brush or flexible broad knife to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. A plastic smoother can also be used on non-metallic patterns, providing only light pressure is applied (do not use sharp-edged tools). Smooth from the middle to the outside edges, being careful not to stretch the material, and work out all air bubbles. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. For matched patterns, butt the second strip to the edge of the first and smooth out firmly. When double cutting non-matching patterns, place a 2-3" wide strip behind the seam to avoid scoring the wall. Flatten seams exerting light pressure with a seam roller. Low-adhesive painter's tape can be used to keep the face of the seams clean. Before applying the next strip, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel, and proceed in the same manner around the room.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than 6" from inside or outside corners.* When trimming at chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straight edge. Take extra care in keeping adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Remove excess adhesive immediately with a natural sponge, frequently rinsed in clean, warm water, and dry with a lint free cloth. Do not use an excessive amount of water to remove adhesive from seams, as it may seep into the seam and dilute the adhesive. Clean all seams to avoid paste staining.

*Use of a heat gun is not recommended for flattening wallcovering when wrapping corners.

After installation, the walls and wallcovering should be monitored for potential moisture or vapor infiltration, which must be promptly eliminated.

MAINTENANCE

CLAIR wallcovering is easily cleaned using clear, warm water and mild soap with a natural sea sponge. If a damp sponge fails to clean dirt and smudges, spray the soiled area with a laundry spot remover or isopropyl alcohol and wipe in circular motion. Blot excess spot remover from the surface with a clean damp sponge. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, or pine oil, which may cause discoloration.

DISINFECTING

Preparation: Calculate the total surface area of the walls to be disinfected. Approximately 100–150 square feet of surface area can typically be covered by one gallon of diluted disinfectant at the appropriate dilution. Proper mixing is critical to achieving the right concentration for effective disinfection and the health and safety of personnel.

Wear appropriate PPE when opening and mixing disinfectants. At minimum, wear gloves and eye protection and cover exposed skin. Ensure that the chemical disinfectant has been stored properly and is within the maximum shelf life before mixing. Check the product label for the expiration date. For concentrates, ensure that the correct proportion of disinfectant is added to the correct volume of water. Mix the required amount of disinfectant solution in accordance with label instructions. Always add concentrate to water, not water to concentrate. Once a solution has been prepared, it is best to be used on the same day or it may become inactive.

Disinfection Procedure: In some cases, walls might need to be cleaned with a mild soap (Ivory® liquid) before you disinfect them fully. Apply disinfectant on the walls from top to bottom and from back to front. The time a disinfectant is in contact with the surface is important and varies with the type of disinfectant and the type of surface being treated. Carefully follow the specific instructions on the label. Reapplication of the disinfectant may be necessary to achieve the contact time indicated on the product label. Typical contact times are 3-10 minutes.

Completely rinse the disinfected area with water. Allow surfaces to thoroughly air dry before utilizing the area. Ensure that any unused disinfectant concentrate and solution are either stored in accordance with the label instructions and the site-specific health and safety plan, or are properly disposed.

Approved disinfectants: The following disinfecting agents have been tested for use on CLAIR wallcoverings:

- 1:10 bleach/water solution
- Spartan DMQ® neutral disinfectant
- 60–70% isopropyl alcohol
- Sani Professional® Disinfecting Multi-Surface Wipes
- 4.5% hydrogen peroxide
- Virex® II 256 quaternary disinfectant cleaner
- Sanitizing Rinse SR-22 Concentrate

Other disinfectants of similar chemistries may also work but must first be tested on the wallcovering in an inconspicuous area to ensure compatibility. High luster and metallic finishes must also be checked as they may be subject to discoloration.

Note: The above is intended only as a guideline. CLAIR wallcovering installations must conform to current hanging instructions included with each shipment. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.