

Thinking about wallpaper? Read this first.

Wallpaper does what paint can't — pattern, texture, and depth that change a room's whole character. It's also the least forgiving finish in the house: every seam shows the installer's skill. Here's what to know before you order a single roll.

Three ways wallpaper goes wrong (and right)

DIY

Possible on a small, square accent wall with forgiving paper. Pattern matching, paste behavior, and seam work punish first-timers — usually on the most visible wall.

Handyman install

Fine for a simple peel-and-stick. Traditional papers — grasscloth, murals, heavy patterns — need a specialist's hands and tools.

Professional install

Walls prepped and primed for wallpaper, seams tight and patterns matched, edges clean at every arch and outlet. This is our lane — installation only; you choose and supply the paper you love.

What the process actually looks like

- 1 Consultation & measure.** We measure your walls — height, arches, openings — and tell you exactly how much paper to order, including pattern-repeat waste.
- 2 You choose the paper.** Order with our measurements in hand, all from the same dye lot. Keep the leftover — it's your insurance for future repairs.
- 3 Walls are prepped & primed.** Smooth, sealed, and primed specifically for wallpaper, so seams sit right and the paper can come down cleanly years from now.
- 4 Installation.** Hung plumb, patterns matched at eye level, seams rolled tight, edges trimmed clean around trim, outlets, and fixtures.
- 5 Walkthrough.** We check every seam and corner with you in the room's real light.

How long? A powder room or dining room is typically one to two days once walls are prepped. High ceilings and archways are very doable — they just belong in the plan from the start, not as a surprise.

Things to consider before you decide

- **Order by measurement, not by guess.** Pattern repeat eats paper — a large repeat can add a full roll. Order everything at once from one dye lot; a re-order can arrive a slightly different color.
- **Wall condition decides the finish.** Wallpaper telegraphs every bump under it. Heavily textured or damaged walls need smoothing first — your installer should say so before the paper goes up, not after.
- **Moisture matters.** Half baths are great wallpaper rooms. Full baths with steamy showers need the right paper and good ventilation — ask before you fall in love with a delicate grasscloth.
- **Think about the exit.** Properly primed walls let wallpaper come down later without destroying the drywall. Skipping primer is how a weekend project becomes a wall repair.
- **Pattern scale changes the room.** Large patterns need room to breathe; small rooms love small prints and vertical stripes that borrow height. Bring options to the consultation.
- **One wall or the whole room?** A single wallpapered wall reads as art; a full room reads as atmosphere. Both work — the room's light and furniture decide.

Do this

- Have the installer measure before you order anything
- Order all rolls at once, same dye lot, plus one spare
- Ask how the walls will be primed for future removal
- Check seams and pattern match in daylight before final payment

Skip this

- Ordering the exact square footage with no waste allowance
- Hanging paper over glossy paint without proper prep
- Assuming peel-and-stick and traditional paper install the same way
- Skipping primer to save a step — it costs you the wall later

Five questions to ask any wallpaper installer

- Will you measure and tell me how much to order, including pattern waste?
- How do you prep and prime the walls — and how will removal work later?
- Have you hung this type of paper before (grasscloth, mural, metallic)?
- How do you handle seams, corners, arches, and outlets?
- What does the installation include — and what counts as extra?

Wallpaper is a specialist's trade. These questions separate specialists from volunteers.

In the southwest Twin Cities metro?

Schedule your **FREE consultation** — we'll measure your room and tell you exactly what to order before you spend a dollar on paper.

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