

Wallpaper Installation Checklist

Use this checklist after estimating rolls to confirm surface prep, paste selection, and sequencing before you start hanging.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Room: _____

Wall area (net): _____

Rolls ordered: _____

Roll size (W x L): _____

Pattern repeat: _____

Planned date: _____

PHASE 1 — SURFACE PREPARATION

- Remove all switch plates, outlet covers, and wall fixtures.
- Fill holes and cracks with filler; sand smooth when dry.
- Wash walls with sugar soap or mild detergent to remove grease and dust.
- Sand any glossy painted surfaces lightly to improve adhesion.
- Apply a wallpaper primer or size coat appropriate for your wall type (new plaster, painted, or bare).
- Allow primer to dry fully before hanging — check manufacturer's drying time.
- Mark a true vertical plumb line on the first wall using a spirit level.

PHASE 2 — MATERIAL & PASTE PREPARATION

- Confirm all rolls are from the same dye lot — check batch number on each label.
- Stack rolls in the order they will be hung to maintain consistent batch sequence.
- Select the correct paste type: standard overlap paste for most papers; heavy-duty for textured or fabric wallpapers; ready-mixed for lightweight vinyls.
- Mix paste to the consistency specified on the packaging — too thin causes slipping; too thick reduces open time.
- For paste-the-wall papers, prepare the wall surface as directed; do not paste the paper itself.
- Cut test strips and check pattern alignment before pasting a full roll.

PHASE 3 — HANGING

- Start from the plumb line marked in Phase 1 — never start from a corner.

- Paste and fold (book) paper if required; allow the specified soaking time before hanging.
- Hang the first strip vertically against the plumb line; smooth from centre outward using a seam roller or soft brush.
- Align the pattern at eye level, not at the ceiling — ceiling lines are rarely perfectly level.
- Butt seams tightly; do not overlap unless the product specifically requires it.
- Trim at ceiling and skirting with a sharp snap-off knife and straight edge — change blades frequently.
- Wipe paste from the surface immediately with a damp sponge; dried paste dulls the finish.
- Work around corners by wrapping at least 5 mm onto the adjacent wall and plumbing a new line on the return.
- For light switches and outlets, hang paper over the fitting and cut an X to the corners, then trim carefully.

PHASE 4 — DRYING & FINISHING

- Keep the room at a consistent temperature (15–20°C / 60–68°F) while drying.
- Avoid direct draughts or heating — uneven drying causes shrinkage at seams.
- Do not touch or clean wallpaper for at least 48 hours after hanging.
- Check seams after 24 hours; re-stick any lifting edges with seam adhesive.
- Refit all switch plates and outlet covers once paper is fully dry.
- Store leftover rolls flat in a cool dry place, labelled with the room name and batch number.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Skipping primer — paper absorbs moisture unevenly on unprimed walls, causing bubbles.
- Mismatched dye lots — always check batch numbers before purchase, not after.
- Starting at a corner — walls and corners are rarely square or plumb.
- Insufficient soaking time — pasting and hanging immediately causes dry edges and poor adhesion.
- Using a blunt knife for trimming — tearing at cuts is almost always a blade issue.

PROJECT NOTES

HomeProjectCalculator.com | Methodology: homeprojectcalculator.com/methodology/ | Data Sources:
homeprojectcalculator.com/data-sources/

Version 1.0 | Last Updated: 2026-06-04 | Planning purposes only — consult qualified professionals where required.