

VINYL WALLCOVERING SELECTION: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON USE, INSTALLATION, AND LIMITED WARRANTY

Wallcovering Permeability, Moisture and Mold. Like any other building material, wallcovering materials, such as vinyl wallcovering and paint, should be selected taking into account building conditions. One of the characteristics of vinyl wallcovering is that it has little or no moisture permeability. This characteristic can be an important benefit in terms of durability, cleanability and wall protection. However, if the design, construction or maintenance of a building, or other circumstances allow liquid or vapor moisture to accumulate in a wall or wall cavity, vinyl wallcovering can act as a vapor barrier restricting the escape of moisture and increasing the risk of mold growth. Building deficiencies that can lead to moisture accumulation in a wall or wall cavity include unsealed building exteriors (roof, walls, windows, etc.), inadequate or unbalanced HVAC systems, use of wet construction materials, or leaking pipes. If the source of the moisture accumulation is not eliminated, mold growth is likely to occur. Depending on the condition of a building, moisture accumulation can be more likely in hot humid climates such as the southern coastal region in the United States.

Good design, construction and maintenance practices can prevent moisture accumulation. In all cases, moisture and sources of moisture accumulation must be eliminated before installing any wallcovering material and routine building maintenance must always include looking for and prompt correction if moisture accumulation is found. Vinyl wallcovering does contain additives to resist mold and other microbial growth on the product itself but these additives will not prevent mold growth if moisture is allowed to accumulate in a wall or wall cavity. Vinyl wallcovering permeability can be increased through perforation and alternative product constructions with varying degrees of increased permeability depending on the methods used. Whether this increased permeability will prevent moisture accumulation requires an evaluation of the building involved and local conditions. It is important to keep in mind, however, that no wallcovering material, including paint and perforated or mildew resistant wallcovering will prevent mold growth if moisture accumulation is permitted to occur.

An experienced professional who is familiar with building conditions and local circumstances should always be consulted concerning permeability requirements and the benefits and limitations of vinyl wallcovering. For more information on wallcovering permeability, please contact ARC|COM.

Double Hanging. Vinyl wallcovering must not be hung over other wallcovering. If a fire were to occur, wallcovering hung over other wallcovering will result in increased smoke generation, flammability, and toxicity. Any such hanging is in violation of ARC|COM's wallcovering use instructions.

Hanging Instructions. Important—If at any time during the installation a discrepancy is discovered, **STOP**. Contact your local Arc|Com representative to resolve before proceeding. Before cutting, examine wallcovering to make certain pattern color is satisfactory and as ordered. CLAIMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CUT YARDAGE. Check all roll tickets to determine if more than one run or lot of the same pattern is to be installed. Cut panels and install headers in roll number sequence, making sure that run numbers are broken at INSIDE corners only. COMMERCIAL WALLCOVERING MUST BE INSTALLED IN ROLL NUMBER SEQUENCE. Allow for matching of repeats and trimming at the ceiling and the baseboard. INSTALL ALL WALLCOVERING UNDER ADEQUATE LIGHTING. EVALUATE FOR COLOR UNIFORMITY UNDER PERMANENT LIGHTING CONDITIONS. WHEN THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, DUPLICATE THE FINAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE. Wallcovering must be in a clean and dry condition. Do not install wallcovering unless a temperature above 55°F is maintained in both areas of installation and storage for three days prior to and throughout installation and for three days after the installation. The building should be weather-tight with HVAC settings (including relative humidity) the same as those of an occupied building. Do not install if temperatures exceed 100°F. All materials used in connection with installation, including without limitation all adhesives, primer, pigmented primer/sealers, and adhesive promoting primer, must be good quality commercial grade materials. If there are any questions concerning the

surface to be covered, a test installation of at least three strips applied three days in advance of the main installation is recommended.

Surface Preparation. Proper surface preparation is essential for a quality wallcovering installation.

Diagram 1 Reversible Design Reverse Hang

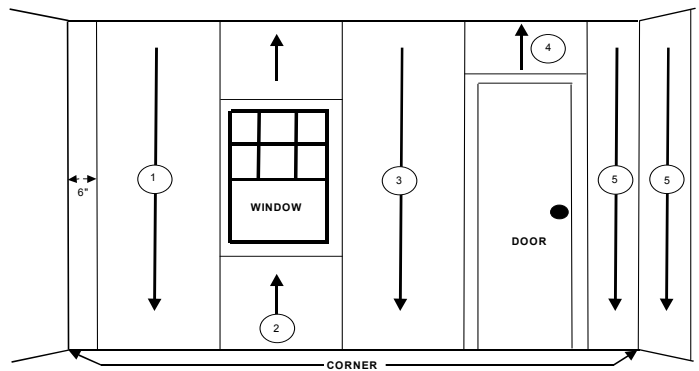
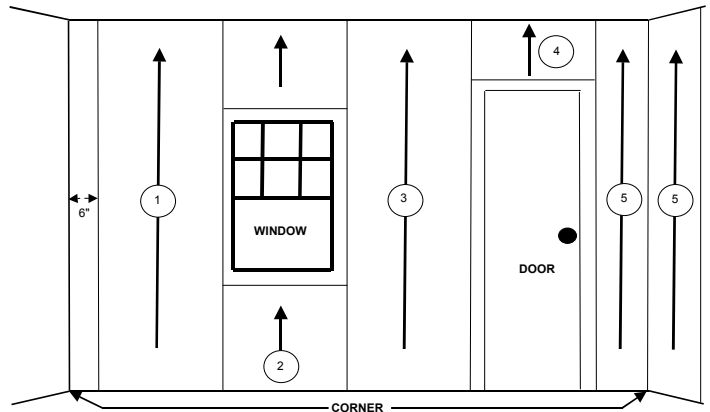


Diagram 2 Non-Reversible Design Straight Hang



1. The wall surface should be smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound and free of mold, mildew, grease, or other stains. Moisture in or behind a wall as well as all sources of moisture infiltration in or behind the wall must be eliminated. Remove any mold or mildew from walls with a commercially available cleaning solution or warm soapy water and treat surfaces with a diluted bleach solution to inhibit further mold or mildew growth. Any loose paint must be removed from the wall. (See paint testing next page.) Glossy and semi-gloss paint must be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. Any wall irregularities should be corrected with either spackling or drywall compound. Ballpoint ink, grease, lipstick, crayon, or any foreign contamination should be cleaned, or removed from the wall, or sealed with a stain killer primer/sealer to prevent any bleeding of the mark or stain through the wallcovering. Marking pen inks must be removed from the wall.
2. Ideally, new plaster walls should age 60-90 days before painting or installing wallcovering. If you cannot wait, then wash newly plastered walls with a zinc sulfate solution to neutralize the lime (2-4 pounds of zinc sulfate crystals per gallon of water). Old plaster walls should have efflorescence crystals removed.
3. Remove old wallcovering completely. After wallcovering is removed, remove remaining adhesive with adhesive remover, then rinse the wall and allow to dry. If the old wallcovering is peelable, remove both the top and bottom layer of wallcovering.
4. ANY OF THESE PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED WITH AN APPLICATION OF WALLCOVERING PRIMER CONTAINING A MOLD INHIBITOR.
5. On plastered or painted walls, apply wallcovering primer. On new drywall, apply opaque/white acrylic based wallcovering primer.

Application. This wallcovering requires the use of heavy-duty clay based adhesive for 20 oz., or higher weight, wallcovering. Wallcovering that is 19 oz. or less can use a heavy duty clear adhesive. All adhesives must contain a mold inhibitor.

1. WHEN INSTALLING TEXTURED OR NON-MATCHED PATTERNS, REVERSE HANGING OF ALTERNATE STRIPS IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE COLOR CONTINUITY FROM STRIP TO STRIP (SEE DIAGRAM 1).

OCCASIONALLY, TEXTURED WALLCOVERING "PANELS" WHEN IT IS REVERSED. IF PANELING OCCURS, INSTALL AS NON-REVERSED PATTERN (SEE DIAGRAM 2) AND EVALUATE APPEARANCE.

2. FOR MATCHED OR OBVIOUS NON-REVERSIBLE PATTERN DESIGNS, STRAIGHT INSTALLATION IS REQUIRED (SEE DIAGRAM 2).

3. AFTER THREE STRIPS ARE INSTALLED, INSPECT THE WALLCOVERING. IF THE PATTERN EFFECT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, OR IF THERE IS VARIATION IN COLOR, DISCONTINUE HANGING AND CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ARC|COM REPRESENTATIVE. ARC|COM WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR LABOR CHARGES OVER THREE STRIPS. Defective wallcovering will be replaced and a claim number issued. OCCASIONALLY, TEXTURED WALLCOVERING "PANELS" WHEN IT IS REVERSED. IF PANELING OCCURS INSTALL AS NON-REVERSED PATTERN AND EVALUATE APPEARANCE (SEE DIAGRAM 2).

4. Determine whether the pattern match is random, straight across, or drop match. Measure the wall height, allowing for pattern match, add 4 inches, and then cut the wallcovering. It will overlap onto the ceiling and the baseboard approximately 2 inches.

5. Apply adhesive to the back using either a pasting machine or a paint roller. Work the adhesive in to cover the back completely, especially near the edges. Fold each end toward the middle, pasted sides together, aligning the edges carefully so they do not dry out. Caution: Do not crease the wallcovering. Allow to "relax" or book for 10 minutes. This will allow the adhesive to penetrate the wallcovering backing which is important for a successful installation. **NOTE: Perforated wallcovering should be dry hung, using the paste the wall method.**

6. Many geometric and matched patterns may require table trimming with a straight edge to ensure pattern uniformity across seams. Other patterns should be overlapped and double cut on the wall. Care should be exercised so that the wallboard underneath is not scored. A double cutting tool or seam pad is recommended to prevent scoring the wall. The selvage (excess trimmed edge) should be removed from the wall and the seam closed as soon as possible but within a maximum of one hour.

7. Hang the first strip to a plumb line and allow it to overlap onto the ceiling and baseboard. Use a smoothing brush, broad knife, or plastic smoother to remove any air bubbles and to make sure all of the wallcovering has made good contact to the wall taking adequate care not to burnish the surface. Trim with scissors or razor knife at the ceiling and baseboard, around windows, etc.

8. Use a seam roller to flatten the edges at the seams, ceiling, and baseboard. Use light pressure. Do not press hard enough to remove the adhesive from underneath the wallcovering.

9. Place the second strip to the edge of the first strip (or overlap and double cut) and smooth out firmly. Repeat step #8. Sponge each strip with clean water to remove any excess adhesive. Use a soft bristle brush to clean if necessary. Change this wash water frequently. Blot these surfaces dry with a clean towel. Be certain to wash the ceiling and the baseboard to remove any paste residue. Do not leave any overlap at the seams since vinyl will not adhere to itself. Seams should be vertical, have a tight fit, and be free from air and paste bubbles. Seams should not be located closer than 6" to corners.

10. After three panels are smoothed to the wall surface and excess paste is removed, examine the installed panels for color uniformity. Panels on non-matching patterns normally have a width on the wall of 51-53 inches. Geometric and other matching patterns vary in "on the wall" width. It may be necessary to trim one or both selvages further to obtain uniform color match across seams. Proceed in the same manner around the room. Any objectionable variations in color and/or pattern match must be immediately communicated to your local Arc|Com representative for inspection before proceeding further with the installation. A claim number will always be issued for project documentation.

Testing Paint for Moisture Sensitivity. Hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, then rub the surface vigorously with a cloth. If no paint, or only a slight amount of paint is removed, then the paint should be sound. This wall can be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. If all, or a large quantity of the paint is removed, then the wall should be washed with ammonia and water or sanded and washed to remove the paint. A good quality opaque/white wallcovering primer should be used to prime the wall.

Testing Paint for Adhesion to the Wall. Cut three small x's into the painted wall surface then apply a piece of Scotch clear cellophane tape over the x's. Yank the tape off vigorously. Inspect any paint on the tape; no paint flakes indicate good adhesion. This wall can be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer. Paint flakes on the tape indicates that the paint adhesion to the wall surface is not adequate for hanging the wallcovering. The wall surface should be sanded with coarse sandpaper to remove or break through the existing paint. The sanded surface should be primed with a good quality wallcovering primer.

Limited Warranty. Subject to the conditions and limitations below, ARC|COM warrants that for a period of five (5) years from the date of shipment that our fabric-backed vinyl wallcovering products will not separate from their backings or exhibit stains caused by bleeding of impurities from the wallcovering. This limited warranty extends to only the purchaser of the wallcovering. This limited warranty does not cover and expressly excludes any damage, loss, cost, defect or deficiency arising out of or relating to: (a) accident, abuse, misuse, or vandalism; (b) mold or mildew; (c) use of incompatible materials, accessories or supplies; (d) abnormal conditions of use including use on walls subject to moisture infiltration or accumulation; (e) improper storage, handling, installation, or maintenance; (f) fire, flood or other acts, omissions, causes, or events beyond the control of ARC|COM; (g) wallcovering that has been altered by anyone other than ARC|COM; or (h) any other loss, cost, damage, defect or deficiency not within the scope of the limited warranty. Any claim or dispute arising out of or relating to the wallcovering shall be resolved by final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Center for Public Resources rules for non-administered arbitration. THE FOREGOING LIMITED WARRANTY IS THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY GIVEN BY ARC|COM WITH RESPECT TO ITS WALLCOVERING. ARC|COM MAKES NO OTHER REPRESENTATIONS AND DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, ARISING BY OPERATION OF LAW OR OTHERWISE INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE; ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY ARISING BY USAGE OF TRADE, COURSE OF DEALING OR COURSE OF PERFORMANCE; ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY ARISING FROM ANY USE OF ANY WALLCOVERING, OR ARC|COM'S CONDUCT IN RELATION TO SUCH USE, AND IN EACH SUCH CASE, WHETHER OR NOT THE PURPOSE OR USE OF THE WALLCOVERING HAS BEEN DISCLOSED TO ARC|COM AND WHETHER OR NOT THE WALLCOVERING IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED AND/OR MANUFACTURED FOR ARC|COM FOR CUSTOMER'S USE OR PURPOSE. If, during the warranty period, the wallcovering fails to conform to the foregoing limited warranty, ARC|COM's sole and exclusive liability and Customer's sole and exclusive remedy shall be (at ARC|COM's option) to replace or refund the purchase price for the nonconforming wallcovering, subject to ARC|COM being promptly notified in writing and being provided with the nonconforming wallcovering for inspection. Any permitted claim against ARC|COM which is not made within 90 days of the claimant's knowledge of the claim shall be deemed irrevocably waived.

IN NO EVENT WHATSOEVER SHALL ARC|COM OR ANY OF ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS OR SUPPLIERS HAVE: (a) ANY LIABILITY, WHETHER BASED ON BREACH OF CONTRACT, WARRANTY, TORT, STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE, IN AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT ACTUALLY RECEIVED BY ARC|COM AS PURCHASE PRICE FOR THE WALLCOVERING WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF A CLAIM, OR (b) ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, EVEN IF ARC|COM HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY DAMAGES ARISING FROM INJURY TO PERSONS, LOSS OF VALUE OR USE (INCLUDING STIGMA OR DIMINUTION OF VALUE DAMAGES); LOSS OF ANTICIPATED REVENUE OR PROFITS; DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF OTHER PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT; COST OF CAPITAL; COST OF SUBSTITUTE SUPPLIES, FACILITIES OR SERVICES; OR CLAIMS MADE BY AN END USER.

Cleaning of Wallcovering. Stains should be removed as soon as possible to eliminate any possible reaction between the staining agent and the wallcovering. Time is especially important for removing materials containing colors or solvents, such as ballpoint ink, lipstick, oil, shampoo tints, and some foodstuffs. If soil remains on the wallcovering too long, permanent discoloration may develop. Vinyl wallcovering should not be sprayed with wax or other protective coating. Such applications can discolor the material. Ordinary dirt and smudges can be removed with a mild soap, warm water, and if necessary, use a soft bristle brush to remove dirt from the crevices of deeply textured patterns. Clean from the bottom of the wall upward to protect the baseboard and to prevent streaking. Rinse thoroughly with clean water from the top down using a sponge. Deeply embossed wallcoverings need extra attention in case suds or loosened dirt lodges in depressed surfaces. Blot wallcovering dry with a soft, lint-free towel. For more difficult stains that are only surface deep, the use of a stronger detergent is recommended. Try an inconspicuous spot first before attempting the entire wall. Always rinse the wall well after applying a detergent. Not recommended for cleaning are steel wool or powdered abrasive cleaners because they mar the surface leaving an unsightly appearance. Do not use active solvent-type cleaning preparations, such as nail polish remover, tar and bug removers, etc., because they will remove print and/or finish from the wallcovering.