

Wallpaper – an introduction

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An increasing number of contemporary designs are just now beginning to change the conventional image that wallpaper had. Along with traditional patterns, you have now a wide choice that can be fitted with modern surroundings as much as accompanying borders and friezes. As with paint, before final commitment, try the desired pattern on a large scale sample in order to have a clear idea of the outcome.

Machine-printed papers are more practical and less expensive than hand-blocked wallpaper. The most robust are vinyl coated which makes them suitable for humid locations. More thin wallcoverings – such as wood veneer, woven grass or raffia, foil or metallic papers, thin sheets of cork – are also available. They all provide interesting textural effects and make good cover-ups for less than perfect walls. Hanging wall paper – especially if you are dealing with a large pattern – demands more skill and patience than painting, so sometimes it is better to hire a decorator or a professional paper-hanger to do the job. For best results, the wall should already be covered in lining paper, and use the paste recommended by the manufacturer. Wallpaper expands after pasting, which means it has to be left for a few minutes before it is applied to the wall to ensure a smooth, wrinkle-free result. Begin by hanging the first sheet in the corner of the room nearest the main window and work away from the direction of natural light. If the paper features a large pattern, you should center the first sheet in the middle of the wall or above a fireplace and work towards the corners of the room where interruptions in the design will be more natural and much less noticeable. A room can completely be transformed just by the appropriate wallpaper, so choose carefully, apply correctly and enjoy.