

Wall coverings can add elegance and charm to a room. But for wallpaper to look its best, it needs to be applied correctly and maintained properly.

Great coverups require little care

Wallpaper changes the whole character of a room, gives the homeowner a host of decorating possibilities and can be easily maintained and repaired.

Whether a large or small repair is required upon completion of the work or long-term maintenance necessitates cleaning, here are a few guidelines to help the homeowner do the work expertly himself.

Repairs are often necessary upon completion of a room. Minor flaws, such as bubbles, wrinkles and tears should be fixed, if possible, before the paste dries.

Air bubbles and blisters, for example, can easily be pushed out of the paper with a knife before the paper dries. If you discover the pocket after the project is finished, simply cut an angled corner with a razor, affix household glue to the paper and press to the wall with a seam roller.

Small tears are also repaired by applying glue to the loose paper and pressing towards the wall.

Large tears, even when the paper has dried, do not necessitate removing a strip. The damage can be effectively repaired by placing a larger piece of wallpaper over the area after matching the existing pattern and tacking it in place with masking tape.

per with a razor blade along a straight edge, then lift off both layers and clean the bare wall.

Apply paste to the fresh piece of paper, press into the space and roll the edges into place.

Wrinkled paper must be removed when the paste is wet and repositioned on the wall.

Most wallpaper manufacturers suggest the paper be cleaned once or twice a year to keep it looking fresh. If you use a cleaning product such as spot removers or a commercial cleaner, do a test patch in a small area behind furniture to see if your paper will fade or suffer damage. Soap and water is recommended for non-washable paper.

If the soil is more serious than household dust, or if the stain is in a high visibility area, purchase a clear protective coating from your hardware store. Once applied, it enables you to scrub non-washable paper.

When papering areas in which you are likely to have a lot of dirt and wear, such as kitchens and bathrooms, it is best to apply sturdy materials, such as all-vinyl and foil papers which are stain-resistant and scrubable.

More delicate coverings, such as decorator fabrics, sheeting and yardage, can be spray-treated to ensure washability and durability.

CUT THROUGH both layers of pa-

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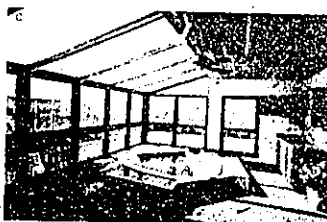
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