

HOME

EXPRESSIONS

HOME

Tips on Removing Wallpaper

(SOP) Removing wallpaper is a long and tedious chore, unless you're working on one of the more recent wallpapers which have been designed to be removed easily.

In some circumstances, it is practical to paint over the wallpaper

when the wallpaper is adhering tightly to the wall, for example, and if the seams are all very tight.

The seams can be plastered over, but this is not recommended because the plaster would then have to be sanded and this will tear or scratch

the wallpaper.

Wallpaper absorbs large amounts of paint and so should be primed before painting. There is also a danger that the paint will dissolve the glue holding the wallpaper to the wall; a test on hidden spot should help find out.

Even when the wallpaper is tightly stuck to the walls, there are other factors to consider. One of these is that, when painted, wallpaper joints invariably show up. Unless you like a textured finish, embossed wallpaper should never be painted.

When the wallpaper is beginning to come off the wall, or if there are bubbles, it should be removed, and any damage to the plaster repaired, before painting.

One way around this is to put a coat of oil-based paint on the wall, plaster the joints and then sand lightly. The oil paint will help strengthen the paper and prevent water from the plaster working its way into the wallpaper and dissolving the glue.

Removing the wallpaper from

the walls is really the best method. There are many ways of doing this and they all involve hard work.

A variety of wallpaper steamers are available from tool-rental outlets. These basically consist of a kettle which heats water into steam, which is then applied to the wallpaper. The steam softens the paper and dissolves the glue, at which point the remains are scraped off.

Chemical wallpaper-glue solvents are also available at hardware stores. These are diluted in water, applied to the wallpaper and allowed to soak in. Once again, the wallpaper is then scraped off.

Start removing the wallpaper by drawing the blade of a normal handsaw down the surface of the wallpaper with enough force to tear the paper, but gently enough to avoid scoring the plaster underneath. This will allow either the steam or the glue solvent to penetrate more quickly to the glue.

Of the two methods, steam or solvent, it's preferable using the solvent because the steam mechanisms soon become very heavy to handle.

Starting at the top of the wall, use a large sponge to apply the solvent.

Then use a broad-bladed putty knife to lift the wallpaper off the wall, in much the same way as you would flip an omelet. The putty knife should be used gently, in order to avoid gouging the wall.

After the wallpaper is removed, any size must be removed. Size is a coating used as primer for wallpaper glue; it looks like a coating of darkened shellac. It can usually be removed by simply washing with detergent.

When the walls are clean, examine them closely for plaster defects. Any loose or spongy plaster should be removed and replaced. If this is a large job, you would probably be better off employing the services of a professional plasterer.

Once the plaster is repaired and sanded smooth, apply a coat of primer and then examine the wall closely for any pinpricks or other plaster defects that escaped the first round of renovations. Repair them and then start painting.

It involves hard work
but it is well worth the effort
to do the job correctly

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PC C.O.P.S. Program

PC Cops is a Computer Aided Communication System which enables the York Regional Police Force to disseminate information to local businesses and residences in a timely and orderly fashion.

Interested businesses and home owners register with the York Regional Police by completing a short consent form to record their name, address, phone number, fax number, type of building etc. The computer stores this information so that when needed, telephone lists can be compiled from the data base and a callout made at a push of a button. For example, if crimes are occurring in a certain neighbourhood, all residences registered with PC C.O.P.S. in that neighbourhood will be contacted by computer.

When PC C.O.P.S. makes a call, all the recipient is required to do is listen to a recorded message and use the information to its best advantage. The message may either be a crime alert or a crime prevention tip. This program was designed to complement any crime prevention program by improving the communications and awareness between the public and the police.

Remember:
You and your police force are a team - a team that works together can't be beaten.

FACTS

- The people must sign a consent form to be part of the program.
- All names, addresses, and phone numbers are kept confidential.
- The computer system is obtained through the community support.
- The computer will be used by the police and kept in the Community Services office.
- The computer will send a recorded message to the citizens between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- The message will be either a crime alert or crime prevention tip.
- The program will be used for both residential and commercial properties.

What else can you do

If you know your neighbour is away and you see an obvious invitation to a burglar, correct it. Close the open garage door and remove the accumulation of newspapers from the doorstep. Why not be friendly?

• Keep an eye on strangers in your neighbourhood. The unauthorized candy seller or the teenager selling newspaper subscriptions may use an unanswered doorbell as the opportunity to enter an insecure home.

• The person taking short-cut through your backyard may have broken into your neighbour's home, don't assume someone else has called. **CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY.**

• Write down all licence numbers and descriptions of strange vehicles parked at your neighbour's house.

PC COPS Consent Form

Name/Company.....
Address.....
Phone..... Fax.....
Signature.....

Business Type..... Building Type.....

Complete & return this form to: 6342 Main St., Stouffville, Ont.
Community Awareness Bureau 640-3349
or fill out and mail this consent form to: York Regional Police, 17360 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4W5, Attention: PC C.O.P.S.

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