

Welcome to our guide to hanging wallpaper, we have split this tutorial into two parts, in this part we will cover roll calculation, wall preparation, order of hanging, marking out and cutting the lengths.

If you intend to hang lining paper and haven't yet then see our guide to hanging lining paper.

To complete this task you will need the following items:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wall Covering (wallpaper)• Suitable Wallpaper Paste• Wallpaper Pasting Brush• Decorating table (pasting table)• Suitable filler (if required) along with a suitable applicator | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wallpaper Seam Roller• Tape Measure• Spirit Level• Blunt Pencil• Paperhanging brush• Suitable Scissors |
|--|---|

When working at heights always ensure that the structure is safe and secure. Never stretch out, always get down and re-position the scaffold.



Buying Wallpaper.

If you have already purchased sufficient wall covering then scroll down to the next section.

First a few notes about buying wallpaper.

When you buy a wall covering ensure that each roll is exactly the same as the rest including batch number and shade number. Also it is better to buy one roll too many (for spare) than end up with not enough to finish the project.

Wall coverings come in a variety of types including self-pasting, washable, peelable and so on, most manufacturers use symbols to indicate wallpaper type, you can find a list of common symbols in our guide to [wallpaper product labels](#).

Roll Calculation

To calculate how many rolls of wall covering are needed use a simple calculation:

1. Measure the perimeter of the room and then divide this figure by the width of the roll (**X**).
2. Divide the length of the roll by the drop + **10cm** (**Y**).
3. Divide **X** by **Y** to give the number of rolls needed.

An example, say the perimeter of the room (including windows/doors) is **14m** and the width of the roll is **0.6m** then **X = 24** (rounded up).

and let's say the roll length is **11m** and the drop (+10cm) is **2.5** so **Y = 4.4**

Dividing **X** by **Y** gives us **24 ÷ 4.4 = 5.45**, so we need 6 rolls to complete the project.

Preparing the Walls

If you have already prepared the walls then skip to the next section.

If the walls have an old covering then remove it (see our guide to [stripping wallpaper](#)) for some tips.

Inspect the wall surfaces for cracks, holes, loose plaster and any other imperfections.

For small cracks use a suitable fine filler, for larger cracks and holes use a stronger more suitable filler (see manufacturer's instructions).

To check for any loose plaster, tap the wall around any suspect areas, remove any loose plaster and repair with a suitable plaster repair product (filler if the damaged area is not too big).

When filling try and leave a nice smooth finish, it is better to leave the filled area slightly proud of the surrounding area and then sand down with a fine sandpaper until flush.

Order of hanging

First we need to decide the best place to start hanging the wallpaper, patterned wallpaper is best hung starting at a window and working your way around the room away from the window (see **fig 1.1**).

To get your starting point measure the window recess and add 2cm, deduct this measurement from the roll width, and then measure out from the window the remainder, this will be your starting point (see **fig 1.2**).

An example

Let's say the window recess is 15cm (add 2cm for trimming) and the roll width is 60cm, that means we need to measure out from the window 43cm ($60 - 17 = 43$).

Use a pencil to mark your starting point, and then use either a spirit level or a chalk line to mark a vertical line to use as a guide.

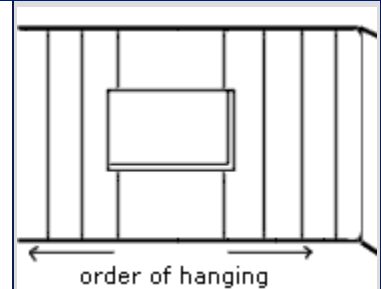


Fig 1.1

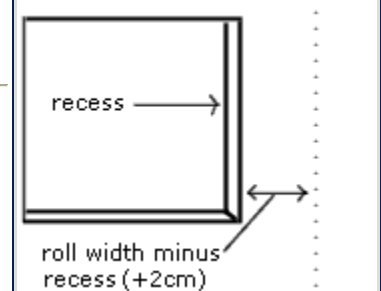


Fig 1.2

Prepare the lengths

Once you have your starting point you can work out how many drops it will take to reach the nearest corner, this is how many pieces of wallpaper we need to prepare ready for hanging.

When you know how many drops you need to reach the corner, the next step is to work out how long to cut the lengths. Free match wallpaper is just a case of measuring the drop and adding 10cm for trimming, other wallpapers may need a larger surplus in order to match the pattern correctly (see manufacturer's instructions).

After working out how long to cut the lengths take your decorating scissors and cut as many lengths as you need (**always check that the pattern matches and you have 5cm at both top and bottom for trimming**).

note: Usually wallpaper paste takes about 15-20 minutes (see paste packet) until it is ready to use, if you mix it just before you start cutting the lengths it should be ready when you need it.

Pasting the wallpaper lengths

If you are using a pre-pasted wall covering then follow the manufacturer's instructions for preparation.

When your paste is ready position one of the lengths of wallpaper face down on your pasting table, take your pasting brush and apply the paste to the first length, starting at the bottom, work the paste evenly over the paper working from the middle to the edges (see **Fig 1.3**), gently fold the bottom over into a concertina (ensuring not to crease) this will make the paper easier to work with.

Allow the paper to soak for as long as instructed (see label) before hanging.



Fig 1.3

Hanging the first length

When the first length of wallpaper is ready for hanging hold it by the top and place it loosely up against the wall leaving about 5cm surplus at the top and align the edge with your vertical guideline.

Unfold the concertina and let the paper hang loosely while you check the positioning, when you are happy with the position work your way down from the top smoothing the paper onto the wall with your paper-hanging brush, ensuring to disperse any trapped air.

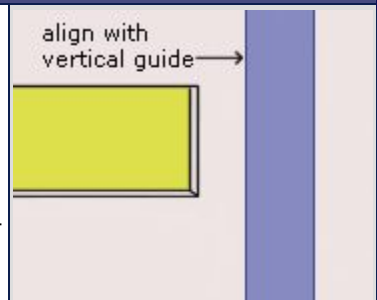


Fig 1.4

Trimming

When the length is in position and you have removed any trapped air run the back of your scissors into the crease between the wall and ceiling, gently pull the paper away from the wall enough to let you trim the surplus at the top using the crease as a guide, then smooth the paper back onto the wall with your paper-hanging brush.

To trim the bottom use the same technique as the top.

Hanging subsequent lengths

When the next length is ready for hanging hold it in the same way as before and place it loosely up against the wall, butt it up against the previous length and ensure the pattern is matched exactly.

When you are happy with the match and the position, again work your way down from the top smoothing the paper onto the wall with your paper-hanging brush, and brush out any trapped air.

Trim the top and bottom in the same way as the first length and then use your seam roller

(unless the wallpaper is embossed) to smooth the edges between the two lengths.

Papering into the corner

You should always trim the paper when you reach a corner and start a new run of lengths for each wall, this will stop the paper running at an angle due to unlevel walls.

To trim into the corner run the back of the scissors down the length to make a loose crease, then gently pull the paper away from the wall and trim the paper about 2 cms from the crease (to create a surplus of 2cm see **Fig 1.5**), then trim the top and bottom as before and then smooth the wallpaper back onto the surface with your paper-hanging brush.

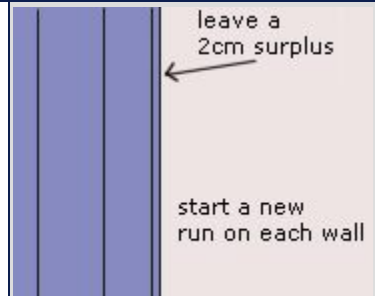


Fig 1.5

To paper into a door or window recess can be quite tricky but one of the easiest methods is described below with the aid of diagrams.

Papering into a door or window recess

If you take a look at **Fig 1.1** you can see that in our example we are coming into the recess from the left hand side, the same technique is used when coming from the opposite direction as well.

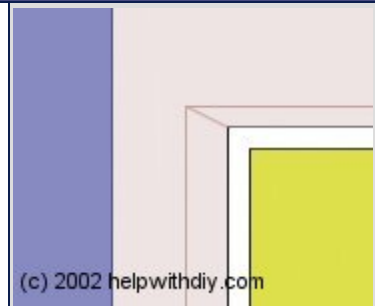


Fig 1.1

First take the next length (pasted and ready to hang) and butt it up against the previous drop, using a blunt pencil mark the wall down the right hand side of the paper (see **Fig 1.2**), this will be your guideline. Remove the length from the wall.

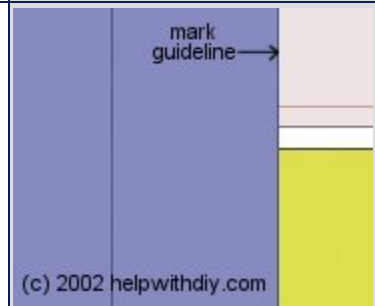


Fig 1.2

Now mark the inside of the recess, level with the guideline as shown in **Fig 1.3**.

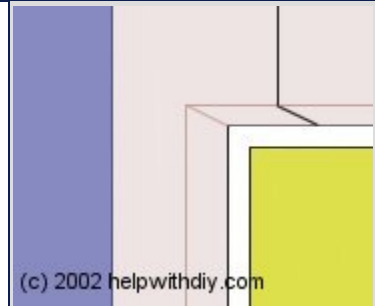


Fig 1.3

Now measure the depth of the recess and cut a length of paper (full width) to this measurement adding 5cm, paste the paper and allow to soak.

When the paper is ready to hang line it up with your guideline and smooth the paper into the recess, cut the paper at the corner as shown in **Fig 1.4** to allow it to sit into the corner of the recess, once in position smooth the paper using your paper hanging brush ensuring to get rid of any trapped air.

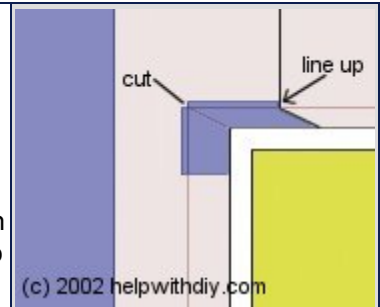


Fig 1.4

Now trim the paper down on the left hand side allowing around 3cm as shown in **Fig 1.5**. Next give the overhanging pieces on the wall surface an uneven edge either by carefully tearing the paper or trimming with the scissors in a zig-zag motion (ensure to leave enough paper overlapping around 3cm), this will help disguise the overlap (again see **Fig 1.5**).

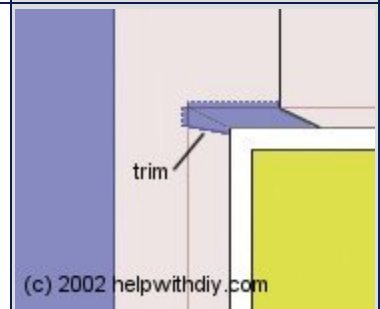


Fig 1.5

Now get the length again and hang as before, when you are happy with the position cut along the top edge of the recess as shown in **Fig 1.6** (you may find it helpful to mark the back of the paper along the edge with a blunt pencil).

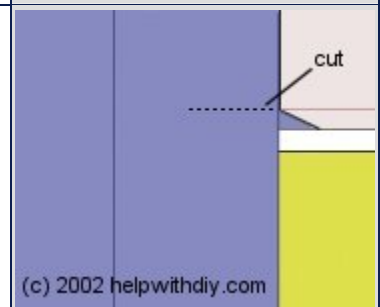


Fig 1.6

Next fold the paper around the corner of the recess ensuring not to leave any air trapped, smooth into position using your paper hanging brush. run the back of your scissors down the edge (by the window frame) then gently pull the paper back to allow you to trim the excess see **Fig 1.7**.

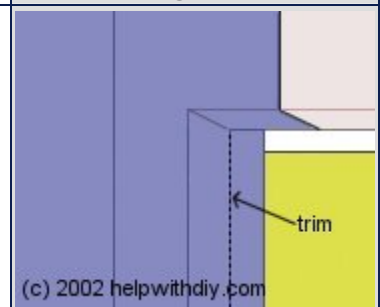


Fig 1.7

Finally smooth the entire length with your paper hanging brush ensuring to remove any trapped air, and wipe any paste off the window frame.

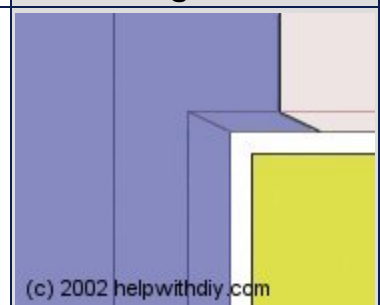


Fig 1.8

This guide will take you through the process of trimming around a socket outlet or light switch. Always ensure the power is isolated before papering around an electrical point.

When working with light switches or sockets ensure the power is isolated at the main fuse box.

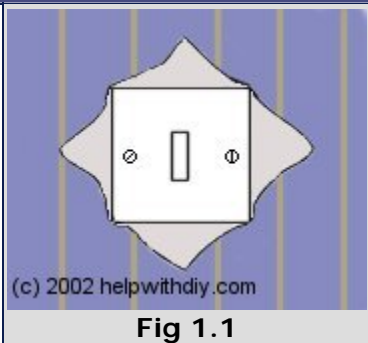


Trimming around a socket or light switch

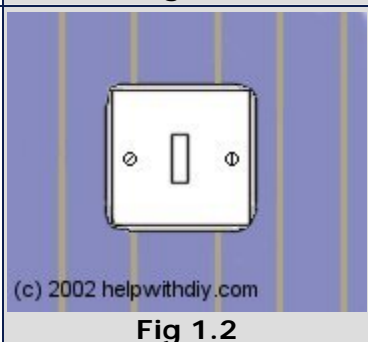
Papering around a socket or light switch can seem an awkward task, but it is actually fairly straight forward and can be done with a minimum of fuss.

Ensure the power is isolated at the main fuse box

When you hang the length where the socket/switch is located poke the scissors through the paper roughly in the middle of the socket/switch, then cut from the hole outwards to each corner of the socket/switch see **Fig 1.1**.



Smooth the paper onto the wall and then trim the paper leaving it overlapping the socket/switch by about 1cm (see **Fig 1.2**, loosen the screws enough to push the paper behind the socket/switch.



Finish the drop and then tighten the screws back up and you should be left with a perfect finish (**Fig 1.3**). Clean any paste off the socket/switch and allow the paper to dry before switching the power back on.

