

HANGING WALL LINING AND WALLCOVERING OVER CONCRETE BLOCKS



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It is recommended that a wall lining be used when applying vinyl wallcovering over cement block or other potentially challenging wall surfaces which have depressions. The purpose of the wall liner is to provide a smooth surface upon which to apply vinyl wallcoverings. It will bridge cracks or other cavities in the substrate; however, it will not hide wall imperfections such as protrusions or misalignment of cement block. All hanging (installation) surfaces must be clean, thoroughly dry, and structurally intact. All loose paint and previously installed wallcoverings must be removed.

The steps used for preparing concrete block and similar highly porous surfaces for installation are as follows:

1. Sand the surfaces as smoothly as possible
2. Size them with a diluted adhesive
3. Allow the surfaces to dry for at least two hours

When marking a wall for liner application, only a pencil should be used. NEVER use a ballpoint pen or permanent ink markers for this purpose. Any mildew must be removed from the walls and all surfaces must be treated to inhibit further mildew growth. Liners should not be installed unless a temperature of at least 55°F can be maintained in both the areas of installation and where the wallcovering application materials are stored.

The first installation rule to remember is to paste only one strip of liner at a time. Accomplish this by brushing or rolling a quality pre-mixed vinyl adhesive thoroughly over the back of the liner strip. Make sure all edges are covered. To carry the liner strip to the area of application use the book fold method. To accomplish this, fold the wallcovering strip wet side to wet side. Be careful not to crease the material. Allow the crease to form naturally.

Depending on viscosity, a slight amount of moisture may come through wall liner. This is not detrimental. Align the first strip to a plumb line, established earlier in the process. Smooth any overlap from the top or bottom of the strip onto the ceiling and baseboard, respectively. Smooth the covering (strip) to the wall with a smooth brush, removing all air pockets in the process. Butt or double-cut all seams, but NEVER overlap the liner material. Overlaps leave visible imperfections on an otherwise smooth wall surface.

Setting seams with a seam roller will help prevent them from opening or curling away from the wall while drying. It is important not to use excessive pressure when rolling seams as it could squeeze out too much of the paste, which could also cause the seams to open up when dry. Use scissors or a single-edge razor blade to trim excess material at baseboards, ceilings, and around windows or door frames. Allow 24 hours for the wall lining to dry before hanging a wallcovering over the lining material.

After the wall lining has dried, follow the manufacturer's instructions for hanging the wallcovering using a quality pre-mixed adhesive.