

Wallpaper Woes



Wallpaper is making a big come back, but often our homes are left with wallpaper that is too personalized to be a benefit when selling. Removing wallpaper and adding a fresh coat of paint will be a real advantage to getting your house sold faster.

Do you dread to even start stripping off the wallpaper in a room in your house? Not to fear, most new wallpaper is strippable, meaning it will easily peel off leaving only the glue behind. Test a small area before you start to see how difficult the job will be.

Here's how to remove wallpaper that is strippable:

Step 1: If necessary, use hot water on a sponge to soften the paste under the wallpaper.

Step 2: Use a 6" paint spatula to scrape the paper off, removing as much as possible.

Step 3: Rinse off the walls using 1 cup of white vinegar mixed with 1 gallon (3.8 L or 16 cups) of water.

If your test proves that the paper is the old-fashioned non-strippable kind, follow these steps:

Step 1: Combine 3 gallons (11.4 L or 48 cups) of very hot water, 1 bottle of wallpaper remover (enzyme based), 1/4 cup of liquid fabric softener, and 2 tablespoons of baking soda.

Step 2: Using a paint roller, roll the solution over the wallpaper starting at the bottom and working up. Do this one area at a time. Once all walls have been completed, repeat process again twice. If the wallpaper is vinyl or water resistant, you will need to poke holes in it, using a wallpaper scorer, to allow the mixture to reach the glue. Wait 15 minutes.



Step 3: Using a 6" paint spatula, scrape the paper off the walls starting where you began the application of the solution. Work from the bottom on each strip of wallpaper.

Step 4: Roll the walls with the solution and use a sponge and very hot water to remove any remaining glue or paper.



Step 5: Rinse off the walls using 1 cup of white vinegar mixed with 1 gallon (3.8 L or 16 cups) of water.

These steps will help rid you of the wallpaper, allow for a quick sale and have you working on the decor of your new home faster.

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