

HOW TO SPECIFY

# WALL COVERING AND PANEL



**Knoll**Textiles



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HOW DO YOU ENVISION YOUR

# SPACE?

This brochure is intended as a guide to help interior designers select the right wallcovering and panel fabric for new projects or pre-existing spaces. Inside, you will find a summary of starting points to address when working with a client, an overview of key terminology, tips to aid you in the selection process, and inspiration for your space.

This brochure will give you the essentials you need to take your project from beginning to end. Please visit [knolltextiles.com](http://knolltextiles.com) to view our extensive line of wallcovering and panel fabric. You can also contact your local KnollTextiles showroom for recommendations on wallcovering and panel installers near you.



Wallcovering installer shown matching the seams of Swerve Wallcovering by KnollTextiles

Determine if you are using wallcovering, panel, or both, and consider the following:

What Are the Design Requirements?

- + **Contract/Residential**
- + **Functional/Decorative**
- + **Multi-use**

What Are the Performance Requirements?

- + **Acoustical**
- + **High Traffic/High Durability**
- + **Environmental/LEED**

What Are the Logistics?

- + What is your **Timeline?**
- + What is your **Budget?**
- + Who will be your **Installer?** Will you need **Multiple Installers** for wallcovering and panel?

**ASTM E-84** is a standard test method for vertical fabrics and required for commercial interiors. It was developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials and is recognized by the Association for Contract Textiles (ACT). If a vertical fabric passes this test with a Class A/Class 1 rating, the back of the fabric sample's ticket will display a flame icon (🔥).

### Wallcovering

All direct glue wallcoverings must pass the **ASTM E-84 Adhered** test. In order for the fabric to display the flame icon, it must also pass the Class A level of this test. During the test, a fabric is bonded to either a CA board (Reinforced Cement Board) substrate or gypsum board and placed in the ceiling of the test tunnel. One end of the fabric is subjected to a high intensity flame, which spreads over the first 4.5 feet of the 24-foot test specimen. In order to be graded Class A, the fabric must have a Flame Spread Index of 25 or less and a Smoke Developed Value of 450 or less.

### Panel

All panel fabrics must pass the **ASTM E-84 Class A Unadhered** test. This is the same test as above, but rather than adhering the fabric to a substrate, it is free laid over wire mesh. Because there is an air supply on both sides of the fabric, it is a harder test to pass. Generally, you can assume that if a fabric passes the Unadhered test, it will also pass the Adhered test.



*Peninsula* Wallcovering by KnollTextiles

When specifying a fabric for direct glue application, consider the following factors:

1

The fabric must pass the **ASTM E-84 Adhered Class A** test for flame resistance and display the ACT flame resistance icon (🔥).

2

Fabric wallcovering backings are acrylic or paper based. The fabric must have a **wallcovering backing in order to prevent adhesive bleedthrough**.

- + Most designated wallcoverings are stocked with an acrylic or paper backing. If not, one must be added.

3

Consider whether your project requires a wallcovering fabric that is **tackable**.

- + Determine fabric tackability by pinning a sample to a bulletin board for 1-2 days. After this period of time has elapsed, remove the tacks to see if the fabric recovers.
- + Fabric that is paper-backed is never tackable.
- + Even if a fabric appears to be tackable, it will show pinholes if it is applied to a substrate that is not tackable. Contact your local KnollTextiles sales representative for suggestions on tackable fabrics.

4

Diagnose the **wall condition**.

- + If you need to disguise wall imperfections, select a fabric with texture and pattern.
- + Fabric that is smooth is more likely to reveal wall surface flaws.

5

Determine the importance of **seam visibility**.

- + Some seam visibility is to be expected with wallcovering, as you will usually be able to see a seam from some angles and under certain types of lighting.
- + Fabrics that are textured, multi-colored, or irregularly patterned are more likely to reduce the visibility of the seams.

6

Determine whether you want to use the same wallcovering fabric for **wrapped panels**.

- + If so, the wallcovering fabric should be approved for secondary use as a wrapped panel or a mockup should be suggested.





*Run* Wallcovering by KnollTextiles

### Specialty

- + **Specialty** wallcoverings often include fabrics woven from natural fibers. Natural fiber wallcoverings are usually stocked with a paper backing, so they are not tackable and are generally not as malleable during installation. Many natural fibers, such as silk and linen, may have a naturally horizontal weave direction. Silk wallcoverings usually feature irregular slub yarns.
- + **Cleanability:** Most specialty wallcoverings are vacuumed or brushed lightly.
- + **Usage:** Suitable for wrapped panels and wallcovering.

### High Performance Wovens

- + **High Performance Woven** wallcoverings are generally woven with a blend of high performance polyester warp and polyester and/or olefin weft yarns.
- + **Cleanability:** Cleanable, but not scrubbable. May be bleach cleanable, depending on the fiber.
- + **Usage:** Suitable for wrapped panels, acoustical panels, and wallcovering. For added protection, some woven wallcoverings come stocked with Crypton® Wall, which offers moisture, odor, bacteria, and stain resistance.

### Extreme High Performance Wovens

#### Vinyl-Coated Polyester - Screenplay™ Series

- + **Vinyl-Coated Polyester** wallcoverings are woven from polyester that is vinyl-coated and then heat-fused. They are extremely dimensionally stable, qualify as Type II vinyl when used as direct glue wallcovering and are made in the USA.
- + **Cleanability:** Scrubbable and bleach cleanable.
- + **Usage:** Suitable for wrapped panels, acoustical panels, and wallcovering.

#### Polyethylene - 24/7 Collection

- + **Polyethylene** wallcoverings are made from a common plastic fiber that is non-vinyl. They are extremely dimensionally stable, have the same durability and cleanability as Type II vinyl when used as direct glue wallcovering and are made in the USA.
- + **Cleanability:** Scrubbable and bleach cleanable.
- + **Usage:** Suitable for wrapped panels, acoustical panels, and wallcovering.



*Repertoire and Intermission* Wallcovering from the Screenplay Series by KnollTextiles

**Sheet vinyl** is a vinyl film that is printed with ink and embossed for texture. It is laminated to a backing to give it stability as well as tear and tensile strength. It can be used in place of paint where design rather than a plain wall treatment is desired. Sheet vinyl wallcovering is scrubbable, cleanable, highly durable, and long lasting.

Note: Scrubbing is not recommended for printed vinyl with heavy color saturations.

### Vinyl Wallcovering Category Performance Characteristics

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	USAGE
<b>Type I Light Duty</b>	19 oz. or less per 54" linear yard	Offers maintenance-free, moderate protection in certain low traffic areas, such as hospital patient rooms, hotel/motel rooms, and areas not subject to unusual abrasions or heavy traffic.
<b>Type II Medium Duty</b>	20-32 oz. per 54" linear yard	Designed for areas where greater than normal traffic and surface abrasion are expected, such as offices, hospitals, hotels, public corridors, and classrooms. All KnollTextiles vinyl wallcoverings are Type II.
<b>Type III Extreme Duty</b>	Over 33 oz. per 54" linear yard	For extraordinary hard use such as vehicular traffic.

### Microventing

KnollTextiles offers a custom microventing option for vinyl wallcovering. This process adds perforations to the vinyl to make it more breathable and moisture permeable. This is not an option for buildings that have wall cavity moisture accumulation or other major moisture problems. Microvented wallcovering will not prevent mold growth if moisture accumulation occurs within a wall cavity.

### Vinyl Surface Finish Options

- + Smooth: even, uniform finish
- + Textured: fabric-like surface
- + Embossed: dimensional effect
- + Metallic/Pearl: subtle shimmer effect



*Pause Wallcovering by KnollTextiles*

When specifying a fabric for panel application, consider the following factors:

1

The fabric must pass the **ASTM E-84 Unadhered Class A** test for flame resistance and display the ACT flame resistance icon (🔥).

2

Determine the **composition of the fabric**. Polyester is the panel fiber of choice, because it is hydrophobic—it resists moisture, which minimizes sagging—and it generally passes the flammability testing without FR treatment. While panel fabrics may include other fibers, polyester is generally their principal fiber. If a UL registered fabric is required, have the specifier consult our list of UL certified fabrics.

3

**Panel fabrics are not usually backed**, but some installers may request a backing for installation purposes.

4

Determine whether your project requires a panel fabric that is **tackable**.

- + Determine fabric tackability by pinning a sample to a bulletin board for 1-2 days. After this period of time has elapsed, remove the tacks to see if the fabric recovers.
- + Fabric backings are acrylic based.
- + Even if a fabric appears to be tackable, it will show pinholes if it is applied to a substrate that is not tackable. Contact your local KnollTextiles sales representative for suggestions on tackable fabrics.

5

Make note of the **panel fabric width**. Panel fabrics are generally **66" wide**. This width allows the fabric to be more versatile and efficient during the panel manufacturing process. At 66" wide, fabric can be used on 60" wide panels and installers can get two cuts from one width of fabric if they are installing 30" wide panels.

- + If using woven wallcovering or upholstery fabrics for panel application, they must pass the ASTM E-84 Unadhered Class A test.
- + Keep in mind that wallcovering and upholstery fabrics will generally not be 66" wide. They will typically be 54" wide.
- + If wallcovering or upholstery fabrics have "wrapped wall panel" listed as a secondary use, they have passed ASTM E-84 Class A Unadhered.

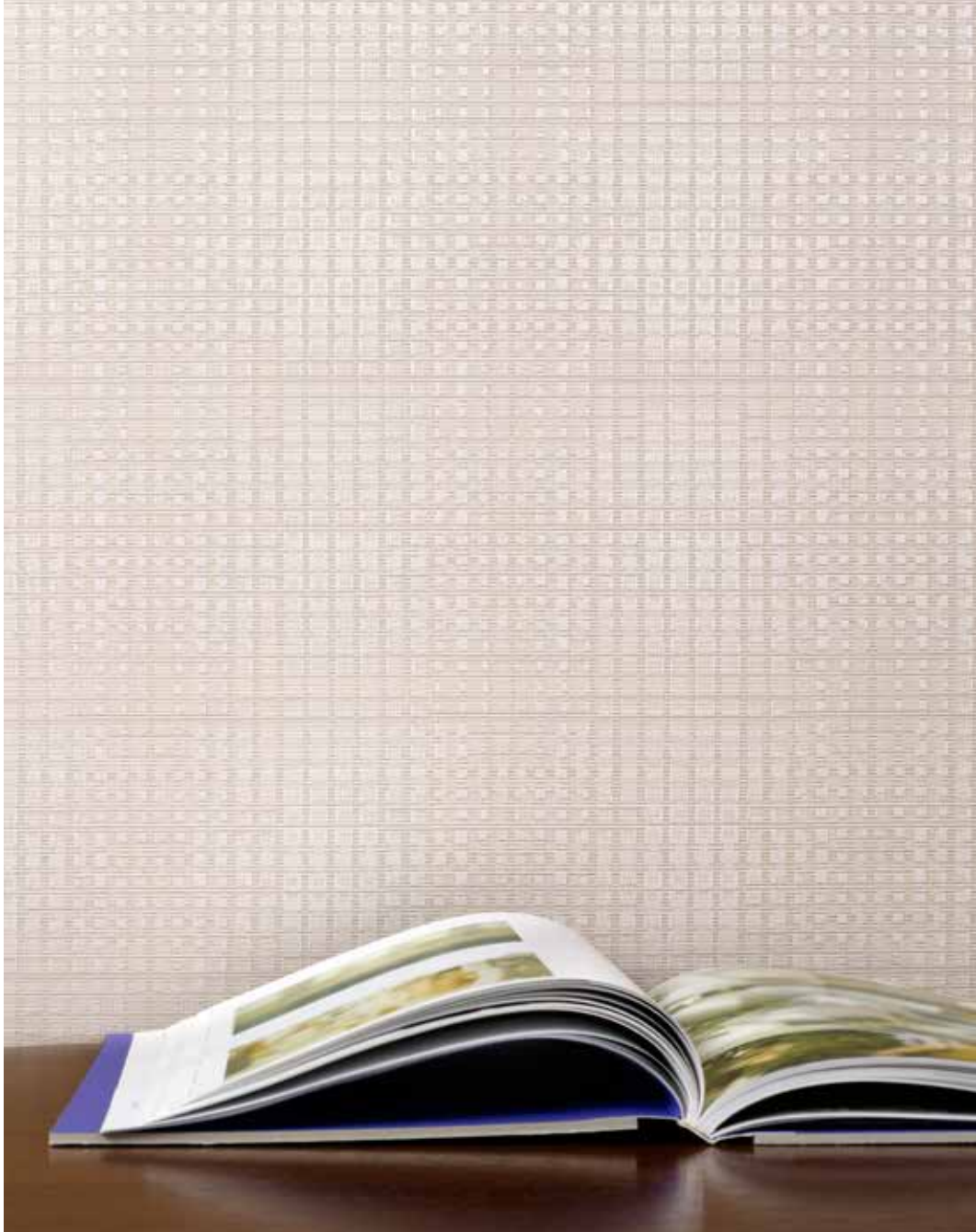
6

Panel fabric can be used for **wrapped panels when applicable**. Some are also suitable for direct glue, upholstery, or drapery.

- + If you are using panel or wrapped wall fabrics for other applications, you must ensure that they pass all required ACT testing for those categories or suggest a mockup.

7

Determine whether wrapped panels are being specified for **decorative or acoustical purposes**. Contact your local sales representative for a list of KnollTextiles Acoustical fabrics.



*Logic Panel by KnollTextiles*

While panel fabrics may be wrapped around substrates as simple as homosote or MDR (medium density fiberboard), they are usually installed on **wall panel systems**. These systems are either fabricated onsite or prefabricated offsite in a factory. Micore and fiberglass substrates are more stable when it comes to moisture gain, expansion reduction, and panel contraction.

For this brochure, we are considering panel fabrics used for wall panels. Panel fabric may also be suitable for office panel systems, if they undergo Underwriters Laboratory (UL) testing. Fabrics which the UL designates as UL Recognized Components do not have to undergo further testing, but you should conduct an application test if you are considering these fabrics for a specific office panel system. UL is required for electrified office systems.

SYSTEM	DESCRIPTION	STRUCTURE	ADVANTAGES	CONSIDERATIONS
<b>StretchWall</b>	StretchWall is an onsite wood ground system with internal frames that are composed of FR rated wood.	Fabric is stapled around a wood frame.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Often preferred, because wood is a natural product with environmental advantages</li> <li>+ Term "StretchWall" is as ubiquitous to wall panel systems as Kleenex is to tissues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Wood may react to humidity and temperature changes</li> <li>+ Wood can expand or contract, causing fabric to stretch or wrinkle over time</li> </ul>
<b>Novawall</b>	<p>Novawall is a highly customizable panel system that is installed to wall surfaces onsite. Its internal frames are made of plastic.</p> <p>Other onsite system examples include <b>Whisper Walls®</b>, <b>AccuTRAK®</b>, <b>FabriTRAK®</b>, and <b>Snap-TEX</b>.</p>	Fabric snaps into channels that are built in plastic frames.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Offers many options for customizing panels, including geometric shapes and mitered corners</li> <li>+ Very clean design</li> <li>+ Can accommodate patterns and many types and weights of fabric</li> <li>+ May be acoustically rated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Some frames include PVC</li> <li>+ Novawall now offers an EcoTrack system, which is PVC free</li> </ul>
<b>Prefab Offsite</b>	<p>Panels are built at a factory, shipped to the jobsite, and then connected to a space's wall.</p> <p>Examples include <b>Conwed</b>, <b>decoustics</b>, <b>AVL</b>, and <b>SOUNDSOAK®</b>.</p>	Fabric is wrapped around a medium density fiberglass core.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Usually less expensive to install</li> <li>+ May be acoustically rated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Not easily changeable</li> </ul>
<b>Demountable Wall Offsite</b>	<p>Demountable Wall Systems may be used to build the interior walls of a space or serve as room dividers. They are typically non-load bearing interior systems that are moveable.</p> <p>Examples include <b>Skyfold®</b>, <b>Modernfold™</b>, <b>DIRTT</b>, <b>Hucfor®</b>, <b>ULTRAWALL®</b>, and <b>Contemporary Wall</b>.</p>	Fabric may or may not be glued to a substrate and may or may not require backing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Have the ability to fold vertically in an accordion style fashion or may retract into the ceiling</li> <li>+ Acoustically rated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Often require very large defect-free drops</li> <li>+ Sometimes include a metal substrate that requires a special adhesive</li> <li>+ Application may require that fabric be railroaded</li> </ul>





*Bandwidth, Antares, Circle Line, Mainframe, Macro, Skylark, Mainframe, and Beacon Panel by KnollTextiles*

**Acoustical fabrics** may be necessary in areas where sound can create an issue, such as conference rooms, auditoriums, hotels, and restaurants.

### Facts about acoustical fabrics:

- + The acoustical properties of fabrics and substrates are measured by the ASTM C423 test. The Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating is an acoustical value given to the material that is between 0 and 1. If the material achieves a 1, it is said to have perfect absorption. If the material receives a 0, it is said to be perfectly reflective.
- + In order to determine the acoustical quality of a fabric, an uncovered fiberglass panel is tested and rated for sound absorption. Afterwards, the same fiberglass panel is covered with fabric, tested, and rated again to determine the amount of interference the fabric will have on the panel's ability to absorb.
- + The difference between the two measurements is considered when determining whether or not the fabric is suitable for acoustical panel use. The goal is for the fabric to be acoustically neutral, meaning the two ratings are the same or very close. When a fabric is acoustically neutral, it does not interfere with the panel substrate's ability to absorb sound.
- + A fabric that has an NRC rating difference that is between  $-.25$  and  $+.25$  is considered neutral and can be described as an acoustical fabric.



*Ultrasuede* by KnollTextiles can be used for acoustical panel or wallcovering applications

The “hand” of a fabric refers to how the fabric feels when it is touched. A fabric can be smooth, rough, dry, or wet. While the “hand” of a wallcovering fabric has different implications than that of upholstery fabric, it is an issue to consider when specifying wallcovering. As people move within a space, they will brush up against its walls, so it is important for wallcovering not to be rough or scratchy. The hand of a wallcovering is also an important factor to consider from an aesthetic standpoint.

### Example of Dry Hand

Wallcovering fabric with a **dry hand** is typically matte and is woven using conventional yarns. These conventional yarns may be intermixed with novelty yarns, including bouclés and chenilles. Typically, wallcoverings woven with natural fibers will have a dry hand. Depending on its yarn characteristics, fabrics woven with man-made fibers may also have a dry hand. Depending on its color, wallcovering fabric with a dry, matte appearance may absorb light within a space.



*Express* by KnollTextiles exemplifies a wallcovering with a dry hand.

### Example of Wet Hand

Wallcoverings with a **wet hand** are often woven with tape yarns that may have a metallic element or may be finished in a way that makes them reflective. The reflective quality of these products may generate more light and life within a space. These products are a good solution if there are environmental restrictions placed on excessive lighting.



*Archer* by KnollTextiles exemplifies a wallcovering with a wet hand.



Shortwave Wallcovering by KnollTextiles

# TIPS...

## Beginning a Job

Installers should first hang three drops. If they come upon a problem during installation, they should stop immediately and call the manufacturer. The general rule is that once the fabric has been installed, it cannot be returned.

## Techniques

### Table Trimming

- + Before hanging the wallcovering, lay it on a flat table.
- + Using a long, metal, straight edge as a guide, trim a couple of inches off both sides.
- + Change blade after each cut.
- + If using a woven wallcovering, apply adhesive to the wall. If using a vinyl wallcovering, apply adhesive to the back of the wallcovering. Let the adhesive get tacky.
- + Hang the wallcovering.
- + Use a brush or roller to work the seam. Without overworking the seams, make sure there are no gaps.

### Double Cutting

- + Apply one strip of wallcovering to the wall (trimming the material on the wall).
- + Overlap it with an adjacent strip.
- + Cut between the two strips, and remove any excess wallcovering to create a seam that is perfectly matched.
- + Meticulous care should be taken to prevent the adhesive from getting on the face of the wallcovering. If the adhesive is left on the face of the wallcovering, the starch in the adhesive could compromise the face of the material.

## Best Practices for Installers

Never put the wallcovering seam in a corner or center a seam over a window or door. If you have to replace a drop, replace the entire wall.

### Issues to Consider

#### Fraying

- + Fraying occurs when the installer uses a dull blade.
- + Blades need to be changed with each cut in order to ensure a smooth, even seam.

#### Shading

- + Shading may occur depending on the color of the fabric, especially if it has a high luster finish.
- + If the fabric drops are not plumb when they are installed, they can reflect light in an irregular way, which can cause shading.
- + The lighting within each installation site is unique and can cause shading. Wall surfaces will always vary, and spaces may have direct or indirect lighting.
- + If wallcovering is improperly installed, this may cause shading. We generally recommend that each drop of wallcovering be hung sequentially from top to bottom. However, if experienced installers see shading, they will often reverse hang sequential drops to minimize the issue. Make sure to always read the wallcovering's installation instructions to check for exceptions. Note: If you see a wallcovering installation where one drop appears different from the others, it was probably reverse hung.
- + If installers compress and overwork a wallcovering's seams when they roll them, this will cause their color to slightly change.
- + Some shading is inherent with particular products, and it is important to have realistic expectations.

#### Bowing and Skewing

- + Bowing and skewing can occur when a backing is added to a product for direct glue.
- + Generally, most bowing occurs close to the selvage of a product.
- + By trimming the edges, bowing may be minimized, and the installation may be acceptable.
- + The industry BIFMA standard is 1" from selvage to selvage.

#### Moisture at the Seams

- + Moisture at the seams can occur when an installer cuts into the wall's sheetrock during installation.
- + While double cutting usually ensures a really clean seam, moisture at the seam is more common during this process, because it is very easy to cut into the sheetrock. When an installer cuts into sheetrock, the sheetrock can absorb moisture, expand at the incision, and adversely affect the seam. This expansion may not be apparent until the wallcovering has been in the space for a while.

#### Dyelots

- + Sometimes it is necessary to replace yardage using a different dyelot.
- + Be aware that the color of the walls will slightly shift when viewed from different angles. Therefore, it is often possible to install a different dyelot on a different plane without compromising the aesthetics.

## PART 1—GENERAL

### A. Terms and Conditions

1. Material must be examined prior to installation.
2. Please check that all rolls are the correct color, pattern, or direction.
3. No claims will be allowed for hanging the wrong color or pattern.
4. No adjustments will be allowed after the material is cut.
5. Material should be tested by hanging NO MORE THAN 3 STRIPS. If you have any questions or notice any issues after hanging the first 3 strips, stop hanging immediately and call Customer Service at 866-565-KTKT. Once the entire job has been installed, the product cannot be returned. KnollTextiles will not be responsible for any labor costs.

### B. Wall Preparation

1. All previous wallcovering and paint residue should be removed, and surface protrusions and low spots should be sanded and filled so that the hanging surface is thoroughly clean, smooth, and dry.
2. KnollTextiles does not recommend installing wallcovering over existing material.
3. Glossy surfaces should be sanded to dull the surface, and dust should be removed with a dry cloth.
4. Wall surfaces should be thoroughly sealed, and a high quality wallcovering primer should be used on all surfaces. Priming creates a uniform color underneath the wallcovering, and uneven color can cause shading. A good primer will seal the walls so that any humidity in the substrate does not compromise the adhesive bond between the wallcovering and substrate.
5. Lining the walls is usually not needed. The installer should determine if this step is necessary.
6. If a paper or canvas liner is necessary, the same high quality, heavy-duty, clear, vinyl adhesive with low water content should be used on both the liner and the actual wallcovering. This will prevent mildew.
7. Any mildew must be removed from the walls and surfaces should be treated to inhibit further mildew growth.
8. Acceptable hanging surfaces must be clean, smooth, thoroughly dry, and structurally intact.
9. Freshly plastered walls must be dry before application.
10. Surface color should be uniform throughout the installation area. Variations in wall color may affect overall appearance of goods after installation.
11. The temperature in the area of installation and/or storage should be maintained above 55° F at all times.
12. Adequate lighting is necessary for a proper installation.

## PART 2—WALLCOVERING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Sheet Vinyl Wallcovering

#### Adhesive

- + Use a high quality, heavy-duty, clear, vinyl adhesive with low water content (at the discretion of installer). Do not introduce additional additives or dilute.
- + You can also use a clay-based adhesive.
- + Use of any other type of adhesive will be solely at the risk of the installers.
- + Allow adhesive to become tacky before applying to wallcovering.

#### Application

- + Review the recommended hanging direction for the pattern.
- + Any wallcovering design that does not have specific direction or horizontal match could be installed by reversing alternate strips to ensure color uniformity at the seams.
- + Cut rolls in sequential order starting with the highest number and working down to the lowest number. Number panels and headers as they are cut from the roll, and apply to the wall in the same sequence.
- + If working with multiple lots, make certain that the lot numbers are separated at break points, such as the corners. DO NOT INTERMINGLE MULTIPLE LOTS.
- + Each panel should be hung plumb (straight up & down).
- + The wallcovering can either be table trimmed or overlapped and double cut. Use of a straight-edge and a razor is recommended. Blades must be changed after every cut.

### Screenplay Wallcovering

#### Adhesive

- + Use a high quality, heavy-duty, clear, vinyl adhesive with low water content (at the discretion of installer) for wallcoverings with weights of 20 oz. or higher.
- + Do not introduce additional additives.

#### Application

- + Screenplay products are often woven with alternating dark and light yarns in the warp. To achieve the least visible seam, Screenplay fabrics should have 2-3" from the selvage cut or trimmed off (approx. width of most straight edges). They should be trimmed on a table with a straight edge using a new razor blade for each cut, or they should be double cut on the wall using caution not to damage the substrate.
- + Do not cross over yarns when trimming.

\* This brochure is intended as a guide. Please contact a professional wallcovering workroom when specifying a project. KnollTextiles is not responsible for any claims resulting from the use of the specifications listed in this brochure.



- + Keep a light yarn on one edge and a dark yarn on the other edge.
- + Trim all strips in the same way.
- + Straight hanging is recommended. If paneling occurs, reverse hanging may minimize shading.
- + Do not fold or crease Screenplay fabric.
- + Adhesive can either be applied to the wall or to the back of the fabric. If it is applied to the back of the fabric, use either a pasting machine or a paint roller. Work the adhesive in, covering the back and edges completely. Book strip carefully, so the edges do not dry out. This method is useful where short runs cannot be avoided.
- + Undiluted adhesive can also be applied to the wall. Test a small piece to determine the amount of adhesive to apply and the length of time the adhesive should be allowed to book before putting fabric up.
- + Allow adhesive to become very tacky (booking for ten minutes), otherwise adhesive may seep through to face. This is an important step for a successful installation. Hang the first strip to a plumb line and allow it to overlap onto the ceiling and baseboard. Long drops may require stay tacking at the ceiling due to Screenplay's heavy weight. Use a smoothing brush, broad knife or plastic smoother to remove air bubbles, and make sure Screenplay has made good contact to the wall. Trim with scissors or razor knife at the ceiling, baseboard, around windows, etc.
- + Use a seam roller to flatten the edges at seams, ceiling, and baseboard. Take care not to press too harshly against the surface when removing any bubbles or wrinkles that may appear in the material as a result of handling. Too much force can cause paste to bleed through the fabric, resulting in permanent stains.
- + Place the second strip at the edge of the first strip (or overlap and double cut it), and smooth out firmly. If double cutting, care must be taken to avoid scoring the wallboard beneath, and a double cutting tool or steam pad is required. Excess edge trim should be removed from the wall, and the seam should be closed within one hour. Repeat the previous steps for each strip.
- + Sponge each strip with clean water to remove any excess adhesive. Use a soft bristle brush to clean, if necessary. Change the wash water frequently. Blot dry with a clean towel. Be sure to wash the ceilings and baseboards to remove any adhesive residue. Do not leave any overlap at the seams; vinyl will not adhere to itself.
- + Seams should not be located closer than 6" to corners. It may also be helpful to apply a second coat of adhesive, which has been allowed to reach maximum tackiness, to the wall surface within 6" of an outside corner. A heat gun is a common tool used to increase pliability in stiffer, heavier wallcovering. Heat should be used carefully so as not to melt or damage the wallcovering.

## PVC Free Sheet Wallcovering

### Adhesive

- + Hang wallcovering with a high quality, heavy-duty, clear, pre-mixed adhesive. Do not dilute the adhesive.
- + Use of any other type of adhesive will be solely at the risk of the installers.
- + Allow adhesive to become tacky before applying to wallcovering.
- + Brush an even coat of paste over entire back of wallcovering. Gently double material together and "book" material for ten minutes. Do not fold or crease booked material.

### Application

- + Review the recommended hanging direction for the pattern.
- + Any wallcovering design that does not have specific direction or horizontal match can be installed by reversing alternate strips to ensure color uniformity at the seams.
- + Cut rolls in sequential order starting with the highest number and working down to the lowest number. Number panels and headers as they are cut from the roll, and apply to the wall in the same sequence.
- + Use only lead pencil for marking walls and back of wallcovering. Do not use ballpoint or marking pens, as they will bleed through the surface.
- + Markings on lighter color materials may telegraph through to the face. It is recommended that you use an alternate method to indicate "top", "bottom", and sequence numbers.
- + If working with multiple lots, make certain that the lot numbers are separated at break points such as the corners. DO NOT INTERMINGLE MULTIPLE LOTS.
- + Each panel should be hung plumb (straight up & down).
- + The wallcovering should be overlapped and double cut. Use of a straight-edge and a razor is recommended. Blades must be changed after every cut.
- + Ordinary dirt and smudges can be removed by using a soft lint free cloth with mild soap and warm water.

## Sheet Vinyl Wallcovering with Recycled Backing

### Adhesive

- + Use a high quality, heavy-duty, clay-based adhesive. Do not introduce additional additives or dilute the adhesive.
- + You can also use a heavy-duty, clear, vinyl adhesive with low water content (at the discretion of installer).
- + Use of any other type of adhesive will be solely at the risk of the installers.
- + Allow adhesive to become tacky before applying to wallcovering.

## Application

- + Review the recommended hanging direction for the pattern.
- + Any wallcovering design that does not have specific direction or horizontal match can be installed by reversing alternate strips to ensure color uniformity at the seams.
- + Cut rolls in sequential order starting with the highest number and working down to the lowest number. Number panels and headers as they are cut from the roll, and apply to the wall in the same sequence.
- + If working with multiple lots, make certain that the lot numbers are separated at break points such as the corners. DO NOT INTERMINGLE MULTIPLE LOTS.
- + Each panel should be hung plumb (straight up & down).
- + The wallcovering can either be table trimmed or overlapped and double cut. Use of a straight-edge and a razor is recommended. Blades must be changed after every cut.
- + Avoid burnishing the face of the material.
- + Use a wallcovering brush or a plastic scraper to smooth the wallcovering onto the wall. Metal scrapers may damage the surface.
- + Do not crease the wallcovering.

## General

- + Ordinary dirt and smudges can be removed with mild soap and warm water.
- + Scrubbing is not recommended for printed vinyl with heavy color saturation.

Paper-Backed Woven Wallcovering, Acrylic-Backed Woven Wallcovering, Ultrasuede® for KnollTextiles

## Adhesive

- + Use a high quality, heavy-duty, clear, vinyl adhesive with low water content (at the discretion of installer). Do not introduce additional additives.
- + For vinyl-backed fabric only, you can also use a clay-based adhesive.

## Application

### Paper-Backed Woven Wallcovering

- + Wallcovering woven with natural fibers and hand spun yarns may experience irregularities in texture and color which may arise in and between strips. This wallcovering is not intended to create a seamless effect but a hand woven appearance (panel effect). Reversing the strips and visually matching each panel may reduce and control this condition.
- + Cut and hang one strip at a time.
- + Great care should be taken to trim all edges with a very sharp blade to minimize fraying of the edges. It is recommended that a new blade is used after each cut to maintain consistency.
- + The adhesive should be applied directly to the paper backing. Do not attempt to remove loose threads by pulling. Once the adhesive is absolutely dry, trim any loose threads with a sharp razor blade.
- + Meticulous care should be taken to prevent the adhesive from getting on the face, as it may stain the surface.
- + Smooth down edges with a felt-covered roller.
- + Do not overlap.

### Acrylic, Crypton Backed Woven Wallcovering or Ultrasuede®

- + Please note that the fabrics should generally have 2" – 3" from each selvage cut or trimmed off (approx. width of most straight edges) on the table with a straight-edge, using a clean and sharp knife blade. Blades should be changed frequently to maintain the cleanest possible edge. It is recommended that a new blade is used after each cut to maintain consistency.
- + Make sure that the material is lying flat on a smooth surface and that the straight-edge is completely parallel to the edge to be cut.
- + Mark the "top" and "bottom" of each strip at the time of cutting, to avoid reverse hanging, and then number the strips. Make sure to hang each of these panels in the same sequence that they came off the bolt. Each panel should be hung plumb (straight up and down).
- + Please note that the markings on lighter color materials may telegraph through to the face. It is recommended that you use an alternate method to indicate "top", "bottom", and sequence numbers.
- + Do not stack your cuts.
- + Prior to applying a strip, re-roll it from the bottom up on a broom handle or equivalent. Only roll one strip at a time on the handle.
- + Apply a coat of undiluted adhesive to the wall. Test a small piece to determine amount of adhesive to apply and the length of time adhesive should be allowed to dry before putting the fabric up.
- + Apply the cut panels from top to bottom without using seam rollers, and lay the leading edge against your penciled plumb line.
- + Take care not to press too harshly against this surface when removing any bubbles or wrinkles that may appear in the material as a result of handling. Too much pressure can cause fabric to stretch. Stretched fabric may shrink when drying, causing seams to open. Too much force can also cause paste to bleed through the fabric, resulting in permanent stains.
- + The smoothing should be done from the top of the panel that was down.
- + Before applying the next panel, trim the excess fabric from the top and bottom of the panel that was just adhered to the wall surface. The horizontal weave should be adjusted to appear as horizontal as possible.
- + Be careful not to paste too far ahead of your work to avoid premature drying of the adhesive.
- + The second panel should be applied to the wall as tightly as possible by starting out with butting the leading edge to the panel up on the wall. Be particularly careful not to overlap or to leave any gaps in the seams. The material should then be worked away from that seam, by pressing gently to remove any air pocket or wrinkles between the panel and the wall. Once the panel is in place, trim the top and bottom in the same way as the first panel and proceed with your remaining panels.
- + Throughout the installation process, special care should be taken to avoid getting any adhesive on the face of the fabric.



*Borderline Wallcovering by KnollTextiles*



**On Cover and Back Cover:**  
Wallcovering and Panel Fabrics by KnollTextiles

**Special thanks to:**  
Kathryn Boehme, KnollTextiles Sales Trainer  
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