

Busting Four Myths About Wallpapers

MYTH 1: Wallpaper is not a good choice for kitchens and baths

The truth: Kitchens are in fact an ideal place to decorate with wallcoverings. They look great and the protective coating on most wallpapers make them washable; many even scrubbable, so maintenance is a snap.

Because today's wallpapers can mimic any surface -- tile, stone, metal -- and are designed to coordinate with cabinetry and appliances -- they're an affordable way to update a kitchen.

Wallpaper is the best way to spruce up guest bathrooms where there's no shower, and even in bathrooms with a tub or shower, most wallpapers work well. Just use the proper adhesive recommended in the manufacturer's instructions to ensure it stays put.

MYTH 2: Wallpaper is a hassle to hang and remove

The truth: Today's high performance, easy-hang wallpaper (many known as non-wovens) are easy to hang and remove -- a great option to ordinary paint. Installation is quick, requires less patching and sanding, less coats and less waiting time between steps than paint. When it's time to redecorate, most wallpapers come off with ease.

MYTH 3: You get tired of wallpaper very quickly

The truth: People are often so pleased with their selection that on average, they keep the same pattern up for many years (paint has about a three-year life span). And there's a vast selection, whether you want to highlight one wall with an attention-getting wallpaper or give an entire room a beautiful look.

MYTH 4: Wallpaper is a big commitment

The Truth: If you fear commitment, self-adhesive, temporary wall décor products are a great option. These peel-and-stick products can be mixed, matched and layered, and they're repositionable and removable, therefore perfect for rentals or dorm rooms.

Nor is wallpaper off-limits if you do live in a rental. Many lease agreements stipulate that walls must be in move-in condition when the lease is up. Fortunately today's easy-hang wallpapers (also known as non-wovens) may protect walls from every day scratches and gouges, so landlords will likely grant permission. No special removal tools are required; simply tug at a corner and entire sheets are down in minutes without marring walls.

Tips courtesy of the Wallcoverings Association
www.wallcoverings.org

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