

# Frequently asked questions application of wallcovering

2020

## **What are the characteristics that a substrate should satisfy?**

A substrate should be flat, firm, dry, free of dust and grease and of uniform colour.

## **Is there a simple way of working out whether a wall is normally absorbent or highly absorbent?**

Use a moistened sponge to dab the wall. In the case of a normally absorbent substrate, the moisture is slowly absorbed from the sponge into the wall, and in the case of a highly absorbent substrate, the moisture will be absorbed quickly. Blue plaster, white plaster, fine or coarse floated work are base substrates with normal absorption characteristics. Pre-treat by priming with Vescom primer/sealer in the ratio of 1 part primer to 3 parts of water.

Gypsum mortar walls, concrete and gypsum plaster board walls are highly absorbent substrates. Pre-treatment required by priming with undiluted Vescom primer/sealer.

## **What are the tools that should be used for applying primer/sealer and what is the drying time?**

The primer/sealer should be absorbed into the wall and should therefore be applied with a block brush, or sprayed-on. The drying time of the primer/sealer is around 5 hours.

## **What is the maximum moisture percentage and the minimum temperature of a substrate onto which a wallcovering can be applied?**

Maximum 6% building moisture and minimum 10 degrees Celsius.

## **How can one determine the moisture percentage of a substrate?**

Using a hygrometer.

## **How can one accelerate the speed of drying of a wall or room?**

Using an air dehumidifier. If a hot air gun is used, the moisture is merely displaced, not removed.

## **What happens if you try to stick the material on an excessively wet substrate?**

An excessively long drying time, poor adhesion, joints that open, parts of wallcovering coming loose, bubble formation and possible discoloration of the wallcovering.

## **What are the types of dirt on a substrate that one should treat or remove, and with what?**

All dirt that can migrate through the wallcovering (for example pastel crayons, nicotine and flecks of rust) should be removed by washing or scraped-off. If this is not possible, the dirt should be isolated.

**What is the pre-treatment for (new) fine float finish and for fine float finish with several layers of latex?**

For new fine float finish: priming with Vescom primer/sealer.

For fine float finish with layers of latex: degrease with water and degreasing agent, scrape and check the adhesion of the latex to the wall using the crepe adhesive tape.

**What pre-treatment products can one use, apart from Vescom primer/sealer?**

An impregnating material, based on 50% water and 50% latex may be used as a priming material, and a uniform colour should also be applied to the walls.

**What is the sequence that should be followed for processing rolls of wallcovering?**

Start with the highest roll number, so that the production sequence is maintained.

**What do reverse hang and butt joint application mean?**

Reverse hanging requires every alternate drop to be turned through a 180° rotation.

Butt joint application means that the drops are stuck one next the other (in other words, without overlapping and trimming)

**Approximately how much adhesive is required for applying Vescom wallcovering?**

This varies between 200 grams and 400 grams, depending on the type of wallcovering. This is indicated in the application instructions.

**Can the adhesive be diluted?**

Vescom 1000 may be diluted with the maximum of 0.4 litres of water per 10 kg adhesive.

Vescom 2000 may be diluted with the maximum of 0.5- 0.6 litres of water per 10 kg adhesive.

One may proceed as follows: first stir, then add the water portion, mix again, then add the rest of the water and repeat the stirring operation.

Attention: do not stir using mechanical means, since this will adversely affect the homogeneity of the adhesive.

**Why should there be no stretching across the width of the material while applying the vinyl?**

This is to prevent joints from pulling back and springing open.

**Why should one wait before cutting on the ceiling and the skirting, and how should one deal with the supports for radiator pipelines?**

Taking into account the possible longitudinal shrinkage, it is recommended that the excess material should only be cut-off after applying four to five strips. In the case of the supports for the radiators, as far as possible, work with longitudinal joints (avoid this if it involves cutting into the breadth of the material).

**How should the second vinyl drop be installed?**

The second drop is stuck  $\pm 6$  cm over the first strip. (Same for strip 2 and 3 etc). The working method is as follows: pull back the side edge of the drop a little and apply adhesive thinly using the sheep fleece roller. Then brush over again with the spatula. Now place the second drop in the dry condition over the first strip, with a  $\pm 6$  cm overlap. Now simultaneously cut through both drops using the special Vescom knife, and close the joint.

**How should the second textile drop be installed?**

Textile strips shall be installed edge to edge, as follows: after applying adhesive to the wall (always apply adhesive 10 to 15 cm broader than the drop width, in order to prevent adhesive staining), the material shall be installed with a little overlapping. Thereafter, push the drop back until the joint can be closed.

**Why is it important to remove remnants of adhesive from the vinyl immediately?**

This is because the adhesive is still fresh and has still not dried out. After washing the adhesive away, dry-off with a cloth.

**How can one stick a heavy or stiff variety of wallcovering around a sharp, external corner?**

Heat the material with a paint blow dryer so that the vinyl becomes more flexible.

**How can one remove bubbles in the case of vinyl, when the adhesive is still wet?**

Prick with a pin and press down with the spatula.

**How can one remove bubbles in case of vinyl, when the adhesive is dry?**

Inject adhesive with a syringe. Please note, make two holes – one hole for injecting the adhesive and one hole for the air to escape. Press down with the spatula here as well. One may also make a vertical cut and apply adhesive behind the material with a brush.

**How can one remove bubbles in the case of textile, when the adhesive is still wet?**

Prick with a pin and press down with the spatula.

**How can one remove bubbles in the case of textile, when the adhesive is dry?**

Inject adhesive with a syringe. Please note, make two holes – one hole for injecting the adhesive and one hole for the air to escape. Press down with the spatula here as well.

If a vertical cut is made in the cloth as described above, one should remove the adhesive with adhesive tape on the front (where the bubble is visible), so that one does not dirty the textile with adhesive during application.

Also refer to the application instructions for a possible answer to your question. If there are any questions that have not been answered, please contact the Customer Service department: [sales@vescom.com](mailto:sales@vescom.com)