

How to Remove Wallpaper

NO TWO HOUSES

How to: Remove Wallpaper

Tools You Will Need

Bucket

Soapy water

Clean pasting or paint brush (150mm)

Scraper

Dust sheets

Ideally a few friends to help

Remove wallpaper quicker with a “steamer”
Available for hire, or can be purchased at most DIY stores

Removing Wallpaper by Hand Soaking

- 1 Cover the floor using dust sheets to protect the surface from any water damage. The sheets can become wet. Have bin liners on hand to regularly clean up removed pieces of paper.
- 2 Turn off any electricity as you will be using water to soak the wallpaper to ease its removal. **Don't switch it back on until you are sure all surfaces are dry.**
- 3 Fill a bucket with warm water and add a small amount of washing up liquid. Apply the soapy water to the wall using the paint brush. Starting from the bottom up will break the surface tension allowing it to penetrate the wallpaper.
- 4 When the wall is thoroughly wet, leave the water to soak in and penetrate the wallpaper – this will help soften the paste that was used to hang the wallpaper.
- 5 Scoring the paper with the edge of your scraper or a knife will help penetrate but could damage the plaster underneath. Use caution. How many layers of wallpaper and how long the wallpaper has been on will also be a factor.
- 6 Using a scraper or stripping knife begin to lift the paper at the easiest point – often the seams, or from the bottom of the wall. Let the water do the work and keep clearing the paper you have removed as you go, so as not to make more work later.
- 7 If the wallpaper has been subsequently painted it can be quite difficult for the water to penetrate – you may need to soak several times or **alternatively you could use a wallpaper steam stripper.**

Top Tip

Wetting it twice will help this process and make it easier in the long run.

Removing Wallpaper with a Wallpaper Steam Stripper

You could invest in a steam stripper, borrow from a friend or hire, but they work in a similar way to the hand soaking section, but cuts down the soaking time. They have a tank of water that acts like a kettle to produce steam which flows up a pipe to a “plate”. The plate is pressed to the surface and loosens the paper ready to be stripped with your scraper.

Large areas can be worked quickly and easily. Always keep an eye on the water level so as not to boil it dry.

Follow the manufacturers instructions and be careful not to scold yourself on the steam or get kinks in the pipe.

Removing Paste The Wall Wallpaper

Paste the wall wallpapers are as **EASY** to remove as they are to apply, simply peel back the wallpaper from the corner of a strip and pull upwards to remove it in one large piece!

For products that aren't paste the wall, use **Wall Doctor Lining Paper** underneath it to achieve the same removable effect.