



# Installing Wallpaper Canvas Murals

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- **2-3 people depending on size of mural**
  - **Clear-Base, Pre-mixed Vinyl Wallpaper glue** (**Do Not Use** a clay based adhesive.)
  - **Wallpaper Primer** (We recommend “*Shieldz*” white, water-based wallcovering primer.)
  - **Rubber wallpaper roller** (\$10)
  - **A couple of thick, soft plastic wallpaper spatulas** (they are about \$1.50. **Do not use** sharp edged spatulas. They will scratch the mural.)
  - **Razor Sharp Utility Knife**
  - **Straight edge for trimming**
  - **Clean, lint-free rags/cloths**
  - **Distilled White Vinegar**
  - **Cardboard tube** (You can get these at Michael’s Craft Store, Home Depot, & Lowe’s.)
  - **Tape measure and level**
  - **Chalk or pencil**
  - **Theatrical muslin** (You can have your wallpaper mural installed with a layer of cheesecloth on the back to make the wallpaper canvas removable. Use **theatrical muslin**; it is thin and strong, as well as inexpensive. You can buy it by the yard at most fabric-supply stores. It costs about \$1.75 a yard.)
- \*\* Approximate install time 3-4 hours.**

## 1 PREPARE WALLPAPER CANVAS

Measure your wallpaper canvas scene and then roll the mural on a cardboard tube that is about four inches shorter than the height of the wall/mural. Do not let the tube stick out as it will get in the way while installing (it may hit the floor or ceiling).

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## 2 PREPARE WALL

- Prepare the surface of the wall where you are going to hang the mural.
  - You must have a finished, plastered wall surface! (No sheet rock, etc.)
  - Make sure the area to be covered is free from holes and other defects.
  - Try not to place your mural on a wall with light switches, sockets, etc., as they will interfere with the appearance of the wall mural. If there are any light switches or electrical outlets within the area that you are going to place the mural on, you will need to remove the covers.
  - Clean the entire wall with a strong mixture of vinegar and water in order to remove any dirt, grime or grease. Then, rinse it well with water and lint-free rags.
  - Prime the wall surface with wallpaper primer.
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### **3 PICK LOCATION**

- Determine the exact location where you will hang your mural. NOTE: The Canvas is approximately 3 inches larger than the scene on all sides and needs to be trimmed after installing.
  - Make a light mark where the left edge of the mural will land.
  - Use a level to lightly draw a vertical straight edge on the wall.
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### **4 APPLY WALLPAPER GLUE**

- Apply a clear, vinyl based wallpaper adhesive to the wall. (Do Not Use a clay base adhesive) You may need two coats of adhesive.
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### **5 INSTALL CHEESECLOTH**

- Let the glue sit until it becomes tacky then “hang” one layer of cheesecloth on the glue. (The cheesecloth layer allows the mural to be removed from the wall at a later date. When the mural needs to be removed just pull the mural from the corner. The cheesecloth will help it separate.)
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### **6 APPLY WALLPAPER GLUE ON TOP OF CHEESECLOTH**

- Wait for an hour (or until it is dry), and then apply another coat of the same glue over the cheesecloth.
  - Wait until it becomes tacky (you may need two coats). The entire surface must be tacky. Sometimes the first coat dries too fast – it may be tacky in one corner and dry in the other.
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### **7 INSTALL YOUR MURAL**

- Depending on the size of the mural, you may need 2-3 people to hang it properly and get accurate alignment.
  - When the wall becomes tacky, with the mural on the roll, align it evenly across the space.
  - Carefully apply the rolled mural onto the surface of the wall. Position the left edge of the first piece against the straight line that you made. Unroll it carefully so you don't tear it. Make sure the piece is aligned with the straight line.
  - Press the mural tight to the wall and push out the air bubbles. Use a damp cloth to gently wipe out the air pockets that are in the piece.
  - Be especially sure to wipe the edges down so they will stick well.
  - Air bubbles are a regular occurrence on these installs.
  - Press the edge all the way down about 1 – 1-½ feet, and then unroll another 2-3feet.
  - Keep the rolled mural away from the wall and have someone hold the attached area to the wall.
  - Check the mural for alignment.
  - Press this 2-3' of the mural to the wall. Use the rubber roller and spatulas to run the air out.
  - Keep unrolling and pressing 2-3 feet at a time. Be sure to watch for air bubbles.
  - When the entire mural is on the wall, double check for bubbles. If there are any, push them out with the spatula/brush towards the nearest edge until gone.
  - Use a clean, soft rag, which is dampened with warm water to carefully wipe off any excess glue on the wall mural.
  - Wait for 20-30 minutes.
  - Use the razor sharp knife and straight edge to trim the edges – Approximately three inches will need to be trimmed off the mural on all edges. This is extra canvas to allow for any variations in the wall size.
  - Now, let the picture dry thoroughly. After it has dried, go back and check all of the pieces and make sure that they are glued down securely. If needed, re-apply glue and press down any loose places again. You are done!
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