

FROMENTAL

INSTALLATION GUIDE PAPER-BACKED SILK WALLCOVERINGS

Fromental wallcoverings are different in construction from most everyday wallcoverings. Our silk wallcoverings are backed with a traditional handmade 'xuan' (rice) paper backing.

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND DO NOT START HANGING UNLESS YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE DIRECTIONS.

IF IN ANY DOUBT, PLEASE CALL FROMENTAL TO CLARIFY PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. THIS IS A LUXURY PRODUCT AND CAN EASILY BE RUINED DURING INSTALLATION.

WE RECOMMEND USING ONLY FROMENTAL APPROVED INSTALLERS. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANGING FAULTS.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Each individual panel should be reviewed and approved by the client prior to installation. If during installation there is any concern regarding the product, please **stop immediately** and contact Fromental. Most problems can be corrected if the panels are returned prior to installation. We recommend installing 2-3 panels for client approval before commencing with full installation.

Once panels are installed, problems may only be fixed by sending a Fromental artist to site and this can incur significant costs.

All orders (except for Plains) are supplied with either a Fromental miniature or a panel plan. The Fromental miniature shows the layout of the design within the elevation of the wall/room and the position of each panel. A panel plan shows the optimal panel placement within the room/wall. If for some reason this has not been included, please contact Fromental immediately.

WALL PREPARATION:

It is essential that walls are correctly prepared, walls should be clean, dust free, smooth, and sound and checked for faults; Any faults should be repaired. The quality of the wall may be a factor for possible reactions, causing discoloration, shrinkage of the wallcovering or it may become detached from the wall.

Walls then need to be sized with an appropriate size. Most size is PVA based, and this can be used at various dilutions. The more absorbent the wall, the thinner the size.

The walls need to be lined with thousand grade lining paper (UK: 1000 grade lining paper / acid free blank stock USA: BLANK STOCK liner).

Wall surface / lining paper should be clean and white. The silk wallcoverings are slightly translucent and so any marks or blemishes could show through. Lining can be installed either vertically or horizontally (USA Railroad lining).

All surrounding paintwork should be completed prior to lining.

ROOM CONDITIONS: The wallcovering should be stored within the area it will be installed for at least 3 days prior to installation. The room conditions should be kept the same before, during and for at least 3 days after installation.

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ADHESIVE

- A thick ready mixed traditional modified starch 'tub paste' should be used. (UK - Murabond 'black top', Albany Yellow top, USA - Roman 880). Stir well and do not dilute the paste!

TRIMMING:

- For best installation, panels should be DRY TRIMMED on site by hand before paste is applied, this should ensure a clean seam.
- Edges should be trimmed with a sharp blade; blades should be changed often.
- The panels have approx. 15mm (1/2") of trim on the right-hand side, this will be marked by a small pencil mark as a guide on the back of the panel.
- This should be cut down on the table using a knife and straight edge or traditional wallpaper trimming tool before the paper is pasted.
- If there is no pattern match (plain wallcoverings) and if the silk edges are in good condition, installation without trimming is possible but at installers discretion and responsibility.

If panels have been supplied pre-trimmed these should be placed side by side to gauge exact panel match.

Note: Our Artists work very hard to make the design match accurately however as with any hand-painted product mismatches are inevitable but should only be very minor. On some more painterly areas (such as the grass ground or large branches) it is impossible to make all brushstrokes continue exactly and some slight variation is natural and should be expected.

If when checking the panels before trimming and installation you find significant design mismatch, please contact us immediately. Any serious mismatch is easier to correct in our studios prior to installation rather than once the panels are on the wall.

MATCHING DESIGN TO FROMENTAL MINIATURE:

- Panels are numbered on the back of the panel to match the Fromental miniature which will be supplied in most cases. These miniatures show where each panel should fit within the room layout. We strongly recommend installers check through all panels before installation.

TRADITIONAL PASTE-THE-PAPER-METHOD:

IMPORTANT NOTE: The backing paper is very absorbent. Water should not be sponged or sprayed on the backing in any way, or the paper will delaminate from the silk. The paste should be applied directly on to the back of the paper then applied straight to the wall.

Unlike many paper-backed silks our product requires VERY little soaking time. Experiments should be made to assess soaking time and paste thickness using off cuts from the top of panels.

- We recommend applying the paste with a roller as you can apply an even coat quickly. Make sure you paste the edges by rolling off the table. Some paperhangers prefer to finish the edges with a brush. Ensure the paper stays still.
- The joints should be very tight (close butted) to allow for any minor shrinkage which may occur during drying. Once on the wall, the panels can be pushed into position and flattened using a spatula or seam-roller.

Tip: When handling silk take an offcut from the top of a panel and use this silk face-to-face with the panel to avoid contact between fingertips and silk

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Important Note: Once the paper has been pasted, the colours can become less stable, especially the darker ones. When wiping the face of a panel take extra care wiping over the paint, as this will smudge

Great care should be taken to avoid getting paste onto the surface of the silk wallcovering. However, the silk can take a gentle wipe with a clean damp sponge or dab with a damp micro-pile cloth but should not be rubbed or made wet. Remember to shield the paper with a caulking tool when removing any paste from the skirting or ceilings.

Please note Silk is a natural product and as such some colour variation will occur from panel to panel. Often this will only become visible once the panel is adhered to the wall. This is a natural aspect of the silk product and should be expected.

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