

DRYWALL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA

DCAN-SW

Representing Nevada, Arizona, and California

Wallpaper Removal and Finishing

Wallpaper should be removed from the surface of the drywall in a way that minimizes damage to the drywall face paper. There are a variety of methods and special tools for doing this which are discussed in many online forums and will not be covered here.

It is important that the wallpaper and wallpaper backing be removed prior to finishing these areas with joint compound. Obviously, there may be instances where it is not possible to remove the wallpaper and backing material without peeling some of the drywall face paper layers.

DCAN recommends:

1. Use ventilation during the stripping process to help moisture applied to drywall face paper dissipate quickly.
2. Let the drywall completely dry prior to finishing. Moisture of some type is typically utilized during the stripping process, so it is important to let this moisture dry out of the drywall prior to starting finishing operations.
3. If drywall face paper is damaged during the stripping process, lightly sand the damaged area to remove paper fuzz and open surface prior to proceeding to step 4.
4. Apply a coat of Gardz water based interior Problem Surface Sealer, manufactured by Zinsser (or equivalent) prior to applying joint compound. This will seal the surface and works well to mitigate delamination issues when joint compound products are applied.
5. Apply an All Purpose Joint Compound like Red Dot manufactured by Westpac Materials. DCAN also recommends utilizing Acrylic Ad Mix manufactured by Westpac materials to increase bond strength and water hold out in the initial coat of joint compound.

Note: Some pin holing may occur on initial coats of joint compound being applied over the sealed surface.

6. Repair any areas that may delaminate with by repeating the steps above.

Drywall previously wall papered and stripped is not an ideal substrate for joint compounds to adhere to, but following the steps above will often produce successful results.

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