

Testing

Testing is an important aspect of your wallpaper removal job. Some of the manifold things that you are looking for during testing are the following:

- What is the composition of the outer surface of the wallcovering?
 - What is the composition of the under layer (also called the 'ground') of the wallcovering?
 - Does the under layer (the 'ground') come off with the outer layer... or does it remain on the wall?
 - What type of paste was used?
 - How is the paste applied [thickly, thinly, evenly, unevenly]?
 - What does the wall surface consist of [smooth plaster, textured plaster, sand-finished plaster, unprimed drywall, oil primed drywall, latex primed drywall, wood, Formica®, metal, glass, ceramic tile]?
 - Relative (potential) ease of removal gauged by how quickly/slowly it takes to get down to the finished wall surface over a few square inch test area using only water in your 'test' area?

As you can see, in just a few seconds or a few minutes you will have learned a wealth of information about your wallcovering, the paste which holds it on the wall and the wall surface upon which it sits. You will be able to gauge (somewhat) the degree of difficulty and the amount of time that you should allot for your job as part of the [engineering](#) phase of your task.

Engineering

Here, you are actually 'planning' your wallpaper removal job from start to finish. You will consider many variables at this juncture that will impact the safety and efficacy of your project.

Some of the variables you will consider are:

- Approximate time to allow for your wallpaper removal project [determined by how easy or how difficult your small 'test' section released and cleaned during the testing phase you just completed]. Note: a 'standard' room (12'x15' approx.) will seldom take you less than one full day... so, you are thinking in terms of 8 hr blocks of time at this point -- i.e. day, day-and-a-half, two days, etc. **CAUTION**: do **NOT** be beguiled into thinking that YOU (as wonderful and as talented as doubtless you are at whatever profession/job you may enjoy) are somehow going to just 'knock this job out' in a few hours -- get over that expectation now -- as your removal experience is quite unlikely to happen in that manner. **However**: if you methodically and carefully follow the directions here in this e-book, you have a high likelihood of successfully removing your wallcovering (without damaging your walls) within a modest amount of time. (Allow at least one full, uninterrupted day for each 500 square foot of wall surface.)
- Movement of furniture away from the walls (or out of the room).
- Remove all items hanging on the walls along with their hooks, nails, screws, etc.
- Where will you begin the job in this room/series of rooms?

- How do you turn off the electric to each and every outlet? [\[test each outlet\]](#)
- Where will you place your ladders, step stools, scaffolding, buckets of water for washing and rinsing, plus electric light to light the room?
- How will you manage power cords to help prevent trip-and-fall accidents?
- What hand tools will you need to remove window treatments, etc.?
- What will you protect your flooring with – how will you move your flooring protection during the job, etc.?
- Do you, in fact, have all the required tools and supplies needed for your particular job? [\[See: Equipment\]](#)

Pretend the job is ‘done’. How did you get there – Safely?

Preparation (I)

(this will really help)

After you have engineered or 'planned' your removal job, you are ready to Prepare the job -- to put into motion all of the details of the planning phase.

Simply follow your engineering variables. **Only this time, take the concrete action steps necessary to implement your plan.** Before you begin - you might find it useful to do a little 'gedanken' experiment - that is, a 'review in your mind' of the entire process for your removal. Stand there quietly and expectantly in the room in which you will soon be working-- see the furniture cleared three feet away from the walls - see plastic sheeting taped down to the flooring next to the baseboard - imagine the toweling or other material that you will use to absorb moisture neatly folded against the base of your walls - see the cleared area in this room or in an adjoining room where you've laid out your wash and rinse buckets upon a towel - there are your sponges and synthetic steel wool scrubby, too - back in your room, observe where you will place your work light to safely light your area - where will you start? Imagine yourself peeling off your first layer of material - or see yourself using your scoring tool to make thousands of little holes in the outer layer of your wallcovering - if it is a one-layer material, or with the outer layer now removed (in your minds' eye) see yourself wetting the wallcovering with warm wallpaper removal solution **Oh- have you turned off your electricity to all the outlets/switches in this room? Have you taped-over the outlets and switches to keep them dry?)**- now see the material getting a bit darker as it absorbs the moisture - you've wet some wall - now, see yourself doing it again (going over that same area you've just done) - how long is it taking? Now, see yourself doing it again (oh yes - it takes several times to wet your walls

properly). Overestimate your labor time – never underestimate! Do you see where you will have to place your ladder, step stool or scaffolding to reach all areas of your wall? Are your ladder and/or scaffolding placement selections SAFE?

There - the wall is now quite wet – see yourself slowly peeling the material from the walls (where will you put the wet trash - got your large plastic trash bag lined up?). If the material does not simply 'pull' off the walls – see yourself using your broad knife to carefully scrape the paper or canvas, etc., from the wall surface – can you see your walls now (in your minds' eye)? Now, picture getting your two buckets and see yourself washing your walls – it may take awhile... are you allowing for the time necessary? Where will you toss out the dirty water? (a toilet is the best bet) How will you repeatedly refill your buckets? Is your path free of clutter, electrical cords, dry and safe? How long is it taking you to wash your walls? Allow sufficient time! See your wall coming clear of paste -- it looks good -- it has not taken all that long – perhaps 4 to 8 linear feet per hour depending upon variables such as how your top layer (if you had one) came off and how difficult or easy your paste washed off. Have you rinsed your walls well? Did you dry the water droplets from your woodwork and your ceiling? Time to move your towels or other absorbing materials down the wall to your next section... do it all again... move on... do it again... and again...! There! Your room is finished.

How long has it taken you – standing there reviewing the soon-to-start process? Do you see where you will have to stop for a 'break'? Do you see where you will end up at the end of your planned work period? Do you, in fact, have all the tools you will need to take down window treatments, etc.? Have you got a good 'feel' for how you will carry out your water buckets, empty and refill them? Are you getting a drink of water now and again? Scrubbing/washing uses up a lot of energy – you will get thirsty. Do you see

that the job is simply a repetition on a theme? Do what works over and over and over and over again. Can you see yourself working steadily towards your goal? [Don't Quit!!](#) [See yourself in your mind's eye as Successful!](#) [Feel](#) how proud you are to have Completed this job. [Look](#) at your nice, clean walls -- [Imagine](#) how you are going to transform them with a new coat of paint – or new wallpaper, etc.

O.K. You've been standing there in the doorway of your room now for ten minutes! Reverie is over... you've seen yourself do this job in your mind... you now 'know' that it is 'do-able' (safely) -- [you've just seen it done after all!](#)

Let's go! No time like the Present! Put one foot in front of the other! The longest journey begins with the first step! If you are sufficiently sick of these hoary references -- well, then -- Just Do It! ® [Nike]



Floor protected & towels along wall Carefully remove window treatments