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The Guide to

Expert Decorating

Cosmetic enhancements to the existing properties and finish touches in the new build interiors seems to be the less expensive parts of renovating as both labour and products costs are lower in comparison to other building works. Decorating is perceived as the unskilled job, and decorators are relatively undervalued for their work when comparing wages of other tradesmen. The underestimating of the amount of work involved in the decorating to get the quality finish is in our opinion unfair. Decorating enhances the interior's character and it can also be physically tough in case of complex architecture designs. It is precisely decorators who work on the final appearance of walls and ceilings. Their job often leads to complete makeover of our homes, and even small decorating works can give rooms a boost. To reveal the potential of decorators on next pages we present the step by step guide.

STEP 1. Choose a Paint

Paint classification

We can distinguish between water-based and oil-based paints. There are also specialist paints (either water or oil based)- formulated to use in bathrooms and kitchens, floor paints, metal paints, traditional paints.

Base Coats

Base coats are used to prepare the surface and achieve the best possible finish. We can distinguish between **PRIMER** and **UNDERCOAT**. For interiors the combined primer-undercoat is recommended.

Primer - oil-based and water-based primers are available. It protects the surface and provides the base for further painting. Special primers for masonry, plaster or tiles are available.

Undercoat - it is a special paint used to build up opacity. It is mainly used with woodwork and oil-based paints before application of topcoats. Water-based paints are applied in as many coats as required.

Topcoat

Topcoat is the decorative finish applied on undercoat, primer or washed surface.

Emulsion - a water-based paint used on walls and ceilings with various types of finish (matt, eggshell or silk). Standard emulsion is for interior, exterior emulsion is called masonry paint.

Eggshell - an oil-based or water-based paint with a slight sheen. Used on wood surfaces.

Gloss and satin - hard wearing finishing paint, mainly used on woodwork and metal. Can be applied to exterior or interior surfaces.

- For walls and ceilings use a water based matt, eggshell or silk emulsion. Apply mist coat or primer first to prime the bare walls or ceilings and finish with coats of emulsion. You can use eggshell for hard wearing finish.
- For bathrooms and kitchens a Silk Emulsion is a bit more hard wearing. It has a slight sheen and it is more resistant to water or grease so can be cleaned.
- For kitchens and bathrooms use the specially designated paints.
- For woodwork there is a choice of oil-based paints and water-based paints. In both cases there is undercoat and topcoat required.
- For exterior wood - use the undercoat and specialist paint with natural or colour finish. Woodwork is usually finished with topcoat of gloss or eggshell.
- For radiators use the specially designated paints. Always paint when radiators cool off. Use gloss, eggshell or emulsion
- For exterior stone work and bricks use the masonry paint. It is especially formulated hard wearing paint.
- For floors - use the specially formulated hard wearing floor paint.



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PAINT SELECTOR

SNIEZKA ECO

HYPOALLERGENIC ACRYLIC
EMULSION FOR WALLS AND CEILINGS



The matt (can be dyed to any colour by universal paste) emulsion is designed for decorative painting of walls and ceilings made of cement, cement and lime, lime, gypsum plasters, plaster cardboard panels, wood and wood-based materials, inside of premises. It provides matt and snow-white coatings, which contribute to full ventilation of walls. It does not irritate and is friendly for allergy sufferers and extra sensitive persons – survey carried out by Clinic Allergology and Environment Institute of Jagiellonian University Medical College. Available in white, the paint can be dyed to any colour by using colour pasta - COLOREX

SNIEZKA VERNISSAGE

MATT LATEX INTERIOR PAINT



Śnieżka Vernissage is a latex paint with an excellent covering power, high efficiency and easy application. Specially selected system com-

ponents and thickeners provide optimal comfort of painting - paint does not splash when it is applied. With the ink used in so-called special technology of optical masking of reflections, with a very low degree of gloss the final coating is flawless. For anti-reflective coatings with such a low degree of gloss the surface's imperfections are minimised due to the light falling on the wall and dissipates and highlights them. It creates a coating resistant to repeated washing and scrubbing. In addition, the paint has a very low VOC (max. 5g/l).

It can be used on mineral surfaces, plaster, concrete, aerated concrete, plasterboard, wallpaper fiberglass, wood and wood elements indoors.

SNIEZKA Damp & Stain

ACRYLIC PAINT FOR WALLS
AND CEILINGS



Available in white, the paint can be dyed to any colour by using colour pasta - COLOREX

It's designed for painting and renovating walls and ceilings inside of residential premises as well as public facilities made of cement and lime plasters, concrete, gypsum, plaster cardboard panels etc. Due to its properties it is highly recommended for repainting damp patches of water, soot, nicotine, oil and other grease. It can be applied as a priming paint (separating and strengthening the surface) or topcoat paint (protective and decorative). Available in white, the paint can be dyed to any colour by using colour pasta - COLOREX.

SNIEZKA SUPERMAL

ACRYLIC ENAMEL
FOR WOOD AND METAL



It has excellent adhesive and covering properties, provides smooth surfaces, resistant to influence of water, light and weather conditions. It is designed for decorative and protective painting of wood, wood-based and metal elements as well as cement floors, internal and external plasters of premises.

SNIEZKA UREKOR D

UNDERCOAT ENAMEL PAINT FOR WOOD



- excellent adhesive properties
- enhances adhesion of topcoat paints
- contributes to surface uniformity

Śnieżka UREKOR D WOOD PRIMER intended for painting of wood, wood-based materials, plasters, concrete and appropriately primed with anti-corrosive primer steel and iron-cast elements. Provides matt and excellent adhesive coats, enhances adhesion of topcoats, decreases painting costs and ensures uniform surfaces. Can be used for interiors and exteriors.

SNIEZKA LATEX

LATEX PRIME EMULSION
FOR INTERIORS (matt, white)



Śnieżka GRUNT thanks to its special components is applied with thick layer and levels roughness and colour of the surface. It penetrates the surface enhancing adhesive properties of the surface coating and diminishes its use.

Using Śnieżka GRUNT will contribute to decrease costs of painting since only one layer of prime paint and one layer of surface paint is usually necessary to gain the desired effect. It is especially recommended when painting plaster cardboard panels for the first time and rough surfaces. It has excellent covering properties to be used upon cement, cement and lime, wood and wood-based surfaces either residential premises or public or industrial facilities.

SNIEZKA SUPERMAL

OIL AND PHTHALATE ENAMEL
FOR WOOD AND METAL



SUPERMAL EMALIA OLEJNO-FALOWA is designed for decorative and protective painting of wood, wood-based surfaces such as windows,

doors, furniture etc. as well as plasters and metals such as gates, fences etc. used both inside and outside of premises. The coatings have high gloss properties, are resistant to water and changeable weather conditions. It has excellent adhesive properties to the surface and base paints. Available in white + 19 ready-to-paint colours, white and black in matt, or as the base within the colour system

SNIEZKA SATIN WHITE

SATIN PAINT FOR INTERIORS



- does not splatter during painting
- easy application and excellent coverage
- efficiency: to 14 m²/L with one painting only
- 5 times higher resistance to wet scrubbing compared to latex paints classified as resistant to washing according to PN-C-81914*
- Ecolabel certificate confirming that the product is safe for human life, environmentally friendly and meets the highest quality standards
- certified by PKN to conform with PN-C 81914:2002 standard

Śnieżka SATIN is a paint for interior use, manufactured by taking advantage of innovative technology - Polimers Protection, as well as top quality resins and pigments. As a result of this formula, it ensures incredibly durable coats, which allow to preserve an ideal look and colour of walls.

Due to subtle satin finishing, it's recommended to be used on smooth and flat wall surfaces. The paint has unique coatings, which are resistant to washing and scrubbing, hence removal of stains and dirt is almost effortless. Its special features prevent the paint from splattering during painting and allow to apply the paint easily with excellent covering properties.

The paint is intended for decorative and protective painting of interior walls and ceilings made of cement, cement and lime, lime, gypsum plasters as well as cardboard gypsum panels, wooden and wood-based, wallpapers, including fibreglass ones. Due to unique properties and durability, the paint is recommended to be used in areas particularly exposed to dirt such as, for example; passageways, corridors, private and office premises, living and dining rooms.

SNIEZKA ENERGY

WHITE LATEX PAINT



- white
- resistant to washing
- does not splash during painting - Compact Comfort System (CCS)
- Easy application and excellent coverage
- excellent performance - up to 13 m²/L
- Green Idea - Product with low VOC

White Energy is a latex paint produced using Compact Comfort System, what means the specially formulated components, which limits the degree of paint splashing.

It is hardwearing and can be used on mineral surfaces, plaster, concrete, aerated concrete, plasterboard, wallpaper fibreglass, wood and wood materials indoors.



HOW TO SELECT A SUITABLE PAINT TYPE FOR OUR WALLS

Nowadays, the market is abundant in a wide range of paints. Depending on our needs, we can choose from products less or more resistant to contaminations, the ones which not only decorate but also protect, and have even resistance to wet scrubbing. The majority of paints for walls can be divided into three basic categories.

Ordinary paints with standard parameters

They are latex or acrylic paints intended for painting most of interior walls and ceilings. The interiors where an average traffic occurs (rooms, bedrooms, studies) can be easily painted by these paints. They are washable, have excellent covering properties, do not splatter and are easy to apply.

Undoubtedly, the advantage of these paints is a large selection of attractive colours. Not only are ready-to-use colours cheaper than those tinted, but also it is easier to lay them out within interiors, and the final effect is guaranteed. A palette of proposed shades is created on the basis of an expert's know-how, and up-to-date inspiring catalogues as well as sample designs are available in stores. Thanks to them, almost all interiors can gain a new image.



Paints with enhanced properties

They are paints whose formula contains substances which enhance coat resistance to contaminations and mechanical damages. These paints can be applied in areas where increased traffic occurs (corridors, halls, children's rooms).

The best quality resins and pigments make the product a uniquely resistant to contaminations and mechanical damages. The coat is not only resistant to stains but also all potential contaminations can be easily washed from it by wet scrubbing, without a risk of removing the

Additionally, the advantage of this product is its satin gloss. In small interiors the paint (particularly in light colours) boosts the effect of opti-

cal space enlargement, which in some situations is incredibly desirable. An interesting palette of colours attracts people looking for beautiful and exceptional solutions.

Paints for special purposes

They are products intended for special assignments. Śnieżka Kitchen - Bathroom for example, is intended for painting surfaces exposed to extreme influence of water vapour and water. Its role is to create a coat to prevent from excessive moisture, allow walls to breathe, and destroy large amounts of pathogenic moulds and fungi. Thanks to these paint properties the interiors of bathrooms, kitchens, pantries or garages can look excellently for many years without necessity to be specially treated.

The paints are also resistant to washing and scrubbing, and the unique and durable coat is often an alternative for ceramic tiles, stones or wallpapers. A paint should be accommodated to the interior's function. While selecting a paint intended for special interiors we can be guaranteed that our choice will be optimal. Paint manufacturers observe the market quite painstakingly as well as technological novelties and consumers' needs, and their products are regularly adjusted to current trends of the developing society.

WHAT PAINT TO CHOOSE FOR THE BATHROOM?

The market is abundant in many paints, including those special ones intended for bathrooms and kitchens. Why is it worth taking advantage of them?

While painting the bathroom, an essential factor which ensures a suitable protection for the walls is a proper preparation before painting and the application itself. In the event of bathrooms, all activities should be conducted with a particular care about details.

1. Firstly, we have to clean the substrate from any contaminations by using water with detergent. In case of surfaces infected by fungi, we need to remove the old paint coats, clean the wall and apply a biocidal agent (e.g. Vidaron Biocidal Agent)
2. Fill in any cracks in the wall by taking advantage of gypsum putty or other ad-

- hesives. After drying we sand the wall and remove dust by a vacuum cleaner.
3. The wall must be primed by an agent recommended by the paint's manufacturer. We wait until the wall dries out before we proceed with painting works.

Bathroom paints, thanks to applied latest technologies supported by research, can ensure efficient protection for 'wet' walls against influence of destructive factors. A suitable product selection as well as a correct application can guarantee a long-lasting protection.



Paints of various manufacturers differ from each other as regards the formula, as a result they have slightly different properties and ensure protection of walls in a different way. Śnieżka Kitchen - Bathroom paint has an additive of silver in its formula.

Thanks to the innovative technology - SILVER FORMULA - it enables to stabilize the amount of pathogenic moulds and fungi on walls, and simultaneously is the most friendly for the user.

Particles of silver have biocidal and bactericidal properties and provide optimal hygienic conditions in areas exposed to influence of microorganisms. All the aforementioned features are preserved for as long as the paint is on the wall. It's not necessary then to repaint the area in order to ensure a suitable protection for the walls.



STEP 2. Choose Tools

High quality application tools are important to get the required finish. It is also required to protect other surfaces while painting.

Brushes, Rollers, Roller tray, Paint sprayer, Paint pads

The painting kit consists of paint tray, brushes and rollers. Using a brush is recommended for painting doors, windows, skirting and around the edges of walls and ceilings.



Roller is suitable for walls and ceilings and a mini roller with a long handle for getting behind radiators. Paint pads are suitable to cover larger, flat surfaces quickly.

The quality of brushes and rollers is important and has impact on the final finish. Proper brushes are with long thick bristles. Brushes are used for cutting in- painting between walls and ceilings or between walls and woodwork. When painting doors try to load the paint evenly in sections over the surface. Oil based paint tends to be more prone to running than water based. Remember to clean your tools after works.



Water based paints can be cleaned in water, while oil based paints have to be cleaned with white spirit. There are also special cleaners available to clean brush or roller mechanically. Paint sprayer can be used to cover larger surfaces in shorter time.

Painting accessories

Items that are used during the painting such as paint basket, brush comb or dusting brush.

Masking materials

Dustsheet and masking tape are used to cover other surfaces before painting.



Other tools

Other tools like for instance comb, sponge, stippling brush, stencil brush are used to create the paint effect on the surface.



STEP 3. Prepare Surfaces

Preparation of surfaces is the important part of decorating process. To achieve the high standard of finish it is required to adequately prepare walls, ceilings and woodwork.

Stripping existing wallpaper

Existing wallpaper can be stripped off easily with the help of steam stripper. Alternatively you can use warm water and scratcher what is recommended in case of ceilings.



Washing the surface

After old wallpaper was removed the surface of wall or ceiling should be cleaned and the old adhesive should be properly removed. Washed and dried wall is ready for new wallpaper. If you want to paint- first apply oil-based undercoat then the water-based emulsion. It prevents any left adhesive to bleed over the new wallpaper.

Stripping wood

A good finish might be achieved by covering the existing paint with paint coat. However if it is in bad condition it is recommended to consider stripping it off. Paint from wood can be stripped off quickly with the heat gun. Two other methods involve using stripper solution or stripping paste.

Filling cracks in walls

For cracks between edges (wall, ceiling and skirting) - we recommend using the filler (caulk). It can be applied with the application gun. It cannot be sanded so must be smoothed by hand before it dries. Some fillers might be painted when dried.

For cracks and holes on walls or ceilings - we recommend using the light filler. It dries quickly and is easy to sand off. Apply it with flexible steel scraper.



Filling cracks in wood

Filling dents and sanding improves the smoothness of woodwork. For filling wood we recommend using the wood filler. The choice of filler depends on whether wood will be painted (powder filler) or left with natural finish (stainable filler). Firstly coat the woodwork with primer and allow it to dry. In final stage apply filler and sand it when dried.



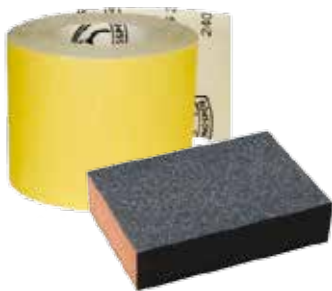
Sanding

Create smooth surface to get the better adhesion of the new paint. For walls the sand paper or sanding plate is recommended. Old paint on woodwork is recommended to be removed totally. Choose sandpaper in accordance to the condition of surfaces. At the end of sanding brushed



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away all dust. On woodwork you can remove the residue with damp cloth before coating with paint.



Masking off

Mask off any difficult areas with masking tape, especially corners and edges of walls, ceilings, floors. You can mask off also all skirtings and covings. Application of tape stops paint to get on the parts that we want to leave unpainted.

Cutting off

Before painting the whole wall/ceiling surface, paint with brush all required bits between walls and ceilings or between walls and woodwork.

Lining paper

In older properties with very poor quality of walls there is often used the lining paper. It is applied before painting to provide more even surface or specially chosen pattern.

If you would like to repair the existing lining paper you should use wallpaper adhesive. Peel back parts of lining paper that is coming away and apply the adhesive, stick it to the wall and wait until dry before painting. To remove the lining paper completely use the steam stripper.

If you would like to lay a new lining paper you will need tools like scissors, sand paper, brushes, rollers, plate to apply adhesive. First of all ensure that wall is dry and smooth the

surface with sand paper (we recommend to use sanding plate on pole). Size the wall with thin layer of glue size (thin watery glue) and let it dry. Cut the lining paper and cover it evenly with the wallpaper glue. To hang the lining paper properly, start laying it closer to a window. Draw a vertical line with the levelling tool and lay first piece of the lining paper. Unfold top part of the lining paper and lay it overlapping the edge of wall, same with the down part. Use brush to smooth the surface and cut the overlapping paper.

Lining paper with thermal insulation

Sometimes you can find the lining paper with thermal insulation which is made of polystyrene pre-laminated with lining paper. Once applied to the wall it can be painted or cover with wall paper. It is used to smooth damaged walls and provide some thermal insulation.

HOW TO REMOVE STAINS AND DAMP PATCHES FROM WALLS?



In order to get rid of stains and damp patches from walls we have to carry out certain estimation and elimination of reasons of their occurrence. If we deal only with top stains, resulting from wall contamination, the case seems to be quite simple to be solved, the only thing is to wash the surface with warm water or a small amount of detergent. Special agents for cleaning walls (soaps and painting fluids) can be perfect in the event of more difficult cases, where we have to clean pitch-like or greasy substances (soot, oils, nicotine smoke).

If stains are a result of flood or constant water penetration or moisture condensation, it's necessary to take more complex actions. First of all, it's essential to remove the reasons of their occurrence and dry out the wall carefully. One-time flood stains can be cleaned and painted by applying a special paint for stains and damp patches.

If, however, moisture is the reason for damp patches and not very aesthetic stains, we might expect a slightly more complex renovation, whose final effect will be dry, and protected against destruction, smooth walls. Oftentimes,

it might involve insulation replacement, roof restoration or ventilation service. There might be various reasons for moisture penetration and each case must be examined and eliminated individually. Otherwise, even the most professional biocidal agents might contribute to temporary effect only.

Only an efficient way of removing reasons of occurrence of stains and damp patches as well as appropriate drying of surfaces can guarantee success of further actions. The aforementioned condition must be met, otherwise stains will re-occur.

4 efficient steps to get rid of stains:

1. Elimination of reasons of stains and damp patches
2. Cleaning walls by using water with a detergent or in the event of more difficult cases, more professional painting agents.
3. Painting out dark and exceptionally difficult stains by applying a paint for special purposes.
4. Painting out the surface by a topcoat paint

Elimination of extremely dark stains from walls is no to difficult nowadays. Access to professional agents and high-quality topcoat paints facilitate this task significantly. A great deal more difficult stage is to estimate and eliminate the reasons of their occurrence.



This paint perfectly isolates all stains and contaminations. Particularly, those heavy ones (greasy, pitch-like), has exceptionally good covering properties, and in the event of fungi and mould stains, prevents from their reoccurrence. It can be applied as a primer (isolating and strengthening the substrate) or a topcoat paint (decorative and protective).

STEP 4. Painting



Order of painting

START FROM TOP DOWN - When walls are ready for painting - start from ceilings, then walls and leaving woodwork and details to be done at the end.

- It is recommended to apply primer first, but you can also use paint as an undercoat. Amount of paint coats depends on the paint quality, colour and existing wall.
- In the next step undercoat all woodwork, doors, windows, skirting, etc. Remember to prepare it first with fillers and sanding where required.
- Next cut in all walls around ceilings and woodwork. Apply paint to ceiling and walls. Number of paint coats depends on paint quality, colour and existing wall. Overlap slightly onto the next surface to ensure proper coverage.
- In the final step apply the topcoat to the woodwork. You may sand it slightly again before painting



PRIMING WALLS BEFORE PAINTING

The purpose of priming is to level up absorptiveness, uniform the substrate surface, strengthen it and improve adhesive properties of the topcoat paints. Another essential role of primers is also a waterproof barrier which is especially important in areas where higher level of moisture occurs

Priming can be performed by using paints and priming agents or primer fillers. Thanks to the special formula, they can level up differences in the texture and colour of the substrate. Application of primers contributes to decreased use of topcoat paints, which consequently decreases performance costs, since the desired effect can be obtained by just one painting.

Priming is intended for first painting of cardboard gypsum panels and substrates of non-uniform texture, cement plasters as well as cement and lime ones used inside of residential areas, public and industrial facilities.

Each new wall ought to be covered by a priming agent. If, however, the wall has been previously painted, priming might not be necessary. In order to check it, we can carry out a simple

test which is to rub the wall by using our palm. If a thin layer can be found on our palm, it indicates necessity to prime the wall. It's recommended to do this test in a few spots and check them by using our palms.

While using primers it's worth bearing in mind that too excessive amount of a primer might 'glaze' the wall, which might prevent from further painting. This is because, the substrate is not absorptive and the product dries out on the surface.

It's recommended to start priming from difficult-to-reach spots and corners. The product must be applied onto the surface by a paintbrush or a small roller (10-15cm width). The remain-

ing surface of wall ought to be painted by using a large roller (18-25cm width), by beginning from wall corners and moving left or right. The paint must be applied vertically, top-bottom, to cover the whole surface. In order to avoid occurrence of streaks, the last application must be carried out from top to bottom.

Only then can we proceed with further painting works. It's crucial to keep to requirements regarding drying time of particular agents before application of others. The final effect of wall painting depends on used agents and the way of their use.

ACRYL-PUTZ® GU40 Universal Polymer Primer enhances adhesive properties and ensures suitable drying of subsequently applied products. Prevents from too fast giving up water to a substrate. Penetrates it and bonds loose aggregates. Provides light satin, transparent and water vapour permeable coats. GU40 Primer is recommended to be used before application of putties, paints, adhesives and levelling coats on ceilings, walls and floors used both indoors and outdoors.



APPLYING THE NATURAL WOOD FINISHES

Natural wood finishes enhance the grain of wood, not cover it completely like in the case of paint. Moreover some have the additional features like wood protection, preservation, nourishment.

The proper choice of the natural wood finish is important, as it is difficult to remove due to its soaking into the wood. Take into account if you prefer to have the almost invisible cover or a coloured finish. Moreover, there are different options for interior or exterior use.

Wood finishes classification

Natural wood finishes enhance the grain of the wood and protect it.

- **Varnish** - matt or high gloss hardwearing decorative preserver
- **Stain** - provides a decorative and preservative finish. Available as matt or gloss, water-based or oil-based
- **Dye** - enhance natural colour, give a matt finish. Available as water-based or oil-based
- **Wax** - gives transparent finish, protects the wood. Gloss finish. Available as water-based or oil-based
- **Oil** - gives transparent finish, protects and nourish wood. Mid sheen finish
- **Wood preserver** - prevents rot and insect damage. Available as matt or gloss, water-based or oil-based

Application

Wood finishes application methods vary:

1. The order of applying stain or wood preserver is similar to painting. You can apply coats to roughly finished wood quickly but if you want to achieve an even coat apply one section of wood before next and ensure they do not overlap where sections join.
2. Wax is applied with the cloth or special wax brush. Repeated application and buffing builds up the colour and sheen; there is no need to apply in the direction of the wood grain.
3. Oil finishes are applied in the same way, in the line with the wood grain.
4. Varnish application also has to follow the grain of the wood. Varnishes are in most cases transparent so it is good to take extra care during the application to ensure the full coverage.
5. To get the best finish dye has to be applied with the grain with special care to not overlap on the sections that are already dry. It is recommended to seal the dye with a protective finish.



WALLPAPERING AS A DECORATIVE OPTION

Some might consider decorating the walls with the wallpaper. There are various options to consider like quality, design, pattern or features like washing. Standards wallpapers and vinyl coated wallpapers are most common. Lining paper provides the base for painting, woodchip paper offers various texture and can be painted, embossed paper disguises uneven surfaces while border paper is used to

divide or frame sections. There are also specialists wallpapers available with hand-printed designs that may require different application method.

We can distinguish between three methods of wallpaper adhesion to the wall surface and classify papers as a paste-the-paper, paste-the-wall or ready-pasted. The ready-pasted wallpapers are coated with the dry

adhesive powder which has to be soaked in water before application. Both paste-the-paper and paste-the-wall wallpapers require the adhesive to be applied before the hanging. Before hanging the wallpaper, the wall should be primed with PVA to seal the walls or alternatively sized with the very diluted wallpaper adhesive. The adhesives are available as ready-mixed or powders.