

Wallpaper **WOW!**

By Kenya McCullum

Your walls may not be able to talk, but they speak volumes about you. And if your walls are screaming for a makeover, one of these wallpaper trends may have your walls — and your rooms — singing a brand new song.

Putting on the glitz. If you're feeling adventurous, metallic wallpaper can give your room the look of glitz and glam. Also, this same sparkling effect can be achieved through wallpaper with glitter and jewels.

At one with nature. You can have your walls commune with nature through both wallpaper designs and materials. Prints with animals and scenes from nature can make your room feel cozy and relaxing, while wallpaper with natural textures — such as wood, cork and grass cloth — can literally bring the great outdoors inside.

Get into shape. Geometry isn't just for math majors: Wallpaper with geometric patterns makes the eyes dance and adds an interesting dimension of shapes and colors to a room.

Let it pop. Vinyl decals such as WallPops can be added to your wallpaper to give it a little something extra. With a variety of shapes, sizes and colors, WallPops are an easy way to change the look of the room anytime you want without replacing the wallpaper.

Add another dimension. Textured wallpaper can give walls a three-dimensional look that makes them interesting and fun. Made with materials like bamboo, pearls and beads, textured wallpaper can make your room look like a work of art — and your guests will be more than a little tempted to touch it.

Retro or modern,
glitzy or understated
— step outside the box
in beautiful style

Quick tip

**Do a lot
with a little**

Concerned about living with your wallpaper choice? Try papering one wall and painting the rest of the room a coordinating color, perhaps the same color as the paper's background. The one-wall option also works well if you fall in love with a beautiful but pricey style. Use just a little, placed for maximum impact, to add pizzazz and individuality to a space.



Picking the right paper

◆ **Consider the area.** It's best to get durable wallpaper for high-traffic areas of your home, or areas where making a mess comes with the territory, like the kitchen

and children's bedrooms. Vinyl wallpaper is a good choice for a kitchen because it can be easily cleaned with soap and water. A flocked style in a bathroom? Not so good.

◆ **Take a look around.** You don't want to make a statement with

your wallpaper at the expense of the rest of the room. Will the paper accent everything else in the space, or stick out like a sore thumb? And since you're probably going to live with a wallpaper choice for a while, a little thought now will save you the hassle later on of replacing something that doesn't work.





The great hang-up

A professional can make hanging wallpaper look easy, but getting a good-looking, long-lasting result is no walk in the park. Here's a quick look at the basics of the process:

Get ready: Prep the wall by spackling and sandpapering to get rid of any imperfections and make the area smooth.

Size up the space: Are the walls nice and plumb or a little uneven? Take that into account for a proper installation.



Know your paper: The most commonly sold wallpaper is pre-pasted vinyl, which is considered relatively easy to install. Specialty papers, such as grass cloth, present their own issues, and professionals warn that getting paste on the front of some papers can ruin them.

Allow extra: Trim the wallpaper about 4 inches longer than needed. If a mishap occurs, it's easier to trim the extra wallpaper than to add a section to the problem area.

Paste up: If the paper is not pre-pasted, you'll need to use a 3/8-inch-nap paint roller to apply an even coat of paste all the way to the edge of each strip, strip by strip. If it's pre-pasted, you will need to loosely roll each strip with the adhesive side out, then immerse it in a trough of cold to lukewarm water, depending on the maker's instructions, until thoroughly wet.

Book it: Whether the adhesive is hand-applied or already on, each wet strip must be "booked" to give the paste a chance to activate. Gently fold over both ends of the piece, being careful not to crease it, so that the ends meet in the middle. Align the paper's edges so that no pasted area is exposed. With most products, the paper should rest like this for 3 to 5 minutes before hanging.

Easy does it: Hang the wallpaper one section at a time. Be sure to take it slow and smooth the paper carefully onto the wall.