



HANGING INSTRUCTIONS

METAL LEAF WALLCOVERINGS

STOP: DO NOT CUT OR INSTALL UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS!

Thank you for choosing Studio Zen Wallcoverings. Metal Leaf wallcoverings are handcrafted using centuries-old Japanese leafing techniques and require professional installation by an experienced paperhanger. The reflective metallic face is highly sensitive to adhesive contact, moisture, pressure, and improper tools. Any damage to the metal leaf surface is permanent. Two-person installation is strongly recommended for aligning the first strip. To find a qualified installer, visit www.ngpp.org.

PREPARATION

Before you cut and hang, please be sure you have:

1. Verify your order. Confirm you have the correct wallcovering pattern, colorway, and sufficient quantity to complete the entire job before cutting anything.
2. **Inspect and arrange all panels before installation.** Unroll and examine every bolt in good lighting. **Check the color and pattern balance of all panels together before cutting or hanging a single strip** — Metal Leaf is handcrafted and each panel has natural subtle variation. Arrange panels for the most balanced shading and visual flow across the room.
3. **The Three-Strip Rule — strictly enforced.** After hanging the first three (3) strips, stop and inspect before proceeding. If any defect is identified, halt installation immediately. **NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) STRIPS INSTALLED ON THE WALL.** All claims must be submitted within 30 days of invoice date. No labor claims will be accepted at any time.

BUILDING & MATERIAL CONDITIONS: The building must be weather-tight with HVAC settings the same as those of an occupied building for three days prior to, throughout, and three days after installation. The wallcovering must be stored at normal occupied building temperature and humidity for at least three days prior to installation. All adhesives and primers must be new, good quality, commercial grade materials, which have not been contaminated.

WALL PREPARATION

1. Metal Leaf must be installed on **absorbent surfaces only** — gypsum board or mortar. **Do not install on non-absorbent surfaces** such as metal panels, glass, or waterproof board — the adhesive will not dry correctly and corrosion and discoloration will result.
2. Apply filler and sealant to create a perfectly smooth, flat surface. Use joint tape on all drywall joints. Any surface irregularity will show through after installation.
3. Apply a hard, acrylic, pigmented wall-protecting primer **specifically made for wallcovering installation and wall protection. Do not use R-35.**
4. Allow primer to dry thoroughly before hanging.



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Liner Paper — Optional but Strongly Recommended: Studio Zen Wallcoverings strongly recommends a high-quality liner beneath all Metal Leaf wallcoverings. Any wall imperfection — seams, bumps, or texture — will show through the finished installation. A liner also absorbs excess adhesive, preventing bleed-through to the metallic face. It is one of the most important steps for a flawless result.

INSTALLATION

ADHESIVE

1. Use a **clear, premixed vinyl adhesive with a neutral pH (6–8)**, mixed with the adhesive strengthener recommended by the manufacturer. Do not use clay-based, wheat, cellulose, or alkaline adhesives — alkaline adhesives will permanently tarnish and discolor the metallic surface.
2. Adhesive may be applied using a pasting machine or by hand roller. **Apply a lighter coat than you would for standard wallcovering** — less adhesive dries faster and minimizes the risk of surface impact.
3. Allow an open time of approximately **5 minutes** before hanging. The adhesive should be tacky. Use a soft brush to apply — do not use a hard roller on the pasted back.
4. **Adhesive must never contact the face of the wallcovering.** If paste reaches the face, wipe immediately with a barely damp clean cloth, then with a fresh damp cloth, then dry at once. Perspiration on hands and tools can also cause permanent discoloration — work with clean, dry hands.
5. Apply adhesive and hang **one strip at a time**. Do not stack pasted strips.

FOLDING & HANDLING

1. After pasting, fold the strip loosely to carry it to the wall. **Never press down on the fold** — pressure damages the metal leaf and creates irreversible white streaks.
2. Metal leaf wallcovering does not stretch or shrink. Handle gently and do not force strips into position.

LAYOUT & TRIMMING

1. Use a laser level to establish a plumb reference line before hanging the first strip. Two-person installation is strongly recommended for aligning the first strip accurately.
2. Cut strips to height leaving a 2" margin at top and bottom. Use a sharp, new blade for every cut.
3. Before trimming at ceiling and floor, use a **bamboo or thin plastic spatula** to gently crease along the corner line. Do not apply heavy pressure. Use a thin cutting spatula for final trimming.

SEAMING

1. **Overlap and double cut** is the required seaming method. Overlap adjacent strips by approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " and cut through both layers simultaneously with a straightedge and sharp utility knife. Remove offcuts and press the seam flat with a soft roller. **Pre-cutting for butt joints is not recommended.**
2. Apply 2" painter's tape behind the overlap area before cutting to protect the lower panel from adhesive residue at the seam.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY



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1. Metal leaf wallcovering is electrically conductive. Before working near any outlet, switch, or fixture, **switch off the circuit at the breaker panel.** Trim carefully so no metallic material contacts exposed wiring, receptacle boxes, or grounding wires.

2. Do not reinstall outlet covers, switch plates, or any electrical fixtures until the adhesive is completely dry. Installing metal covers over wet adhesive creates an ionic reaction that causes permanent corrosion and discoloration of the metallic face around the fixture.

HANGING

1. Use a **soft-bristle brush** to smooth the wallcovering from the center outward. **Do not use a squeegee** — any trapped grit causes permanent scratches and tears.

2. If air bubbles appear, gently peel the strip back and reposition — do not force flat. Forcing creates permanent wrinkles.

3. Wipe excess adhesive off the face immediately with a damp cloth, then with a fresh clean damp cloth, then dry at once with a dry cloth. **No moisture or adhesive residue may remain on the surface.**

4. Use low-tack painter's tape along edges of installed strips to protect adjacent material. **Never apply adhesive tape directly to the metal leaf face.**

AFTER INSTALLATION

1. Do not force-dry the installation — avoid running air conditioning, heating, or opening windows to accelerate drying. Forced airflow causes gaps and lifting at seams.

2. Allow the wallcovering to dry naturally at normal room temperature. Full cure takes approximately 2 days.

3. Do not allow other trades to work in the space until the installation is fully dry — protect the surface from scratches and contact at all times.



■ Watch the installation video

Japanese with English subtitles

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1S9hCXnd40>

MATERIAL & CARE

Studio Zen Metal Leaf wallcoverings feature a genuine metallic face handcrafted using traditional Japanese leafing techniques and sealed with a resin finish. Any damage cannot be repaired individually — affected panels require full reinstallation.

NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Drying time. Allow approximately 2 days to fully cure. The surface remains soft and scratch-prone during this period — avoid all contact until completely dry.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Routine dusting. Dust gently with a clean dry feather duster or the soft brush attachment of a vacuum cleaner on its lowest setting.



Condensation & humidity. Condensation and sustained humidity can cause staining, mold, and rust on the metallic foil. Maintain stable indoor climate and ensure adequate ventilation. Not suitable for bathrooms or high-humidity environments.

Tarnishing. Avoid contact with alkaline cleaners, bleach, ammonia, chemicals, sprays, solvents, or paint — all cause permanent discoloration.

Scratching. The metallic face scratches easily and scratches are permanent. Avoid contact with hard, sharp, or abrasive objects. Never apply adhesive tape to the face.

Damage. Foil peeling, discoloration, and scratches cannot be restored. Affected panels require full reinstallation.

Spot cleaning. For light marks, wipe gently with a barely damp cloth using warm water. For stubborn marks, use a very diluted neutral detergent solution. Wipe clean with a fresh damp cloth, then **dry completely** with a dry cloth immediately. No moisture may remain on the surface.

Moisture & perspiration. Leftover moisture, adhesive residue, or perspiration will cause permanent discoloration. Always wipe thoroughly dry after any cleaning.

Do not use abrasive products, chemical cleaners, polishes, solvents, or steam on the metallic surface.