

PCA P16

Wallcovering Removal in Preparation for New Finishes or Wallcovering

1. Scope

- 1.1 This Standard defines criteria to determine if wallcovering has been properly removed.
- 1.2 It is the intent of this document to apply to all substrates including drywall, plaster, wood, hardboard, metal, plastic, compositional materials, etc., to which any type of wallcovering has been previously applied and is to be removed in preparation for new finishes or wallcovering.

2. Significance and Use

- 2.1 It is not uncommon for other entities to remove wallcovering in preparation for subsequent work to be performed by the Painting Contractor.
- 2.2 The contract documents are often unclear about specific scope of work functions to be completed by the entity removing wallcovering in preparation for new finishes or wallcovering. This Standard clarifies that concern.

3. Definitions and Trade Terms

- 3.1 Definitions and Trade Terms see P9.

4. Reference Documents and Standards

- 4.1 Reference Documents and Standards see P9.

5. Standard Specification

- 5.1 Unless directly specified otherwise, wallcovering removal shall include the performance of the following work functions:
 - 5.1.1 All wallcovering material will be physically removed from designated surfaces.
 - 5.1.2 All wallcovering material shall be properly disposed in accordance with local and federal codes and requirements.
 - 5.1.3 All wallcovering adhesive shall be removed from the surfaces to subsequently receive new finishes or wallcovering.

- 5.1.3.1** Water-soluble adhesives shall be removed by thoroughly washing with clean potable water that may contain detergents or enzymes to aid in adhesive removal. All surfaces shall be thoroughly rinsed with clean potable water to remove any residue.
- 5.1.3.2** Adhesives that are not water soluble shall be removed using appropriate solvents or equipment as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.
- 5.1.4** When wallcovering is removed by an entity other than the Painting Contractor, sanding of the adhesive in lieu of removal is not acceptable as surface preparation.
- 5.1.5** Any mildew, other organic material, or other contaminant present on the surface after the wallcovering is removed shall be eradicated in a manner consistent with the specific contaminant.
- 5.1.6** Surfaces from which wallcovering is physically removed are often damaged during the removal process. All required patching, filling, floating, or replacement of surfaces (including finish quality sanding) shall be a part of the scope of work of wallcovering removal. It is recognized that the extent of the work operations necessary to complete substrate repair is usually not foreseeable until the wallcovering has been removed. The materials used for patching, filling, floating, or replacement must have sufficient adhesive and cohesive strengths to support the paint system or wall covering specified to be applied by the Painting Contractor.
- 5.1.7** At the completion of wallcovering removal, all designated surfaces should be ready to receive new finishes or wallcovering. When the surface from which the wallcovering was removed is gypsum board, the specified level of finish shall be attained. If quality of appearance of a surface, prior to finishing, is judged marginal or unacceptable by others conducting essential inspection, such alleged defective work must be corrected by others prior to the Painting Contractor beginning work.



6. Comments

- 6.1 This Standard establishes criteria for proper wallcovering removal in preparation of new finishes or wallcovering.
- 6.2 This Standard clarifies areas of responsibility. Improved communication reduces misunderstandings.
- 6.3 This Standard is a nationally recognized consensus document for the painting and coating industry's work practices.

7. Disclaimer of Liability

- 7.1 PCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.