

Vacarda

V A C A R D A   D E S I G N

---

## THE PLASTER SHEET HANDLING GUIDE

---

## OVERVIEW

- [PLASTER SHEET DO & DON'T](#) - Page 3
- [OPENING THE PLASTER SHEET PACKAGE](#) - Page 3
- [TRIMMING THE PLASTER SHEET](#) - Page 4
- [PLASTER SHEET APPLICATION](#) - Page 5
  - ◇ [STEP 1: PREPARE THE SURFACE](#) - Page 5
  - ◇ [STEP 2: MAKE ALIGNMENT MARKS](#) - Page 5
  - ◇ [STEP 3: PREPARE THE PLASTER SHEET](#) - Page 6
  - ◇ [STEP 4: APPLY ADHESIVE](#) - Page 6
  - ◇ [STEP 5: INSTALLING THE PLASTER](#) - Page 7
- [APPLYING A LARGE PLASTER SHEET](#) - Page 8
- [REMOVING THE PLASTER SHEET](#) - Page 9
- [TRANSPORTIN THE PLASTER SHEET](#) - Page 10
- [CLEANING & MAINTENANCE](#) - Page 11
- [FIXING WEAR & TEAR](#) - Page 11

## PLASTER SHEET DO & DON'T

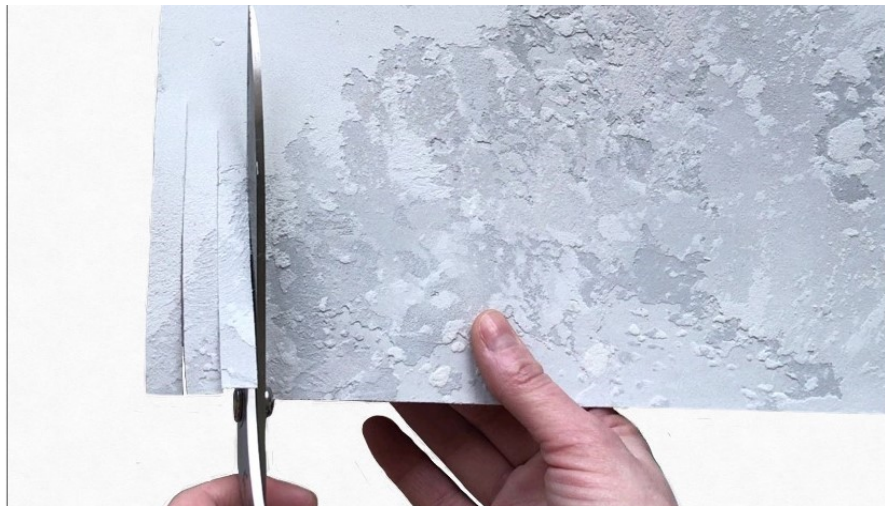
- **DO KEEP IT FLAT AND STRAIGHT.** When you receive your mural, lie it flat on a straight, firm surface like the floor or a desk, if it is the right size. This will allow the sheet to take its flat shape before you put it on the wall.
- If you need to temporarily place the mural on a rug or any other soft and bouncy surface, **DO NOT WALK OR PLACE ANYTHING ON TOP OF THE MURAL.** The plaster has a good memory, and it will bend and possibly break under the weight of your feet or any other objects.
- **DO NOT FOLD** or bend the sheet. While the sheet is pliable, folding it will damage the plaster, creating cracks in the surface. If you need to move the sheet during installation, put it back on a roll or keep it straight by holding the sheet at the edges.
- **TRY NOT TO** keep your mural on a roll for longer than a few weeks. The plaster sheet adapts to the surface it is placed on and might, with time, acquire a curved shape.

## OPENNING THE PLASTER SHEET PACKAGE

- Remove the outer packaging from the roll.
- **Unroll the plaster sheet gently on the floor** or any other straight, firm and clean surface (make sure it is big enough) and let the sheet rest there before you put it on the wall.
- When unrolling the mural, **DO NOT press the plaster sheet down or step on it.** If it appears warped in places, let the sheet stay flat on the floor until it straightens out.
- **If any cracks or bends appeared on the surface,** cover them with a strong masking/paper tape to prevent those areas from bending until the sheet is applied onto the wall. See **Care & Maintenance** for additional tips on how to fix warps and cracks.

## TRIMMING THE PLASTER SHEET

- **Always add a couple of mm margin to your desired measurements on each side before you cut the sheet to compensate for possible shrinkage.**
- Use one of the following tools:
  - ◊ **For small cuts**, use a sharp pair of fabric scissors.
  - ◊ **For long, straight cuts**, use a fabric rotary cutter, a ruler and a cutting mat.
- If you use a rotary cutter, make sure you use it with a cutting mat (or mdf board) to protect your surfaces.
- You will also need a hard-edge ruler to guide the blade to make a straight, clean-cut line. For large sheets, you can use a 3mm MDF board/ hardboard to guide the blade.
- When trimming your plaster, **always cut from the excess side**. This way, if you make a wrong cut, it will not damage the plaster. **Cut slowly** to ensure your plaster receives an accurate trim.



## PLASTER SHEET APPLICATION

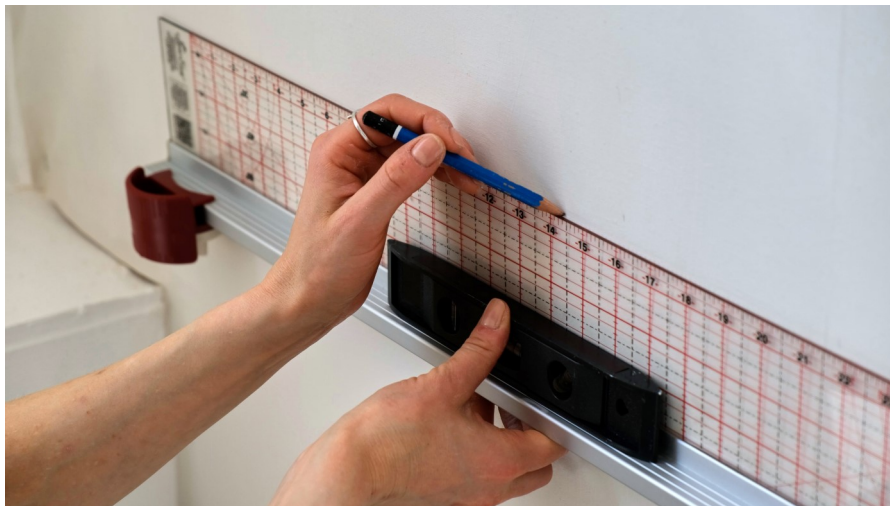
**You will need:** Wallpaper adhesive, a brush, a clean cloth, a pencil, a ruler, and a level guide.

### STEP 1: PREPARE THE SURFACE

- When applying, make sure your wall surface is well sealed, clean, and not porous. If your wall is painted, **wipe it clean to remove the dust and dry.**
- For application to any other surfaces (for example, wood), seal the surface with a varnish or several coats of water-based paint.
- **If the wall surface is unsealed, it will be difficult to remove the mural without damaging it.**

### STEP 2: MAKE ALIGNMENT MARKS

- Find a centre point on the wall and a corresponding middle point on the plaster sheet. Mark both points with a pencil.
- Mark additional alignment points on the wall and the sheet every 50 cm on the each side from the centre mark. These are your guiding alignment points. **Use a spirit level to keep your lines straight.**



### STEP 3: PREPARE THE PLASTER SHEET

- If the sheet edges are covered with a protective tape, gently remove it.
- **Check the sheet edges for any loose threads.** If you spot any, use sharp fabric scissors to snip them away. Make sure you **hold the sheet facing the backside towards** you so that you don't cut the plaster.
- If you notice cracks in the plaster, cover them with a strong masking/paper tape until you apply the sheet to the wall. This will stop the sheet from bending in those areas until it is applied.



### STEP 4: APPLY ADHESIVE

*A general wallpaper adhesive, such as Solvite, should be enough to keep the plaster sheet on the wall.*

*For a stronger grip, you might want to use Extra Strong wallpaper adhesive, although it might make it hard to remove the plaster sheet from the wall without damaging the sheet once the adhesive dries.*

- Prepare your wallpaper adhesive paste. Do not make it too watery or runny. The paste should be a cream-like consistency.
- Apply the paste to the plaster sheet backside using the brush or, with large wall murals, apply the paste directly to the wall. **Remove any paste lumps on the surface.**
- **Make sure you have enough paste on the sheet edges as they tend to dry faster.** If the paste is quickly absorbed, you will need to reapply it.
- Note that the plaster will start absorbing the moisture once pasted and will become softer and more pliable.
- **If the plaster sheet is old or re-used,** apply the adhesive on the back of the plaster sheet and let it soak before putting IT up on the wall.





#### STEP 5: INSTALL THE PLASTER

- **Hold the plaster at the top corners** without applying too much pressure. **Avoid creating folds and creases in the sheet.**
- Align the markings, starting from the centre point, on the wall and the sheet.
- **Gently press the sheet top edge against the surface** you apply it to.
- **Double check that all alignment points match.** If you need to reposition the plaster, gently slide or lift it off the surface and re-apply.
- When you are happy with the plaster position, firmly press the sheet to the wall surface using a clean, dry cloth from its centre to the edges, **pushing excess paste and air out.**
- **If you notice any edges do not stick well**, apply more paste on the backside in this area and press it against the surface for a few seconds.
- **wipe off any excess paste** from the sheet edges. **DO NOT** rub the plaster with the cloth as it might push the adhesive into the surface of the plaster sheet and create stains.



## APPLYING A LARGE PLASTER SHEET

*You can put up the plaster sheet from the roll. You will need two -three people to assist you with this installation process.*

- Once you mark all your alignment points, **put the sheet back on the roll**. Make **sure it is rolled up tightly** to avoid breaking the surface when lifting the roll up.
- Hold the roll in the position from where you begin to apply the sheet, lift the top sheet edge with the markings and align it with those on the wall.
- Press the sheet edge to the wall and hold it firmly in aligned position.
- While pressing the sheet edge, unroll the sheet slowly and, moving with the roll, firmly push the rest of the plaster sheet to the wall surface.
- Watch closely that the sheet edge is aligned to the markings and remains straight while you apply the rest of the sheet to the wall.
- If you need to realign the plaster, roll it back towards the point where its position needs to be corrected, lift it lightly off the wall and reposition.



TOP TO BOTTOM ROLLING



SIDE TO SIDE ROLLING



## REMOVING THE PLASTER SHEET

If you followed the preparation steps carefully, it will be easy to remove your mural from the wall in a few simple steps:

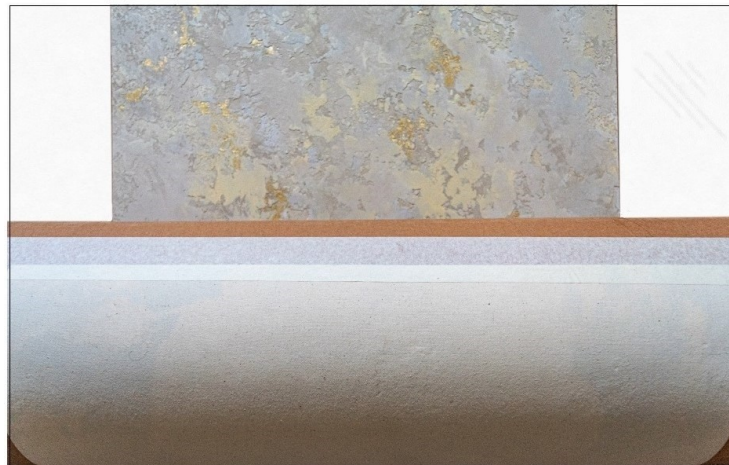
- Lift one of the bottom corners of the sheet and slowly start pulling it off the wall.
- **Keep the sheet facing downwards and at a wide angle.** Pulling the sheet at a sharp angle might stretch it and create cracks.
- If the sheet is stuck, spray some water under the space you're lifting. Leave the sheet for 10-15 minutes, or as required, and then use a spatula to help ease the sheet's grip on the surface.
- When you lift the bottom part of the sheet, place it on the tube that came with the packaging and gently roll the mural upwards as it comes off the wall.
- Once the sheet has come off, lie it flat on the floor or any other firm, clean surface. Inspect it for cracks or warps, and let it rest there for some time until it is entirely flat.



## TRANSPORTING THE PLASTER SHEET

The best way to transport your mural is on a tube with 20+ cm diameter. It is easy to put it on, just remember to follow these tips for keeping the mural safe.

- Place the tube at the edge of the plaster sheet and fix it in this position with a wide masking tape.
- Roll the sheet around the tube tightly, keeping the edges aligned on both sides.
- Secure the edges with several layers of a masking tape. **Make sure the sheet is firmly fixed in position** on the roll and will not slide off the tube if it is placed upright.
- **For long-distance travel**, wrap the mural with industrial stretch film to make it watertight.
- Next, cover the mural with several layers of a recyclable bubble or paper wrap and secure it with a strong tape.
- Place the tube inside an outer tube shell add the endcaps and secure them with industrial staples or strong fibre tape. You can also transport the sheet in a crate or a sturdy box.



## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- **To keep it dust-free**, brush the plaster surface with a duster or dry, non-fluff cloth when required.
- **To remove occasional markings**, use a soft pencil eraser or lightly damp, undyed, non-fluff cloth and rub the surface with it gently.
- **To remove light dirt and stains**, gently rub the plaster with a lightly damp, undyed, non-fluff piece of cloth. For stronger stains, add a teardrop of clear washing-up liquid or soap to the cloth before you gently rub the stained surface with it.
- **If the plaster is used in the areas of high humidity**, i.e., bathrooms and kitchens, or in **high-traffic areas** where the plaster surface is touched often, you might want to reapply protective sealant once or twice a year to keep the surface protected from moisture and dirt.

## FIXING WEAR & TEAR

Minor cracks might appear on the surface naturally with time or if the plaster sheet has been damaged during handling or installation. If this happens, do not panic. The cracks only appear in the top plaster surface layer, while the woven backing remains undamaged.

Here is how you can fix cracks and bends in the surface:

- Lie the plaster sheet flat on the floor or any other straight, firm surface of a suitable size (make sure it is clean and dry) and put a balanced/flat weight on the cracked area until it straightens out. A good option is a wooden board to keep the plaster flat and stable.
- The plaster has a good memory, and it naturally takes the shape of the surface it is applied to. **Leaving the plaster sheet flat on the floor** is usually enough to allow it to straighten out.
- **For older or reused plaster sheet**, lightly spray the damaged area with clean water and let it absorb for 10-15 minutes before you put the weight on it. Make sure the plaster sheet has softened where you sprayed it before placing it under the weight.
- **For transportation**, cover the cracked area and the sheet edges with a sticky paper tape, such as brown paper tape. This will keep damaged areas in check preventing cracks from growing.

**Always remember to handle your plaster sheet with care to prevent extra damage.**