

# Common Paint Problems: Painting over Vinyl Wallcoverings



**MPNZA do not recommend painting over any wallcoverings unless those wallcoverings have been designed to do so, such as Anaglypta or lining paper, for the following reasons:**

- Vinyl coated wallcoverings contain plasticisers. These plasticisers provide flexibility to the vinyl coating on the surface of the wallcovering. Painting over these types of products with acrylic or water based paint can result in the solvents in the paint dissolving the plasticiser in the vinyl wallcovering and leaching into the acrylic paint film. This will result in subsequent top coats remaining tacky, making it extremely sensitive to dust and grime retention and impossible to clean.
- The dye in some older vinyl wallcoverings may be solubilised and bleed through the acrylic coating when painted over with acrylic or water based paints. Wallcoverings with gold and silver print are particularly susceptible to this. Subsequent coats of acrylic or water based paint will not hold the bleeding dye.
- Painting directly over the wallcovering with water based or acrylic coatings can result in the rewetting of the wallcovering adhesive causing the wallcovering edges to lift and bubbling to occur.
  - It is always best practice to remove the wallcovering and prepare the wallboard prior to applying a sealer and 2 top coats of suitable paint.
  - If painting over the wallcoverings is still your preferred option then the following is suggested to prevent the problems that may occur as outlined above:
    1. Clean down the areas to be painted using Sugar Soap. Vinyl paper should be lightly sanded to break the glaze.
    2. Apply one coat of **Oil Based Pigmented Sealer**.
    3. Apply two coats of an appropriate top coat

**All preparation and painting works should be to the A/S 2311:2017 Painting of Buildings**



Master Painters NZ Association Po Box 39-120 Lower Hutt 5045 – PH 04 472 5870

Email [phil.wilkinson@masterpainters.org.nz](mailto:phil.wilkinson@masterpainters.org.nz) [www.masterpainters.co.nz](http://www.masterpainters.co.nz)