Heather Ross
BY HAND

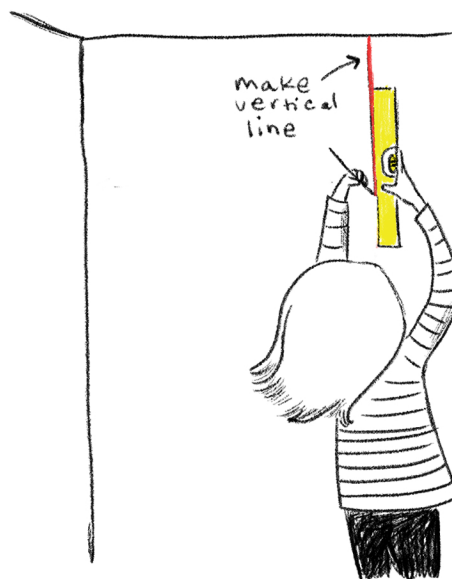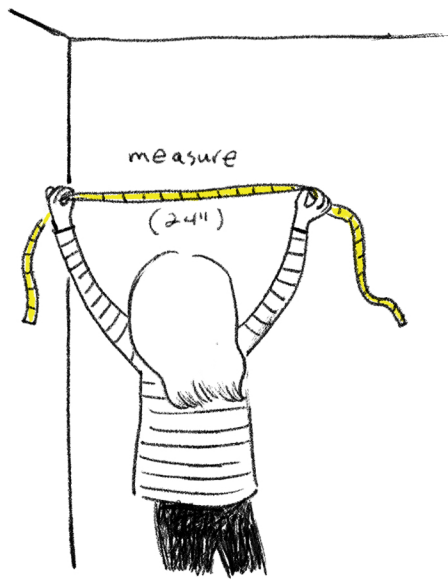## Installing Your HRbh Wall Mural

Tools and Materials:

tape measure
a straight-edge with level
sharp pencil
scissors
snap-off blade utility knife*
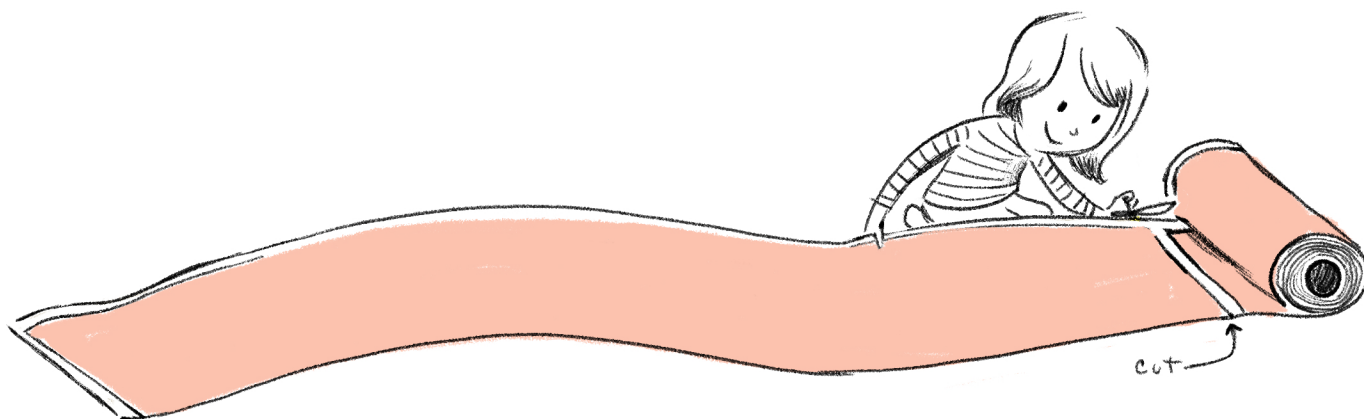squeegee or wallpaper smoothing tool
stepladder

*Our wall covering substrate, which is more like a thick textile than a paper, wears down blades quickly. A sharp blade makes trimming along edges and around obstacles much, much, easier, while a dull blade can make for a very frustrating installation. We like the snap-off blades for this reason, but you can use a sharp mat knife too, just be sure to have some additional blades at the ready.
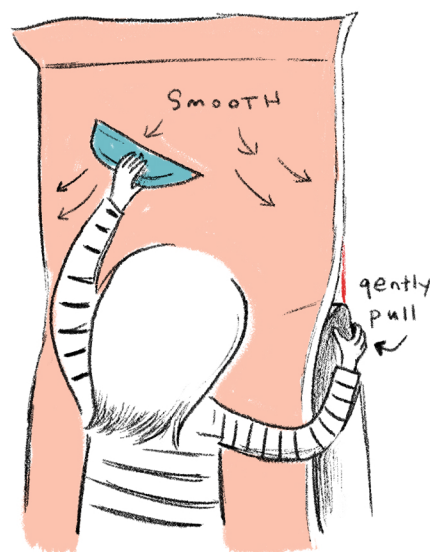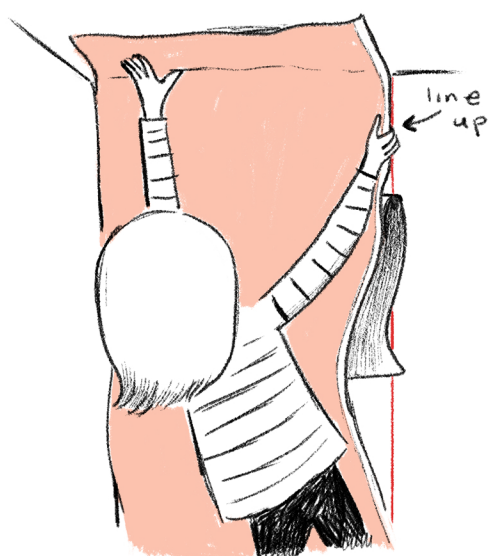
Instructions

Start with a clean, dry wall. Remove any electrical outlet face-plates. Measure the width of your wallpaper. Starting on the left end of the wall, measure and mark this width on your wall, marking the spot at about chest height in pencil. Now, using your level, draw a straight, vertical line from the top of the wall to the bottom. You'll only do this step once, just for the first panel, which will act as a guide for the remaining panels, so take the time to get it right.
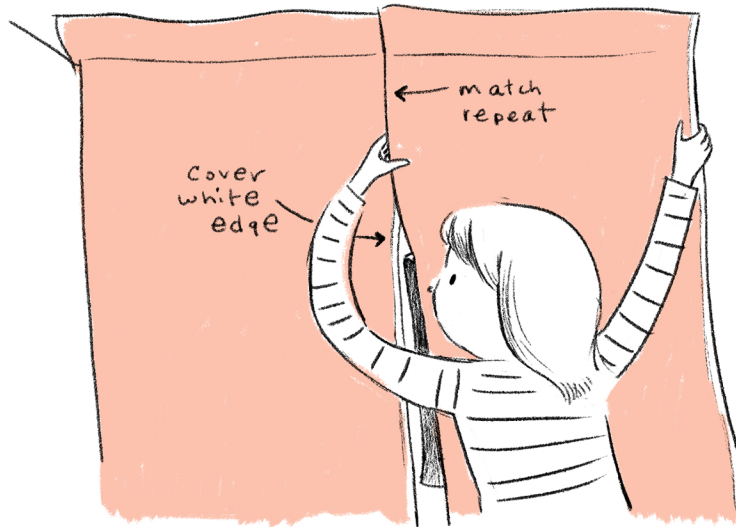
Unroll your wall mural until you reach the end of the first panel. Cut the panel off from the rest of the roll carefully along the top edge of the next panel. Position your ladder. Un-peel about 10-12 inches of the backing from the top edge of your first panel. Press your wallpaper onto the top of your wall, carefully positioning it so that it's right edge matches up with your pencil line, and the top edge is about two inches above the top of the wall. (Leaving a little extra artwork at the top edge is important because very few walls are exactly "square".) If you need to reposition it, pull it off and start again. It's important to get this first panel correct.
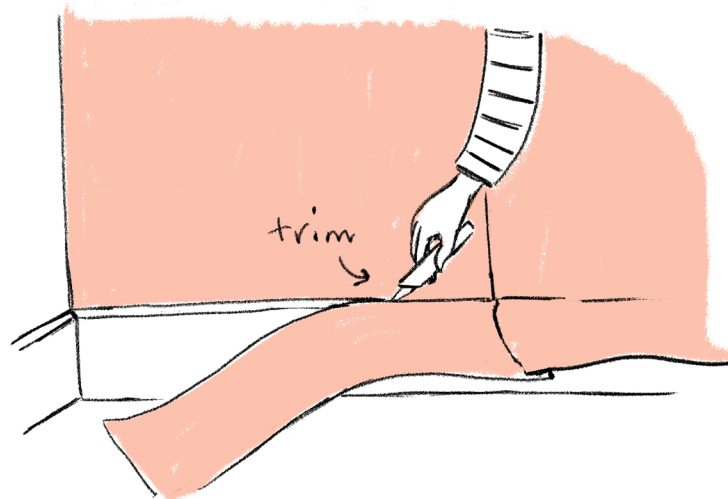

cut

Once you have the edge of the panel lined up with your pencil line, let the panel fall towards the floor and hang naturally. Reach behind it with both hands and slowly pull down the paper backing. Pull down a few inches and then, using your squeegee tool, press the wallpaper against the wall. Do this with slow, even strokes; working from the center of the panel to it's outer edges. If you get off track (watch that pencil line!) you can peel it off and start again, but do so carefully and evenly. Avoid allowing the sticky side of the panel to touch any other part of the panel, as getting them apart again will be very difficult. Repeat these steps: pulling off the backing a few inches at a time, then smoothing it against the wall in downward strokes from the center out, until you reach the bottom of the wall. Leave any excess hanging for the moment, you will trim them all at one time after all the panels are hung.

line up

SMOOTH

gently pull

Your next panel is designed to overlap the first panel slightly, covering the unprinted edge. Start at the top and install it as before, this time matching the left edge of the panel to the edge of the artwork on the first panel. If you have windows or outlets, use your utility knife to carefully cut around the openings as you install the paper over them.

match
repeat

cover
white
edge

When your wall is completely covered, use your straight edge and your utility knife to trim along the top, bottom, and if needed, sides of your wall, changing blades if necessary.

trim

If you prefer not to see the "seam" created by the overlapping edges, you can use the "double-cutting" method to remove the overlap, giving you a more seamless appearance. Be sure, however, to use an extremely sharp knife. This technique is effective but requires a steady hand, as mistakes will be visible. You can watch a video about the double-cutting technique here (LINK)