

Sisal Grasscloth Wallpaper — Information Guide

Sisal is a natural fiber harvested from the agave plant. Fibers are sun-dried, dyed, and hand-woven into a grasscloth face, then laminated to a paper backing to create the wallcovering. Because this is a hand-crafted, natural product, small irregularities in fiber thickness, weave, and color are inherent and part of its appeal.

Material Characteristics *(What You Will See)*

- **Seam visibility:** Grasscloth is installed in vertical panels (drops). Seams are visible by design and create a paneled, textural look. If a perfectly uniform, seam-less appearance is desired, consider a faux/vinyl alternative instead of true grasscloth.
- **Shading and dye variation:** Expect tonal shifts between panels and even within a roll. Designers often 'shade' the room by pre-laying panels, alternating or reverse-hanging every other strip to blend subtle differences.
- **Texture variation:** Natural fibers produce slubs, tiny knots, and variation in strand width. These catch light differently and are not defects.
- **UV light fading:** All natural fibers lighten over time, especially in direct sun. Darker colors show change sooner; indirect light and UV-filtering treatments help slow fading. Expect subtle lightening within months in strong sun and a gentle mellowing over years.

Pre-Installation Planning *(What To Do Before You Hang)*

- **Acclimate & inspect:** Deliver rolls to the jobsite and acclimate in the room for 48 – 72 hours. Verify quantity and that all rolls are the same dye lot. Unwrap and examine for shading; group and label panels to balance tone around the room.
- **Layout & overage:** Pre-lay the sequence on the floor/table. Reverse-hang alternate strips as needed. Order 10 – 15% extra for layout flexibility and future repairs.
- **Wall preparation:** Walls must be smooth, clean, dry, and primed with a high-quality wallcovering primer/sealer (often tinted to a similar tone) to hide minute gaps at seams and aid future removal.
- **Marking & cutting:** Snap a plumb line for the first strip. Cut each drop to height with ~2" extra at top and bottom for trimming. Number strips to maintain sequence.

Installation Essentials *(For Professional Installers & Informed Clients)*

- **Adhesive:** Use a high-quality, clear, non-staining adhesive (e.g., cellulose or premium clear). Do not dilute. Apply paste to the back of the strip (not the face).
- **Booking:** Fold pasted sides together ('book') and rest ~3 minutes to activate paste and relax fibers. Avoid over-soaking, which can loosen the bond between grass veneer and backing.
- **Hanging:** Butt seams edge-to-edge (never overlap). Smooth gently from center to edges. Do not use a hard seam roller; excessive pressure can crush fibers or cause discoloration.
- **Clean handling:** Prevent paste or water from contacting the face. Any residue can stain natural fibers. Keep tools, hands, and edges clean; blot oozing immediately and gently.
- **Corners & trimming:** Change blades frequently on every cut to avoid fraying. Natural fibers don't bend crisply around outside corners — consider trimming at the corner or a controlled double-cut technique.

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Environment & Suitability *(Where It Works Best)*

Ideal in dry, low-touch rooms such as living rooms, dining rooms, adult bedrooms, studies, and formal entries. Avoid bathrooms with showers/tubs, damp laundry rooms, or splash-prone kitchen zones. In a powder room, use good ventilation and consider a protective backsplash or wainscot.

Care & Maintenance *(How To Live With It)*

Vacuum lightly with a soft brush attachment along the weave to remove dust. Do not wet-clean or use solvents — water and cleaners can cause staining or dye bleed. Most liquid stains are permanent; prevention is key (chair rails, felt bumpers on frames, mindful furniture placement).

Durability & Wear *(What To Expect Over Time)*

Sisal grasscloth is a decorative finish. It can scuff or fray with abrasion and will gradually mellow in tone, especially in sunlit areas. With proper placement and gentle care, it ages gracefully for many years.

Repairs & Touch-Ups *(Set Realistic Expectations)*

Spot repairs are difficult to camouflage due to weave and color variation. Plan to replace the entire panel (floor-to-ceiling) if damage occurs. Save at least one unopened roll from the original dye lot for future repairs.

Key Specs & Quick Reference

- Seams: Visible by design; paneled effect is normal.
- Shading: Expect tonal variation between/within rolls; plan sequence and consider reverse-hanging.
- UV Fading: Natural lightening over time; use UV window treatments and consider lighter colorways in bright rooms.
- Moisture Sensitivity: Not for wet/humid rooms; liquids can permanently stain.
- Adhesive & Booking: Clear, non-staining adhesive; do not dilute; book ~3 minutes; avoid over-soaking.
- Handling: Do not use paste machines or hard seam rollers; keep paste off the face.
- Prep: Smooth, clean, primed walls (often tinted primer); plumb first strip; cut with ~2" trim allowances.
- Overage: Order 10 – 15% extra; save an unopened roll for repairs.

Note: Installation guidance aligns with industry best practices for natural grasscloth. Always follow the specific hanging instructions supplied with your material.