

Information & guidance on protective finishes for all de Gournay wallpapers



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Durability of Construction Types

Each de Gournay construction type offers a different set of performance characteristics when exposed to abrasion or wetting and consideration should be given to these as well as the visual qualities when making choices between construction types appropriate for a particular project. Scenic Paper & Dyed Paper exist at the most durable end of the range offering considerable water-proof and rub resistance in their natural state, while in the middle typically would be grounds such as Dyed Silk & Metallic Xuan Paper. At the most fragile end of the range are the flat painted surface grounds, Painted Silk, Williamsburg, Painted Paper and in these it is best to assume no wetting is allowed.

Gilded constructions have a well glazed surface as standard to control tarnishing and damage so without even the standard protective glazing being specified as an additional finish these grounds are the most durable of all.

Standard Protective Glazing

de Gournay offer a standard protective glazed finish using an acrylic water based sealing product as an additional option on all wallpapers except for the paper backed fabrics which have a different treatment (see below).

A number of de Gournay's wallpaper constructions, such as our Williamsburg, are susceptible to water damage and can not be wiped or cleaned in any way. For these products the standard protective glazing reduces the damage caused by water and increases the dry abrasion resistance. It is important to be aware that although the performance of the product is significantly increased as compared to the untreated versions, the total level of protection stops well short of offering a water-proof or durable surface. In fact the level of protection offered by the standard glazing is a compromise between de Gournay's desire to minimise the change in appearance of the product caused by the protective layers and the need to provide extra protection.

Glazed Surface Finishes

The surface appearance of each de Gournay wallpaper construction type is a planned part of that construction. For example the Dyed Silk construction has a light reflecting subtle sheen, while Williamsburg has a very flat distemper type effect completely without reflections and Gilded Paper has an almost mirror like shine. As far as possible de Gournay match the finish of the glaze product used to the original surface of the construction type to try and maintain its original nature, so for example a dead flat finish is used on top of the Williamsburg construction, but some change is inevitable and in the vast

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majority of cases the protected product loses a degree of beauty when compared to the unprotected one.

The negative effect that glazing has on the appearance of wallpapers which obtain part of their beauty from the degree of contrast between the design and the background should be borne in mind when deciding upon the use of a glaze. A common example of this is the wide use in the Japanese & Korean Collection of designs with a very matt paint finish on top of medium or high shine metallic backgrounds. In these cases the application of any glazed finish on top of the design and background will effectively cancel the contrast and therefore significantly change the overall appearance. de Gournay finds the best compromise is achieved by using a Satin finish to the whole surface, but best of all is to avoid the need to glaze at all.

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Custom Glazing For Greater Protection

Where a greater level of protection than is offered by the Standard Protective Glazing is required, de Gournay will create a custom glazed surface to the clients' specifications. At the expense of changes to the product surface which may impair its beauty, almost any degree of protection can be obtained. In such cases de Gournay will make samples for the client showing the glaze options for the degree of protection that is required before proceeding with production and the client will have a choice of Dead Flat, Satin or High Gloss surfaces.

In most instances, clients asking de Gournay for a custom glazed finish to the wallpaper will also need to re glaze the surface after installation to ensure the joints and edges are protected to the same degree as the design surface. de Gournay can supply additional glaze product for this purpose. In such cases and where the final surface required is a Dead Flat one, the manufactured product from de Gournay must be supplied with a Satin Finish. The reason for this is that the Dead Flat finish product can appear partially opaque when applied too thickly so it is recommended that no more than two layers of it be used in total.

Protective Finishes For Paper-backed Fabrics

de Gournay's paper-backed fabric wallpapers (Slub Silk Wallpaper & Damask Wallpaper) can not be glazed as described above. However, these products can be ordered with de Gournay's own factory applied protective layer which renders them water repellent and wet stain resistant. The finish results in very little change to either the colour or texture of the product and lasts the lifetime of the wallpaper. It is very durable but ultimately the level of protection will be impaired through abrasive rubbing of the surface and it does not prevent dirt from being ground into the fibres of the fabric.