



### HOW TO USE THE STENCILS

Our stencils have a self-adhesive backing, so no tape or glue is required. Simply, peel from the backing paper, stick to the wall, paint in and remove the stencil.

- a. First, peel the stencil from the backing.
- b. Next, hold the stencil by the top two corners, pulling outward keeping the top edge tight and straight. Then, place the stencil on the wall. Working your way down the stencil, rub it with your hand, making sure that all inner edges are down to avoid bleeding. On larger stencils, it can be helpful to have another person assist you.
- c. Then, with a foam brush, foam roller or stencil brush, apply a very thin coat of paint. Apply additional coats as necessary. Tip! After dipping your brush in paint, wipe off all excess then pat it on a paper towel. This helps prevent too much paint from being on your brush. Too much paint is the main reason a stencil will bleed.
- d. Once painted, remove the stencil from the wall. Note that it doesn't have to be completely dry before you pull it off. Tip! When reapplying the stencil, use a paper towel to pat it down once it is on the wall. This helps excess paint from building up on the stencil. You can also use a baby wipe to remove dried paint from the stencil.
- e. Place the used stencil on back on the glossy side of the release paper. Careful! If you stick it to the wrong side of the paper, you'll ruin the stencil.

### PAINT FOR STENCILING

You can stencil with a variety of paints. The main thing to keep in mind is that watery paints will lead to bleeding under the stencil. Typically, the cheaper the paint, the more watery it will be. Don't be tempted to buy the cheapest brand. You will regret it.

**Hobby acrylic paints:** This is the type of paint we use for stenciling and sell in our painting kits. It is available in a wide variety of colors, is economical and covers well. It can be found at places like Michael's or Hobby Lobby and typically comes in 2 oz. bottles. We like Americana and FolkArt brands the best. We do not recommend Anita's, Delta Ceramcoat or any metallic hobby paint. These paints are too watery and will result in bleeding.

**Latex paint:** Latex paint can sometimes be difficult to find in smaller quantities and is more watery than acrylics. Latex paint works great when you want to cover a larger design, such as a tree, or when you are painting non-complex and repetitive designs, such as clouds or polka dots. The key to successfully using latex paint is again to not put too much paint on your roller or brush.

**Artist acrylics and actual "stencil" paints:** Both of these options are thicker and will greatly reduce the chance of bleeding. They are, however, limited in color options and are generally more expensive.

### BRUSHES FOR STENCILING

When using our stencils, we recommend painting with foam brushes, stenciling brushes and/or foam rollers. Note that after you wash any brush/roller off, make sure it is completely dry before using it again or bleeding will occur. You can use a hair dryer to speed up the drying process. Tip! Have plenty of brushes on hand so you don't have to stop and rinse out your brushes.

**Happy painting! Please let us know if you have any questions as you go. We are always happy to help! Call us M-F 10-6 EST at 888-945-4443 or send email 24/7 to [info@mywonderfulwalls.com](mailto:info@mywonderfulwalls.com)**