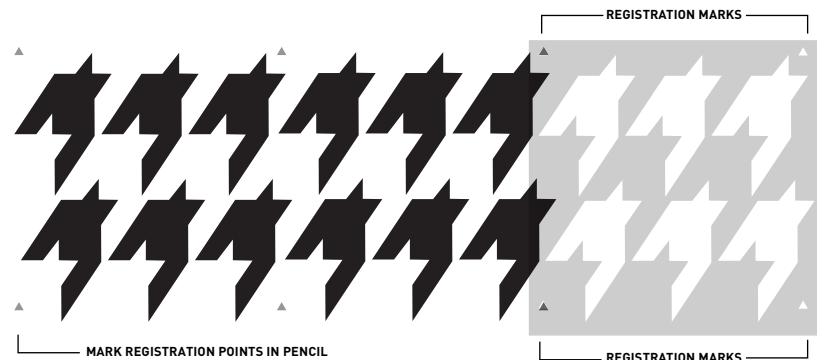


# HOW TO USE YOUR STENCIL1® REPEAT PATTERN STENCILS

*Never used a stencil before? Relax, you will see that it is really quite easy!*

This stencil is designed to tile or repeat to form a larger pattern, similar to wallpaper. You may have noticed, each stencil has four registration marks. These are small triangles cut into the mylar at the points of the repeat registration. They will help you to accurately align the stencil for repeat registration to complete the design.



**To start, you have to plan out your design.** First decide if you want to cover the entire surface or just an area of that surface. If you are doing only an area of a surface, ideally making that area equally divisible by the stencils size will give you a nice balanced design. Now it's time to plan the grid that will form your larger pattern by marking your registration marks. Start this process in the top left corner of your overall design area.

When you position your first repeat, transfer these marks to the surface by tracing the entire shape of the triangle. NOTE: Simply putting dots in the centers of the triangles will NOT create accurate registration. For repeat borders or patterns: Mark the registration on the first position, and move to the right. Position the left triangle (s) over what was previously the right triangle.

You will want these marks to be easily removed to use a soft lead pencil that will erase easily. Some alternatives to pencil marks are disappearing fabric marking pens or watercolor pencils in neutral colors. The watercolor pencil marks will disappear when wiped with a damp paper towel or sponge.

In instances when you don't want to place ANY marks on your surface, or want to be able to see them easier, simply place a small piece of blue tape on the surface under the registration mark and mark it with a pen or permanent marker. When the tape is removed, so is the mark! TIP: Use this method on fabric, wood, and sensitive faux finishes that may be damaged by erasers.

Use this method to fully mark out your registration points for your entire surface. Doing so will help you to see where your design will start and end and allow you to make any adjustments you'd like for your finished piece. It also allows you to jump around and not paint in order. Why would you not paint in order sometimes? Well, Pre-registering is necessary when creating with any material that will not dry immediately - this will allow you to jump from one section to another and allow the previous embossed areas to dry. (With the way some of our stencils are designed - the stencil will over-lap wet work - so it is necessary to jump around the wall or other surface to allow everything to dry.

Before you start stenciling your walls, we recommend that you practice using a large piece of cardboard, sheetrock, or wood. The practice will give you a good idea of the technique of repositioning using the registration points and the amount of paint you should use. It also gives you a chance to test techniques with your roller, brushes, or sponges and to test your colors.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR WALLS

Walls make for an ideal stencil "canvas"—they're big, flat, and easy to work on. One important note: Stencil paints will adhere more readily to walls with flat paint than those covered with semigloss or gloss paint. If you try to stencil onto gloss paint, you will have trouble getting the stencil paint to adhere to the gloss. In high-traffic areas, such as kitchens and bathrooms, a semigloss is acceptable.

**Materials needed:** Sandpaper, Paint, Stencil, Painter's tape, Level, Pencil, 2" dense foam roller or stencil brushes or foam brushes or sponges, Safety goggles (optional)

**1. Prep your surface:** Stencils work best on walls that are as smooth as possible. If the wall is not smooth the stencil will not produce clean, crisp designs. Repair minor and major cracks with spackle; once dry, sand flat. Cover with a fresh coat of either latex/acrylic or oil-based flat paint. If your stencil paint does not stick well to your base coat, first lightly sand the area you will be stenciling.

**2. Choose your stencil paint:** If you are painting interior walls, we recommend a flat interior acrylic paint.

**3. Plan out and mark your design:** Start by placing your stencil where you would like the design to first appear, starting in the top left corner. Check it with your level to assure it's straight. Mark your registration points and plan out your entire overall pattern as described in HOW TO USE THE REPEAT PATTERN STENCILS above.

**4. Position your stencil:** Now, go back and place your stencil at your starting point. You can hold it in place with some blue painter's tape. Secure it firmly in place, using blue painter's tape, two small pieces are usually sufficient for an average-size stencil.

**5. Apply your paint:** You can use rollers, stencil brushes, foam brushes, or sponges to apply paint. We recommend a small, dense foam roller or a two inch round stencil brush for interior walls. Do not overload the roller with paint. Too much paint causes blotchy designs. Remember, stenciling is a "dry" brush/roller technique. It is far better to build up the color gradually, layer by layer, instead of swiping on one thick paint application. If paint begins to seep behind your stencil or if your designs do not have crisp, defined edges, it's likely that you are using too much paint. Again we recommend practicing on cardboard before you begin on your wall. Once you've filled the areas, carefully remove the stencil from the wall to see your design. Check the stencil on the side that was touching the wall for any excess paint and wipe dry. Now it's time to align the registration marks to create the pattern. It is recommended to stencil starting at the top left corner of your wall and move to the right. Then go row by row from there. Or as mentioned earlier, you may need to jump around using your pre-registration marks if the stencil will overlap onto wet painted areas. This will help to avoid smudging.

Note: What if your design pattern does not equally tile on your surface? Well, we used a bendable material for just that purpose. You can fill in these areas again using your registration marks and my bending the stencil around that edge and painting in only the area that touches the surface you are painting.

**6. Clean up:** Lay your stencil flat to dry, wiping off any heavy paint with a slightly damp cloth. Careful cleaning and drying of your stencil brushes will enable them to be used again and again. Wash all excess paint off the brushes with warm running water and soap. Dry the brushes thoroughly before reuse.

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