

# **NEW WALLPAPER RIPS TRADITION TO SHREDS**

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**March 2004**

For the wallpaper-challenged, it seems almost too good to be true: a wallpaper designed to be ripped to pieces and randomly glued to the wall. No more lining up patterns, butting seams and making sure it's on straight. And the result is a one-of-a-kind textured look that resembles stone or marble.

"I never had hung a roll of wallpaper in my life," said Debbie Palmer. "But I wanted to try this."

After covering her spacious Maple Grove kitchen and family room walls with Stoney Brook, one brand of torn-paper wallpaper, Palmer and her business partner, Cheri Naves became Stoney Brook Distributors and installers.

As wallpaper makes a comeback, textured papers and new hanging techniques are giving consumers more choices, styles and finishes beyond the flat painted wall.

Michael Conroy, who created Stoney Brook, hand-paints the paper in his Buffalo, Minnesota, shop. To copy the textured look of faux finishes, the former faux painter decided to paint paper instead of walls. "It would take four coats of paint for a similar faux paint look," said Conroy.

Although it's easy to rip and glue, the torn-paper technique does require some artistry to arrange the jigsaw puzzle pieces into an eye-pleasing pattern. That's

why it can take longer than hanging traditional wallpaper, Naves said. (Naves and Palmer install Stoney Brook for \$5 or \$7 per square foot. To do it yourself, the paper starts at \$2.60 per square foot and includes a lesson.)

“If you have any creativity at all, it’s fun, “ said Palmer. “And if you don’t like the way an area looks, just cover it up with another piece.”

Stoney Brook is available at Rock, Paper Scissors, 763-546-3535, and Hirshfield’s Design Studio, 612-374-8901. For examples, visit <http://www.stoneybrookpaper.com>. Paper Illusion, another torn-paper wall covering, is available at Twin Cities Hirshfield’s stores.

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