

SUMMARY

APPLICATION OF DRY CLEANING METHODS TO PRESERVE HISTORIC WALLPAPERS

The preservation of historic wallpapers is becoming increasingly important. Not many old wallpapers remain in the interior spaces of houses, and those that have been found are generally not in great shape. Therefore, the wallpapers need to be cleaned before they are researched and repaired.

Dry cleaning is the simplest method of doing so. It is used as an independent cleaning method or as a part of a more comprehensive cleaning process, usually at the beginning thereof. Even beginners can carry dry cleaning out safely. Dry cleaning before wet cleaning and repairs is important, as otherwise, dirt may be absorbed into the wallpaper and stick to the adhesive during repairs. This thesis discusses the implementation of dry cleaning methods on historic wallpapers.

The aim of the theoretical section of my thesis was to give a brief introduction of the subject of the research, i.e. wallpaper, and printing techniques of historic wallpapers, find out the types of dirt and damage that commonly occur on wallpapers, and define the various dry cleaning methods. I have compiled the most commonly used dry cleaning agents into a table. As there are no comprehensive guidelines in Estonian on dry cleaning methods, I have started the process. In its essence, wallpaper is an item on paper, so I added dry cleaning methods commonly used in paper conservation to my sources of information.

In the practical section of the thesis, I tested dry cleaning agents on various historic wallpapers based on the previously gathered information. I selected five wallpapers from Heli Tuksam's wallpaper collection to carry out cleaning tests. I carried out cleaning tests on the edges of each wallpaper to find out whether the chosen cleaning agent can be used to clean the specific wallpaper without damaging it. Some dry cleaning agents may be overly abrasive on the paint or paper of the wallpaper being cleaned.

As a result of the thesis, it becomes clear that information on dry cleaning methods is available from various sources, but there are no comprehensive materials. Preparing guidelines in Estonian is possible if the theoretical material is gathered, translated if necessary, and supplemented with personal practical recommendations.