

## Bubble Walls

What is the funniest wallpaper you can imagine? Would it have jokes written on it? Silly pictures? What if it was bubble wrap? That would be pretty crazy.

Can you imagine if your room was covered in bubble wrap? Would you spend all day popping the bubbles? Would you ever sleep?

Believe it or not, bubble wrap was originally invented to be wallpaper! It was first created in 1957. Two engineers invented it.

The engineers sealed two shower curtains together. The seal created a bunch of air bubbles. They thought it was pretty cool. But they didn't know what to do with it.

Then they had an idea. They would sell it as wallpaper! Surprisingly it wasn't very popular. They were selling it to adults. Maybe they should have tried selling it to kids.

Kids would have bought the bubble wrap wallpaper for sure. But adults did not. So in 1960 the engineers found a new use for their invention. They turned it into packing material.

The new idea worked. The engineers created a company called Sealed Air Corporation. They sold bubble wrap to package IBM computers.



IBM computers became very popular. So bubble wrap became very popular. The Sealed Air Corporation still exists today. It still sells bubble wrap. But sadly it doesn't sell wallpaper.



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did the engineers make the first bubble wrap?
  - a. With two shower curtains
  - b. With wallpaper
  - c. With an IBM computer
  - d. With bubble gum
  
2. What year did the engineers turn bubble wrap into packing material?
  - a. 1957
  - b. 1960
  - c. 2006
  - d. 1954
  
3. According to the author, who might like bubble wrap wallpaper?
  - a. Adults
  - b. Engineers
  - c. Kids
  - d. Scientists
  
4. Why did bubble wrap become very popular?
  - a. Because it made good wallpaper
  - b. Because IBM computers became very popular
  - c. Because it was used to make shower curtains
  - d. Because kids bought it

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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