



## Guide sheet to Lath work

**Before starting, make sure have goggles, gloves, mask & overalls.**

Laths come in various lengths and either softwood or hardwood, they can also be sawn or split (riven).

A general problem is that the original sprigs (nails) let go, due to fatigue. Laths can generally be rescued to a certain degree. This is where you need to be patient and slowly remove the old plaster from the laths. The old mortar will drop into the cavity of the lath wall, and needs to be clean out; it is possible to remove a couple of bottom laths so this job can be made easier.

### **Replacing laths or rebuilding with laths.**

The rule of thumb is a gap of 10mm or a little finger gap (top of the little finger nail to the pad of the finger is a good gauge). This gap is where the double haired mortar is worked through to create nibs. Nibs are the mortar that hooks to the back of the lath.

### **How to do it**

1. Make sure the area is clean from debris and dust.
2. Damp down the laths, spray with a fine mist of water.
3. Apply double haired mortar 15-20mm depth. Apply mortar working in an upward and downward motion; always start at the top of the lath wall.
4. Scratch the surface with a scratch comb ~ wavy lines or straight. Don't hatch scratch # it as this can cause problems.
5. The following applications for the following mortars are now the same as the plastering guide. So please refer to the plastering guide sheet.

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