Heritage Cob & Lime
'Restoring the past for the future'

Guide Sheets for Applying Lime Render

When using any lime based materials, to achieve a long lasting and aesthetically pleasing render requires patience and careful control of drying and suction.

1. Ensure that appropriate scaffolding is in place and the site is safe for workers and public.

2. Remove existing render, except any existing sound lime mortars, taking care not to damage the structure. Be aware of any thick patches of render that are effectively load bearing- it may be preferable to render on top rather than risk rebuilding an area.

3. Dub out any deep holes in the wall with a haired lime putty mortar, rebuilding defects with cob blocks, bricks or stone as appropriate.

4. Treat wooden lintels with preservative and counter batten with oak lath if rendering over them.

5. Apply a scat (harled) coat of lime putty mortar to provide a key to the wall.

6. Follow with sufficient coats of haired lime putty mortar to smooth the contours of the wall. With a suitable animal hair in the mortar, coats can be applied up to 20mm thick rather than the 8–10mm thickness of unhaired mortar. The hair reduces any slumping whilst applying and shrinkage cracking whilst curing. Each backing is keyed with a scratch comb.

7. Apply a top coat of unhaired lime mortar to an ideal depth of 10mm and float finish the surface. This will take out any air entrapment and key the float coat to the dub coat (haired coat). This is an important process, which should not be skimped.

Damping & curing:

It's important to control suction from the wall by lightly spraying with water half an hour before applying each coat (especially cob and porous brick) and in warm weather it will be necessary to spray each coat afterwards. Whatever the season, protect each render coat during the curing process from all the elements such as hot drying wind, strong sun, rain with a heavy cloth such as hessian and leave in place as long as required. We do not advise that you use tarpaulins or plastic sheeting instead of hessian. Do not apply lime render in temperatures below 5 degrees centigrade or if there's a risk of frost.

Materials:

Lime putty mortars gain added strength by carbonating over many months with atmospheric carbon dioxide. Lime putty mortars are suitable for most locations. For very exposed or areas with a continuously high moisture content an NHL mortar might be required.

Heritage cob & Lime
Coates Road, Bideford Business Park
East-the-Water, Bideford. EX39 4GD

Email: mail@heritagecobandlime.com **www.heritagecobandlime.com**

Tel: 01237 477431 **Vat No: 106281050**

Curing:

All coats need to be given a few days to harden before subsequent coats are applied. To test whether a coat is 'green hard' the surface should be resistant to a fingernail. Many factors will influence the timing such as the season, exposure of wall and the thickness of the coat. It's normal to expect a couple of days for the scat (harled) coat to harden and perhaps 4 - 6 days for each of the thicker coats.

Limewashing:

It is important that lime renders are not totally sealed with an inappropriate paint. Limewash offers the most traditional finish and will aid rainwater shedding. A minimum of four coats of limewash will be required for the final coat of render.

Conclusions:

Lime mortars are easy to use and can readily be applied by the enthusiastic amateur given a little tuition and guidance. The beauty of any traditional building is it should not have perfectly angled corners or perfectly smooth walls so any DIY owner can begin work, comfortable in the knowledge that a certain amount of 'character' will not look out of place.

Please note that great care should be taken not to apply exterior lime render too late in the year or too soon in spring or else frost damage may occur. It is important to prevent frost crystals forming within the mortar soon after application. The ultimate hardening process takes up to a month for each millimetre of thickness. Therefore it may take 20 months before mortar has carbonated to a depth of 20mm.

Safety:

Limes are caustic. Ensure you always wear eye protection and protective gloves and clothing and follow the safety instructions on the labels. Our advice and information are given in good faith. It's important that users satisfy themselves that they've chosen an appropriate product and have a suitably skilled workforce to undertake the work.

Heritage cob & Lime
Coates Road, Bideford Business Park
East-the-Water, Bideford. EX39 4GD

Email: mail@heritagecobandlime.com **www.heritagecobandlime.com**

Tel: 01237 477431 **Vat No: 106281050**