



Guide Sheet: Plastering

Before starting work, always check whether the building is Listed. If it is, then contact the local authority conservation officer before beginning the project. All lime putty based materials require patience and careful control of drying and suction to produce a good finish and long lasting plaster.

Preparation: Any existing plaster and paint should be removed, however if the plaster is a sound lime mortar then it should ideally be left to help preserve the building's history (and will reduce material costs). Take care not to damage the structure and watch for very thick patches of plaster that are effectively load bearing- it may be necessary to plaster on top rather than risk rebuilding an area.

Damping: Suction from the background material (substrate) needs to be controlled by damping with water before applying each coat of plaster, especially onto cob or porous brick. Although control of suction is important, so is surface tension, so any damping down must be allowed to soak in so moisture is not sitting on the surface when the plaster is applied.

Premixing: Generally, lime putty mortars and plasters benefit from being pre-mixed for a minimum of a couple of weeks and then "knocked up" again prior to use to plasticise them. This reduces shrinkage in the plaster.

Specification on to solid walls: *Dub (fill out) any deep holes in the wall with a haired lime putty mortar. Rebuild defects using like for like materials i.e. cob blocks or stone.

*Counter batten wooden lintels with oak lath if they are to be plastered over and treat lintels with preservative.

*Apply one scat coat of 3/1 unhaired lime mortar to provide a key to cob, brick or stone. Scat is a soupy mix of 3/1 unhaired mortar.

*Apply sufficient coats of 3/1 haired lime mortar to level the contours of the wall. This should be a max depth 20mm; sag will occur if the mortar is too thick. Make sure each haired coat is scratched in straight or wavy lines horizontally. Do not hatch scratch #. Haired mortar can be applied as many times as needed, but you must wait for each coat to dry before attempting another.

*The last float coat should be unhaired to avoid hair coming through the top coat. This is applied at a depth of 10mm, and needs to be floated up after being trowelled on. If hair line cracks appear, this is because the float coat requires more floating.

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Finish coat:

Apply skim coat of 3/2 fine skim lime plaster, made with very fine sand and lime putty in either one or two applications. We suggest 2 applications using a wet on wet process. The process is the same as for pink plastering. The skim should no more than 3mm thickness overall.

Plaster Skim:

Our Heritage Fine Skim 3/2 plaster is ideal for a thin skim over all lime mortar interior render to give a smooth finish similar to gypsum.

Quantities Guide:

Specification per square metre on to a rough undulating surface:

One scat coat of **3/1 unhaired mortar** 6kg per m2 (3mm)

One scratch coat **3/1 haired lime mortar**, 30kg per m2 (20mm)

One float coat **3/1 unhaired lime mortar**, 20kg per m2 (10mm)

Two top coats of **3/2 lime Heritage Fine Skim plaster**, totalling 6kg per m2 (3mm)

Safety:

Limes are caustic. 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.

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