



GUIDE SHEET

LIME PLASTERING

As with all lime putty based materials the best outcome requires patience and careful control of drying and suction, the reward being a good looking and long lasting plaster.

Preparation:

Any existing plaster must be removed, except any sound lime mortars. Care must obviously be taken to ensure that the structure isn't damaged. Look out 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:

It is very important to control suction from the background material (substrate) by spraying with water before applying each coat of plaster, especially onto cob or porous brick.

'Knocking Up':

All lime plasters benefit from being 'knocked up' (i.e. by tipping the lime out of its container onto a board, and mixing thoroughly) prior to use to plasticise them - this reduces shrinkage in the plaster.

Typical Application onto Internal Brickwork:

- Part fill any deep holes in the wall with a haired lime mortar.
- Apply one coat of 3:1 haired lime mortar, up to 10mm thick, to smooth the contours of the wall.
- Apply a second coat between 5 and 10mm thick, to bring the base coat up to the required thickness.
- Apply a top coat of 2:1 unhaired lime plaster to finish.

Plaster Skim:

3:2 fine lime plaster is ideal for a thin skim over a wide variety of backgrounds such as plasterboard, blocks and mixtures of old and new plaster, old paint etc. For plasterboard it will be necessary to gauge the lime plaster with gypsum onto a drying initial thin coat of pure gypsum. We can also supply a special bonding coat for plasterboard called Grava.

Quantities:

- 2 x base coats (3:1 haired mortar): A 21kg tub will cover approximately 2 sq. m at 10mm thick
- Finishing coat (2:1 unhaired mortar): A 19kg tub will cover approximately 3 sq. m at 3mm thick

Safety:

Limes are caustic. Always wear eye protection and protective gloves and clothing, and follow the safety instructions on the labels.