Float Coat Plaster

PRODUCT DATASHEET

Product Description

A ready to use, 3mm, lime putty plaster, mixed at 3:1 – Sand: Lime. This product may require knocking up before use, if it is too stiff for your requirements then a small amount of drinking water may be added to achieve your desired consistency.

Use & Compatibility

This plaster is suitable for use on most mineral backgrounds including but not limited to; natural stone, brick, block, and cob. It is suitable for both internal and external use; it can be used as both a basecoat and float coat internally, however we would recommend a coarser basecoat when used externally.

This plaster is incompatible with direct application onto tanking, cement board, magnesium oxide boards, plasterboard, EML or any of the EWI type boards. We would also strongly advise against it's use on top of gypsum plaster. It is not suitable for use on timber lath; we would recommend our Coarse Fibered Putty Plaster instead.

Do not use this product below 5°C, do not use this product if freezing conditions are predicted within the following 8 weeks (including wind chill). We generally do not advise this product is used externally between September and March. Do not use this product in temperatures above 25°C.

Coverage

A 20kg tub contains 10 litres of wet plaster.

Coverage for plaster at 6mm thick: 1.5m^2/20Kg - 80 m^2/Tonne.

Coverage figures are given as guidance only, uneven surfaces can and will change consumption rates.

Colour

This product is entirely natural in colour, the colour comes from the sand used in the plaster.

Where this product is to be visible and colour is of critical importance, we strongly recommend that enough is purchased from the same batch to avoid the natural variation that can occur with sand colour over time. Please contact us to discuss any long-term requirements for a single job before purchasing.

Surface Preparation

Before plastering starts, all surfaces should be cleaned, free from dust, and pre-wet to control suction. The required water amount to control suction will depend on the background with dense materials like good quality granite or engineering brick needing very little, but materials like traditional wood fired soft bricks and cob needing quite a lot of water over several repeated wettings.

Mixing

This product is supplied as a ready to use plaster, however we recognize that plasterers all like their mix a little different. We would always recommend knocking the plaster up in a belle mixer or with a whisk before use, and a small amount of drinking water can be added to soften the mix and bring it to your required consistency.

We would strongly recommend using the plaster as stiff as feasible as this will reduce any risk of plastic shrinkage. Only clean drinkable water should be used.

After leaving the product for a few days to weeks some water can settle out on the surface, tip this off or re-mix it back into the product before use.

Supplied By The Natural Plastering Company
27 Polwithen Road, Penryn, TR10 8QT
naturalplastercompany@gmail.com
07765 049 612

Application

The substrate should be cleaned, and then wet to control suction. Be careful to ensure the water has been absorbed into the surface before starting to lay up as any standing water on the surface will prevent the plaster from bonding.

Scratch coats done with the Coarse Fibred Putty Plaster should be applied at a target thickness of 10-12mm depth; the scratches should be a cross-hatch pattern and no deeper than 1/3rd of the depth of the plaster coat. We would recommend wider finger scratchers rather than the wire ones to allow the larger aggregate pieces in the float coat to be able to be pushed into the key rather than blocking it. We do not recommend the modern wavey line scratch, it does not provide a suitable key for traditional materials like these. Scratch coats should be left for a minimum of 7-14 days to develop strength before applying a float coat; to check the strength before overcoating, the surface of the scratch coat should be leather like in texture and can be marked with a thumbnail but not the flat of your thumb. This coat should be damp cured for the whole time before the float coat is applied; protection from direct sunlight and drying winds is also required.

Float coats with this plaster should be applied at a target thickness of 6-7mm, and should always be thinner than the scratch coat. If there has been an extended period of time between the scratch coat and float coats being applied then the scratch coat may need dampening down before being laid onto to control suction. Float coats should be ruled off, hollows filled and re-ruled until the flatness of the wall is acceptable. Floating lime plaster should be done stiffer than that of sand and cement; the plaster should not be sticky or drag/tear under the float, and you should be able to compact, compress and consolidate the surface with the float. Both poly and wooden floats are suitable for use. This coat could now just be left now & painted if the lightly textured finish is acceptable. If this float coat is to be overcoated with our Superfine Pro Finishing Plaster, we recommend you get this coat absolutely as flat as possible, do not try and fill hollows using the finishing plaster. After floating, a light devil float may be applied to this to give a mild key to take further finer plaster coats.

It is essential that this plaster is not allowed to dry too fast on the wall, it should be kept damp for a bare minimum of 14 days, longer in non-ideal weather conditions. Generally, we recommend use of hung hessian, regularly dampened, as this allows for keeping the humidity high to keep the plaster damp, it acts as a sun shield and as a wind break if properly used. Ensure that hessian is not allowed to 'slap' the surface as it can ruin any applied finish.

Aftercare

As this plaster is made from a non-hydraulic lime putty it only stiffens through suction from the background and consolidation from the float; this is not 'setting' as you would have with an NHL or Cement. The only chemical reaction that occurs to allow this material to develop strength is the re-absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which is generally quite a slow process and will be somewhat variable depending on the availability of moisture and the ambient temperature.

The full development of carbonation and final strength with this plaster takes months, not weeks, and as such protection should remain in place for as long as necessary. Development of strength is always slower in colder weather; conversely force drying by heating or dehumidifying can also cause problems.

Packaging

This product is available in 20kg Tubs or Tonne bags.

Storage

Always keep this plaster in dry, frost-free conditions, stored off of the ground. If kept in an airtight container the plaster should have a shelf life up to 2 years, however we would recommend it is used in under a year where possible.

Supplied By The Natural Plastering Company
27 Polwithen Road, Penryn, TR10 8QT
naturalplastercompany@gmail.com
07765 049 612

Health and Safety

RISK PHRASES: R36 / R37 / R38 / R43

Avoid contact with skin and eyes.

Contact with wet mortar may cause irritation, dermatitis and/or burns.

Contact between lime powder and body fluid (sweat, eye fluid etc.) may cause skin burns and respiratory irritation, dermatitis or burns.

SAFETY PHRASES: S2 / S24/25 / S26 / S37

Avoid eye and skin contact by wearing suitable eye protection, protective clothing and gloves.

Avoid breathing dust.

Keep out of reach of children.

On contact with skin and/or eyes, rinse immediately with clean water and seek medical attention.

Declarations

This product will contain no Portland Cement, Pozzolan or NHL whatsoever.

Datasheet Version 1.0; produced October 2025. Any and all more modern versions of this datasheet will supersede this version.

Supplied By The Natural Plastering Company
27 Polwithen Road, Penryn, TR10 8QT
naturalplastercompany@gmail.com
07765 049 612