

HERITAGE

TRADITIONAL BUILDING PRODUCTS

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Plastering with non-hydraulic lime

Setting Stuff or Finishing coat (hair is not required).

The finishing coat is made with lime putty in a 1:1 mix with fine silica sand/limestone sand 0.8 to 0.075mm, clean and free from silt or clays. Better finishing will be achieved by re-working the setting stuff the day after.

Apply with a laying-on trowel in three passes to an overall thickness of 3mm approx. The first layer is skimmed over as tightly as possible with the steel-laying trowel, or skimming float if preferred. The next layer is laid on with a wooden skimming float in the opposite direction to the first. This can then be 'ruled in' with a wooden feather edge rule, if straightness is critical. The third layer is applied in the same direction as the first again, and as tight as possible with the steel trowel.

Good scouring will compact and consolidate the surface. Water should be used more sparingly for the final scouring, using only as much as is necessary to moisten the surface and allow the float to work freely. This scouring is continued until a dense even and close-grained surface is obtained ready for 'trowelling-up'.

The work should be trowelled up using a steel trowel and a broad flat stock brush. Water is sprinkled onto the surface, followed directly by the trowel. This should be done 2/3 times always in opposite directions. Trowelling the finish coat is best carried out with a half-worn trowel known as a 'polisher' the edges of which should be perfectly straight and parallel.

When the surface is hard enough, the whole work is gone over with a stock brush 3 times again in opposite directions. The first two times the brush should be lightly wet and the third, semi-dry.

This should produce a very fine and beautiful surface. Final strength will be greatly increased if the work dries out slowly.

Textures and finishes

- Rough open-grained texture – achieved by a fairly rough wooden float followed by a sponge-faced float
- Scouring with a good cross-grained wood float on its own leaves a dense open-grained finish
- A plastic float and well-scoured surface leaves a more polished finish
- Scouring and finishing quickly and vigorously with a steel trowel and water will close the grain on any surface giving a more dense and smooth appearance
- After scouring by polishing hard with a steel trowel whilst continuously flicking on lime water, a dense, glass like finish can be achieved, with the degree of density and smoothness related to the extent of hard polishing carried out.