

Property	Traditional limewash	Conventional masonry paint*	Silicate Masonry Paint
<b>Maintenance frequency**</b>	2 - 3 years	5 – 15 years	up to 15 years
<b>Effect of weathering**</b>	weathers back slowly to substrate	may crack and peel	minimal
<b>Suitable surfaces for coating</b>	limeplaster and most permeable, mineral surfaces	most clean, stable surfaces	all permeable, mineral surfaces e.g. brick, stone and limeplaster****
<b>Suitability for cementitious renders</b>	poor	good	good
<b>Typical coats required</b>	3-5 coats	1 primer + 2 coats	1 primer + 2 coats
<b>Application method</b>	roller or brush	roller/brush/spray	roller/brush/spray
<b>Breathability</b>	excellent	very poor/poor	excellent
<b>Moisture resistance</b>	poor	excellent	excellent
<b>Resistance to mould/algae</b>	good (due to natural alkalinity of product)	poor/good (depends on chemical algicides)	good (due to natural alkalinity of product)
<b>Colour availability</b>	limited	poor/good (depends on chemical algicides)	good
<b>Acrylics/acrylic softener content***</b>	none	yes (up to 40%)	very low (5%)
<b>VOC content***</b>	0%	up to 8%	less than 1%
<b>Applicator health risks*****</b>	high (caustic)	medium (VOC and fungicide content)	low (silicate primer similar risk to limewash)
<b>Appearance</b>	mottled/varied	flat, uniform	vibrant, delicate texture
<b>Suitability for restoration work and historic buildings</b>	traditional	consideration should be given to appearance and lack of breathability	effective, durable alternative to limewash

\* Information for conventional masonry paints is indicative of typical products and is not specific to any brand. Performance may vary from brand to brand.

\*\* Dependent on site/environmental conditions and preparation.

\*\*\* Acrylic softeners and VOCs are widely accepted as being damaging to the environment and contributing to global warming. Acrylics reduce the breathability of the coating.

\*\*\*\* Some clay surfaces may require special treatment.

\*\*\*\*\* Always consult manufacturers' health and safety data sheets for further information.