

Basic Limewash Guide

Safety



Lime is a caustic substance, so safety goggles and gloves should be worn when applying lime wash. It is also recommended to wear a dust mask when mixing to avoid inhalation of fine pigment particles. This information sheet is written as a guide only.

Primer Coat



Water Lime Putty



Figure of 8 brushing pattern

To prepare a new surface for limewash, it's often a good idea to apply a primer coat.

- Mix water and lime putty at a ratio of 12:1 to create a weak lime wash.
- Lightly spray surfaces with water to stop the primer coat soaking in too quickly which would result in a powdery unstable finish. Respray any areas that dry before application.
- Working from top to bottom in sections, apply the primer coat using a horizontal figure of eight motion picking up any drips and runs as you go. Limewash is translucent and runs will show through subsequent coats. Keep mixing the solution as you work, as the lime particles will quickly drop out of suspension.

Wash Coats



Water Lime Putty Pigment

Interior: 3 Coats

Exterior: 5 Coats

24 hours between coats.

- Mix equal amounts of water and lime putty to create a milky consistency.
- Measure out the pigment where required. Up to 5% by volume. e.g. 1 Litre of Pigment for 20L of wash. Before adding the pigment, mix with a small amount of water to create a paste, this will help with dispersion when mixing. Add the pigment paste to the wash a small amount at a time and whisk.
- Using the figure of eight brushing method, apply the wash coats. We recommend a minimum 5 coats for exterior applications and 3 coats for interior. Remember to keep mixing the wash as you work.
- Allow 24 hours between coats. Re-wet the surface prior to the application of each coat.

Patina Coat

Optional / for interior only



Water Lime Putty Pigment

A great way to add extra texture and depth to interior* walls, is to apply a patina coat. Reduce the quantity of lime and increase the amount of pigment, to achieve darker, richer, translucent hues. Apply over the 3 wash coats,

For a different effect try using a contrasting colour pigment.

*As the Patina coat has less lime and more pigment in the mix, the finish is weaker, so it is better suited to interior applications where there are no weathering issues.