

Why choose plaster?

THISTLE
PLASTER PRODUCTS



- Solid feel and sound
- Good resistance to impact and casual damage
- Easy fixing of light, medium or heavy-weight fixtures
- Easy to achieve good airtightness (for acoustics and thermal performance)
- Makes good after services have been fitted in chases within masonry
- Smooth seamless surface
- Easy wallpaper stripping

Before plastering starts, the background should be:

- Protected from the weather
- Adequately strong and rigid
- Dimensionally stable
- Clean (e.g. free of dust, shutter release agents, etc)
- Reasonably dry
- Free of efflorescence

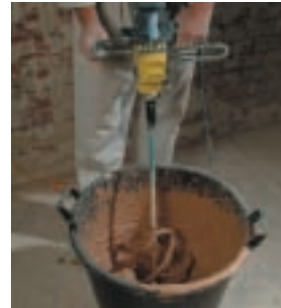


Combination backgrounds

Ideally, the right product for each part of the background should be used, with joints formed using back-to-back stop beads, but this can be impractical, e.g. narrow concrete columns or lintels within block walls. These should be bridged using metal lathing and the plaster isolated from the concrete using building paper. For details refer to the Code of Practice or contact the Drywall Academy Advice Centre.

Mixing

Thistle plasters should be mixed by adding to clean water in clean mixing equipment. Contamination from previous mixes adversely affects the setting time and the strength. Fresh contamination has more effect than old - so it's best to wash equipment just after mixing rather than just before.



Thistle plasters (except Thistle Projection) are suitable for mixing by hand or mechanical whisk of a slow speed, high torque type. A range of suitable mixers and paddles is available in the Gyproc Tools range - see back cover. While mechanical mixing speeds the process up, there is no need to continue mixing after dispersing lumps and achieving the right consistency - overmixing wastes time and energy, can affect setting times, lead to deterioration in workability and create difficulty in achieving a flat finish.

Sand/cement undercoats

- Cement based undercoats shrink on drying, and can crack, these cracks can appear days or even weeks after application.
- If a Thistle finish plaster is applied before the shrinkage is complete there is an increased risk of delamination or cracking of the finish, particularly if the undercoat was not thoroughly keyed.
- The key provided to cement-based undercoats needs to be much better and the drying time allowance much longer than for gypsum-based undercoats.
- Retarded ready-mixed sand/cement mortars may have delayed shrinkage, and may contain additives which interfere with the setting or strength of Thistle finish plasters.

Decoration

- Thistle plasters can be decorated with most paint finishes and most wallcoverings. Follow manufacturers' recommendations.
- Impermeable finishes including tiles, should not be applied until the background and plaster are dry. A permeable paint can be used in the interim.

Take care with Thistle Hardwall and Thistle Tough Coat which dry from the surface, appearing surface dry before they are fully dry in their depth.



Tiling

- Tiles up to 20kg/m² can be applied directly to the Thistle finish coats, except where the system includes a bonding agent. As the total weight of tiles and plaster applied over a bonding agent is limited to 20kg/m², consideration should be given to tiling directly to the background.
- If plastering to provide a background for tiles, avoid polishing the surface. Polished plaster surfaces should be roughened and a suitable primer used.
- Tiles should not be applied directly to Thistle undercoats, with the exception of Thistle Dri-Coat.

Replastering following a damp proof course treatment

- Thistle Dri-Coat is the only British Gypsum plaster recommended for this application.
- The source of rising or penetrating damp must be identified and eliminated.
- Existing plasterwork should be hacked off to at least 0.5m above new damp proof course or the highest detectable sign of dampness.
- Allow initial curing and shrinkage of the scratched Thistle Dri-Coat prior to application of Thistle Board Finish plaster.
- Under no circumstances should the damp proof course be bridged.
- Coverage of Thistle Dri-Coat is approximately 3.25m² at 11mm per bag.