

Before full application applying a test patch is required to ensure product compatibility and to ensure colour satisfaction, please evaluate colour once dry, limewash colours lighten significantly once dry compared to the 'wet' colour.



Wet Colour Vs Dry Colour



Limewash During Drying

Surface Preparation

The most common surfaces to be limewashed are new lime plaster/render, new cementitious based plaster/render, a mixture of both or previously limewashed surfaces. Newly rendered surfaces must be given sufficient time for the render to have fully carbonated 'cured' and dried out, on no account should limewash be applied to 'green' surfaces.

Failure to give new render sufficient drying time can result in limewashed walls appearing to fade in colour due to lime migration. This is where the wall is yet to fully cure and lime is still migrating to the surface and carbonating over the top of the limewash. Check with render manufacturer for accurate full drying times.

Extreme care should also be taken with surfaces that have been 'spot' repaired. The use of silicone or polymer based fillers, sealers or water proofers are generally impervious to water and very often lead limewash failing to adhere. All loose materials should be removed from the surface to be coated. The substrate must be free from dirt, grease and any other contaminants likely to impair adhesion or absorption. It should be remembered that any repairs carried out (filling of holes, cracks etc.) are very likely to be of a different porosity to that of the rest of the substrate and therefore will offer a different absorption rate to the limewash, this may lead to patchiness when the limewash is applied.

Substrates should always be 'damped' down prior to limewash being applied, including between coats, as this cuts down the render drawing out the water from the limewash at too quick a rate. The result if this happens is a limewash that has very little 'wet' time, cannot be worked into the surface and which ends in too thick a coating being applied. This will then 'mud crack' and will give a poor finish. 'Damping down' can be achieved with a fine light mist of water being sprayed to the wall, mist setting on a hose or a spray bottle is ideal. You are looking for the wall to be damp to the touch, allow substrate to absorb water and for any excess to run off before beginning application.

Dilution & Application

Limewash as supplied by Promain is a thick dilutable material and unless specifically instructed otherwise the material should ALWAYS be diluted with fresh clean water immediately prior to application. This is to enable the limewash to penetrate the substrate or previous coat of limewash. Dilution levels will vary depending upon which coat is being applied. Failure to follow these dilution levels may cause the limewash to be applied too thickly and result in 'mud cracking', poor adhesion and or visible brush lines.



Example of 'mud cracking' when substrate hasn't been correctly 'damped down' or limewash dilution rates are not correctly observed

Dilute the limewash with clean fresh water immediately prior to application. We recommend a 3 coat system as follows with 24 hours overcoating time to be observed between coats:

Coat 1 - 1 part limewash to 1 part water
(e.g. 5 litres water to 5 litres limewash)

Coats 2 & 3 - 2 parts limewash to 1 part water
(e.g 5 litres of water to 10 litres limewash)

This 3 coat system is recommended when limewashing new render or for when using pozilime/interlime on other coated surfaces, less coats may be desirable when limewashing previously limewashed surfaces of similar depth of colour however these coats must observe the recommended dilution rates. This will enable the limewash to be worked into the surface of the previous coat.

A 3 coat system is recommended to ensure sufficient protection is given to the substrate. Achieved by steadily building a protective barrier formed by the lime and additives whether it be linseed oil or tallow, maximising the ability for moisture to escape the render as well as to help repel water from the surface.

Substrate should again be 'damped' down prior to applying subsequent coats and 24 hours must have passed between applying coats. It is important to recognize that each tub of limewash should be thinned with the same amount of water on each elevation of the building as failure to control dilution levels will result in uneven coverage and a patchy finish.

Plan the wash in advance, NEVER coat in full sun as this will result in too fast a dry time and leads to a poor finish. Limewashing should only be carried out when conditions are above 5°C and rising, if temperature is expected to drop below 5°C within 24 hours after planned application it is strongly recommended to postpone until there are desired conditions. Continuing application when temperatures drop below 5°C could cause serious issues with the substrate due to the additional water being added, freezing, expanding and causing cracking.

It is also again important to check conditions ahead of planned external applications for chances of rain, if a limewashed wall gets hit with heavy rain within 72 hours of application lime spotting or lime flooding can occur. This is where lime is washed to the surface and white spots can appear.

Although the substrates protection is not affected the white spots may be aesthetically displeasing and it is therefore important to give greatest consideration to this problem on the final coat.

Brushing is the only recommended method of application, using a roller will result in too thick a coat being applied and this can lead to a poor finish resulting in the limewash 'mud cracking'.

It is recommended that you begin and end in the same place when completing subsequent coats and when stopping application or when moving application to another area that the limewash is feathered out as opposed to a straight wet edge being left. Feathering when finishing and beginning new areas helps to avoid 'banding', this is where areas receive more material than the rest of the wall as you overlap your working areas and colour bands/lines form, feathering will help achieve a more uniform finish. To feather out an edge stop loading the brush and work remaining limewash on the brush as much as you can in all directions, similarly when feathering in lightly load the brush and work the material into feathered parts and continue application.



Example of a straight wet edge, do not leave a straight wet edge as 'banding' can occur'



Example of visible bands from leaving straight wet edges, feather out limewash to help avoid banding



Example of a feathered edge.

Again a 24 hour rule between coats must be observed.

Remember it can take several days for the limewash to fully dry out, only then will the final colour be achieved as varying moisture levels and atmospheric conditions can give variations in the tone of the limewash.

Information given is based upon formulations in use at time of printing. We reserve the right to modify any product without notice although in the case of any major modification new guidelines will be issued.