

DID YOU KNOW?



Hints and tips from the Technical Department

INTERIOR PLASTER

Interior plastering occasionally causes painters some problems that are quite different from those seen outdoors.

Exterior plasters contain lime (Calcium Hydroxide) as an ingredient to assist set up and cure. This reacts during the curing process to produce complex insoluble minerals one of which is Calcium Carbonate (Limestone).

There are two basic types of Interior plasters, gypsum based “setting” plasters, and ready mixed air dry compounds such as Plus 4[®].

- Gypsum plasters set the same way cement does, the water used to mix them reacts with the plaster to change and set it to a solid mass.
- Ready mixed compounds dry in a similar fashion to paint i.e. as the water dries out the resin binds the fillers together.
- Gypsum plasters swell slightly as they cure, ready mixed compounds shrink.

If applied too thinly these products may not cure properly. This results in their being a soft layer of powder on the surface of the stopping. If a water based sealer is painted over this, there is the possibility that the sealer will be prevented from binding to the solid surface beneath, this can result in poor adhesion, and in severe cases shows up as peeling or cracking that appears as the paint dries out.

To prevent this, wiping down stopping with a damp cloth to remove dust before applying water based sealers is strongly recommended.

Oil based pigmented sealers which have superior penetrating and binding character should be the preferred product on aged, unsound or questionable surfaces, and should be used as an “insurance policy” especially on repair work, or in service areas.

The latest Winstone Wallboards “Information Bulletin Trowel Applied Skimcoating” is also recommended reading.