



The Experts in Property Preservation

## FINISH (GENERAL)

Wykamol mesh/plaster membranes are suitable for use both externally and internally, internally the wall finish can be plaster, render, dot & dab plasterboard, bonded to the membrane with a propriety adhesive compound or Hydraulic lime.

Externally the wall finish can be render or hydraulic lime. Whilst any cement rendering is prone to cracking, careful application can reduce or avoid this. Problems occur when the scratch coat has not been allowed to fully cure due to accelerated drying. It is extremely important that the render is slowly cured for a period of 7 – 10 days, longer if possible. The render gets its strength from the chemical processes that take place between the cement content and the added water. The cement needs the correct amount of water to be available to it during the whole of the curing period. If the render dries too quickly due to exposure to sunlight, wind or even dehumidification, the cement will not be able to react with the water producing a weak render that will be prone to cracking. The render should be dampened regularly during the curing process and when applied externally, should be protected from the elements with a damp hessian with plastic sheeting over.

Hairline cracking can be made good with fine fillers or alternatively, a high build masonry paint can be applied. Do not apply decorations until plasters or renders are dry. It is recommended that plasters and renders are raised from the floor to prevent bridging from the floor.

## PLASTERING ( INTERNAL ONLY )

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Application procedure, plastering should be carried out in three coats and should be applied in accordance with good plastering practice as described in BS 8481:2006, BS EN 13914-2 :2005

First coat or scratch coat should be of 6mm and well worked into the mesh, scratch well in with a wire scratcher and leave to dry for approx 24 hours.

The second coat or float coat should also be of 6mm and should be lightly scratched ready for the finish coat and leave to dry for approx 24 hours.

The third coat or finish coat should be a plaster skim such as Multifinish by British Gypsum or similar.

Caution: Do not use Limelight or renovating type plasters, as these can expand on mesh membranes and buckle the finish. Adequate ventilation is required with all plaster finishes.

### Plasters

Tarmac Whitewall One Coat	250 centres approx
Tarmac Whitewall High Impact Backing Plaster	250 centres approx
Thistle Hardwall British Gypsum	250 centres approx
Carlite Bonding British Gypsum	250 centres approx

### Note.

Dot & dab, Dab's should cover 50% of the Wykamol mesh/plaster membranes. If using a laminated or insulated board, mechanical fixings will be required as in accordance with the UK building code. If using the mesh membranes above ground and installing mechanical fixings, you will need to repair the membrane where you have violated for fixing drill hole, with suitable moisture resistant mastic, before installing the mechanical fix. If laminated or insulated boards

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are required below ground, we recommend that the Wykamol CM8 membrane is used, which is not meshed. An independent metal or timber dry lining frame/stud can then be used.

#### RENDER ( INTERNAL & EXTERNAL )

Application procedure - Rendering should be carried out in two coats, with a mix of sand, cement and lime using the procedures defined within BS EN 13914-1 :2005 to a total thickness of 14mm Fixing centres should be approx 150mm

The first coat should be of 7mm and well worked into the mesh, scratch well horizontally with a trowel, leave to dry for 7 – 10 days\* This should be a mix of 1 part lime, 1 part cement, 5 parts clean well graded sharp sand.

The second or floating coat should also be of 7mm and should be lightly scratched ready for the finish coat, leave to dry for 7 – 10 days \* This should be a mix of 1 part lime, 1 part cement, 6 parts clean well graded sharp sand.

A 3mm skim coat of finishing plaster can be added once the render is fully cured. \* Drying times are for guidance minimum and may depend on atmospheric conditions.

It is best to mix the sand and lime a day or so before use, cement can then be added at the time of rendering. Each coat should be allowed to dry for a period of not less than 7 – 10 days, longer if possible. Cracking may occur if shorter time is allowed between coats. It is important that the render coats are allowed to cure correctly over the 7 – 10 day period, with the render dampened as required. In warm periods the render should be protected from excessive drying out by covering with damp hessian sheets, with plastic

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sheeting over. Dampen down the scratch coat before application of the float coat, a smooth finish is not recommended.

Expansion joints should be towelled in through the render to the membrane. These joints must be filled with a suitable flexible polymer based sealant. Expanded metal angle beads and stop beads can be fixed where appropriate using dabs of the same material mixed as for the scratch coat.

### Hydraulic Lime ( Internal and External )

NHL ( Natural Hydraulic Lime ) 3.5 should be used to a combined depth of 20mm, with a 10mm scratch coat and a 10mm second or float coat. The mix ratio is 2.5 parts sand to 1 part NHL 3.5 mixed as per manufacturer's instructions. The 10mm scratch coat is pushed firmly into the membrane mesh. Check the application the following day and rub out any cracks. The surface should be well scratched without breaking the surface of the mesh. The scratch coat has to be left for a minimum of 7 days to set; it should be protected from draughts and extremes of temperatures.

Before applying the second or float coat, carefully scratch out a small area behind the mesh, within the membrane stud, to confirm it is set. The scratch coat has to be dampened down before application of the float coat. The mix ratio is 2.5 parts sand to 1 part NHL mixed as per manufacturer's instructions. The work has to be protected as for the scratch coat. The second coat is floated or towelled as the finishing coat.

Please note that it is imperative that clean water be used for each mix and that all necessary equipment including mixers is cleaned after each application. Failure to do so could result in accelerated drying times, which could result in the plaster cracking.

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