

How To Apply

Venetian Plaster

828-258-2580 (when in doubt call)



Tools - 10" trowel, 3 & 6" thin and flexible taping knives, Very thin trowel, plastic trowel, Soft plastic lid, Water Mist bottle. Mop. Drill & Paddle Mixer. Respirator.

READ THIS FIRST: Color Disclaimer for Lime-Based Plaster: Earthpaint has found a way to get an enormous spectral range for lime based plasters. This is very exciting, however, because of the lime ph, it is an inexact system. The pH and lime will bleach some colors and react with other colors in various ways.

Colored plaster should always be tested on a small area prior to application.

On some colors the actual color will undergo a reaction where it turns a different color until it dries completely. We have not seen a case where the color change was permanent, but if you do not want to deal with these naturally derived characteristics, it is suggested that you try a different method to color your plaster. Earthpaint Venetian Plaster is pure and natural with interesting results that are part of its amazing character. It is a truly natural and sustainable surface that will outlast most other wall coatings. In exchange we gladly accept that each wall will have its very own nuance and personality.

Plaster that is tinted with Earthpaint Coloring Systems should be used immediately, or within 1-2 days of tinting. If this is not possible, get the color in a small can and wait to add it until you are ready to begin. Most color changes dry back to a normal color right away. When the plaster is compressed and some CO2 gets into the lime it can take as long as one to two weeks to fully settle into its permanent color. Sanding the all lightly usually corrects this right away.

In actual practice the colors are so outstanding that it is seldom an issue but it can arise and we want the user to be aware of this. If you want exact colors don't use this product. Many of our walls change from day to night and even take on different hues with the weather. It's like having living walls with character and charm. We've never seen a more attractive wall and hope you enjoy yours as much as we do ours.

1. Prepare Surface Area

Remove all loose, peeling or unsound surfaces from area to be plastered. Any imperfections or undesired textures should be resolved before priming.

2. Prime

Apply Earthpaint Plaster Primer with brush or roller. Stir sand on bottom often. Apply evenly, unevenly, or rough depending on desired result for the finished plaster look. Allow to dry at least 3 hours, but preferably overnight. Add up to 8 oz of course sand if desired for extra tooth. Add up to 8 oz of colorant if desired for aesthetics.

3. Base Coat

Always Mix base coat with a drill before using. Apply 1/8th inch of base coat with trowel or knife over sanded primer. Lay on in the texture that you want to show through the final coats, not thicker than 1/4 inch. Erase Trowel marks after plaster begins to set up, approx. 1 hour. Marks left in base coat layer will be permanent once the plaster dries. A second pass can help to leave the wall even smoother for topcoating if a smooth base coat or very smooth topcoat is desired.

TO AVOID CRACKING THROUGHOUT JOB:

Shut windows and turn off heaters but keep from freezing. Keep air from blowing on plaster. Allow to dry slowly with plenty of moisture in the room.

Humidify or spray with water mist if necessary.

Continue this method for all coats. This is essential to naturally prohibit cracking.

4. First Layer of Top Coat

Before using Venetian Plaster Top Coat, pour off excess water from top (save this and use to thin the plaster if it's too dry) and stir with a drill & mixer attachment to a smooth, thick, pudding-like consistency. Add the saved water if needed. Up to 16 oz of water should be added per gallon (this does not account for liquid that is in colorants. Subtract colorant liquid from the 16 ounces or water if needed.) Thoroughly mix plaster using a paddle mixer. If it trowels on too thick on the wall, thin it more.

IMPORTANT: Use a mop, sponge or water mister to lightly wet the base coat area that is about to be worked so that the plaster is lightly moist.

Apply with trowel, Spatula or Taping Knife in a very thin coat (no more than 1/16" or the thickness between a business card and a credit card). **Applying too thick of a layer of Top Coat will cause cracking.** Lay on a small amount with trowel and wipe off all excess leaving a thin, translucent layer of smooth plaster. The more color that is added the less translucent the plaster will be. Lighter colors will show more layers and luminosity. Thicker (1/16") plaster gets harder and shinier but can be cut with water if it is too difficult to work or if it gets rough on the wall. You will need to watch the moisture content as you begin and add the amount of water that you feel is needed to allow the plaster to move smoothly. The dryness of the wall being coated usually determines how much water needs to be added to get the plaster to lay on as desired without being crumbly or too hard to work with.

The majority of surface texture and variation should be created in this step, making each subsequent pass increasingly smoother and more translucent. Short strokes applied in different, overlapping directions allow for variations in texture. Use crosshatch strokes for the layered luminous look of Venetian Plaster. Long full swipes, with the 12" Steel Trowels commonly used for plastering, can be useful for broad varied and natural looking textures, especially on larger walls. It's also much faster to use a larger trowel and not do crosshatching. The size and type of applicator used also impacts the finished look. Avoid straight lines. Experiment. Have fun. Blend colors on the wall for a marble look.

STEP 4.1 Allow this first coat to set up for approximately 15 minutes or until areas of drying can be seen. With a clean shiny trowel, lightly press the plaster taking care to avoid areas which are still too wet and without catching the plaster with the edge of your tool. This is not the same as burnishing, which will create the finished shiny look by pressing hard, repeatedly on the plaster with a trowel. Instead, simply go over the wall once just to make it a little harder, erase some trowel marks and knock off some ginders. It's a fast process.

This step can be skipped if your trowel abilities are limited. If old patina looks are desired, this is the stage to sculpt them into the plaster. Allow to dry slowly overnight or longer depending on climate. **Don't overwork it. Just compress it ONCE, Knock off the ginders, and come back the next day.** A light water mist can be sprayed on surface if working in a dry environment to avoid cracking.

5. Second Layer of Top Coat

Gently wipe off any sand or loose plaster before applying second coat.

Apply second coat in a light thin layer, using the same technique outlined for the first coat. Change colors on this coat if depth of color tone is desired. Repeat Step 4.1, if possible without damaging the thin plaster.

Continue using light water mist on wall if cracking begins to occur.

6. Third Layer of Top Coat

Follow the same procedure as above, except the final coat needs to be as smooth as possible. Add a tiny bit more water to the plaster if needed to keep it smooth. The majority of your textural effects should have been applied in the first two coats.

Artistic Tip: You can, **at your own creative risk**, add Stone Coat Masonry Hardener with some color added to it. Put this on the surface instead of the water mister. Swirl the plaster on the wall and create color patterns that get locked into stone with the amazing petrification powers of the Stone Coat Masonry Hardener. Also, use this to harden plaster or as a color wash, but be advised that Stone Coat may alter color.)

Wait 15 minutes and repeat Step 4.1, being cautious to avoid damaging previous layers. This is the time to really pay attention to compressing the plaster, which is the secret to a very shiny smooth look and to extra strong plaster once it carbonizes. **DO NOT** try to burnish at this stage. This step may be skipped if your trowel skills are limited. Take care to avoid nicking or otherwise damaging drying plaster. Press it down as hard as you can without damaging it during its first, virgin set up phase.

7. Burnish

Watch for signs of drying (areas that lighten and harden), generally 1 to 3 hours after application or sooner. Don't abandon your plaster at this point. Ideally, you want to burnish the plaster after it's dried somewhat, but before it has dried too hard.

You can use a plastic or steel trowel or other burnishing tool (wine bottles, spoons, plastic lids, blue steel, etc), taking care not to scratch or damage the plaster. Choose the tool that works best for you. Some enjoy using very, very thin metal trowels from Japan. Plastic trowels can work better

when the plaster is soft. Metal usually gives the most shine and glass like effect but use caution.

Burnish only areas that have begun to dry, remembering that the plaster is fragile at this point. The burnishing presses the plaster molecules tightly together, aiding the carbonization process to create an even stronger, marble like plaster. You are also smoothing the surface to create a slick, brilliant shine.

Once plaster is dry, an orbital sander can be used to increase sheen. Begin with 1000 grit sand paper and work up to 12,000 grit. A natural, sealer free Mirrorlike shine is created. Wear a NIOSH approved Respirator.

If a proper job has been done to this point there may be no need to do any further work.

HAVING ANY TROUBLE? If your color changed overnight or after burnishing either wait it out (could be two weeks, more or less) or sand it down 600-1000 grit to let some air back into it. CO₂ will react with the Calcium Hydroxide to return it to Calcium Carbonate (marble). This reaction usually is the source of any color changes and when it's complete the color often returns to normal. Sanding or roughing up the surface can speed the process up by letting the CO₂ in.

8. Final Sealer (optional)

If the burnishing did not get as shiny as you want or if you desire an even shinier finish, a final sealer can be applied. Choose an appropriate sealer, depending on personal preferences and needs. Earthpaint's **Stone Coat Masonry Hardener** is excellent for high traffic areas, outdoors, kitchens, or bathrooms. It's the strongest non-toxic sealer available for plasters and covers most of the bases.

Looking Glass Trim Polish is mostly Beeswax. It is an easy way to add a little shine. **One Coat Wood Finish** can be used to repel water inside but is best for dry areas that want more shine or need some darkening. Oils tend to darken the color and this will change as it cures to a varied color scheme. Skill is required with all sealers so as not to spread color around with the applicator, which could result in a hazy look. This is avoided by simply washing the applicator out often or using a sprayer. The Stone Coat is the easiest since it can be applied with the Water Mist Bottle and rubbed in. It also is easy to add color to Stone Coat and wash over the surface.

Conclude with a hand or machine buffing. Felt Pads on orbital sanders seem to be more effective than automotive type buffers.. Work to the desired degree of shine. Test before using. Depending on desired sheen, buffing may not be appropriate.

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Maintenance:

Nail holes can be touched up with some of the leftover plaster. Put a layer of water over the plaster approx, 2" thick and seal the bucket well. It should last indefinitely this way. If there is very little plaster on the bottom of a bucket this won't work. Instead put small amounts in jars and seal well.

To patch a hole just fill w/ plaster 3 coats and buff until it's smooth. Fine sandpaper may be required. Often just using the fingers and a spackle knife will work. It will depend on the color and texture but most patches blend in to be unnoticeable since the plaster has so much variation.

Wash with Mild soap and water.

Reapply sealer coats as desired if ever.

Dust Warning: This product contains sand. Silica sand contains crystalline silica. Avoid breathing dust from this product as prolonged and repeated breathing can cause a progressive lung disease called Silicosis. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified crystalline silica as a known human carcinogen. Long term exposures that result in silicosis may cause additional health effects. Follow OSHA, MSHA & NIOSH health standards for silica dust.

If irritation occurs contact physician.
Emergency: Nationwide Poison Center Hotline:
1.800.222.1222

Wear goggles, gloves, clothes. Avoid inhalation of dust and prolonged skin contact. Wear NIOSH approved respirator near lime dust. Skin irritation may occur due to high alkalinity. Avoid getting into eyes. Keep away from children.

LIMITED WARRANTY:

Earthpaint expressly warrants its products to be fit for the ordinary purpose for which they are intended for a period of five years from date of installation when applied and used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions within six months of purchase. Earthpaint Inc.'s liability under this warranty is limited to the replacement of products found to be defective or to the refund of purchase price to original purchaser and cannot include liability for labor costs or consequential damages. It is the user's responsibility to insure that the proper product is being for each job. Always test in small inconspicuous areas before application to the entire surface. Earthpaint Inc. reserves the right to require proof of purchase and to inspect installations prior to resolving claims made under this warranty. This limited warranty is exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties either written, oral or implied, and expressly excludes liability for consequential damages.

General Overview:

Stir Plaster

Wear a Respirator to avoid Dust

Use Color within 2 days

Make Sample Boards

Wet wall before applying

Dry slowly, wet if needed

Add water to Plaster to make it flow smoothly.

Large trowels save time.

Base Coat 1/8"

Top Coat NO MORE than 1/16th"

Don't compress Top Coats you plan on Recoating.

Compress the final coat as its' drying for a mirror like finish.

Polishing with 1000-12000 grit sandpaper is a very classy natural mirror like look.

Use One Coat Wood & Masonry sealer over Stone Coat for an easy shine without sanding. Use Rainforest Sealer or Bio Poly if outside or in high moisture area.

Remember to make the plaster dry slow to avoid cracking. No heaters.

Terms of Use:

Instructions are to be used at the users best discretion. These instructions are intended as an aid to coating with natural plaster. The entire scope of this process cannot be covered here. The techniques described should be practiced before implementing professionally. It is up to the user to insure that safe practices are followed. Earthpaint Incorporated can in no way be held liable for the implementation of the described techniques. Consequential damages due to application of the products listed herein are in no way the responsibility of Earthpaint Incorporated. It is up to the user to insure that the methods outlined herein are practiced and understood before application.

Call for help when in doubt.
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