



Lancaster Lime Works  
NATURAL LIME FOR PRESERVATION AND BUILDING

## Horse Hair

**Product Name:** Horse Hair

**Manufacturer:**

**Lancaster Lime Works  
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Willow Street, PA 17584  
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<https://lancasterlimeworks.com>**

**Product Description:**

**This horse hair is a clean and washed natural horse hair that comes in bundles that weigh between .74 and .82 lbs each. The hair in each bundle measures between 8" and 10" in length. Each bundle is bound tightly in string.**

**Traditionally horse hair was added to the base coat of lime plaster especially when the lime plaster is applied to wood lathe. The hair acts as a type of "rebar" where the plaster squeezes between the gaps of the wood lathe preventing the plaster from breaking at this point.**

**Horse Hair is the natural and stronger material of choice for lime plasters instead of poly fibers. Horse hair is not smooth like poly fibers are. The rough surface of the the horse hair will grip the lime plaster firmly.**

**It is not uncommon to see horse hair in historic plasters that have been installed directly on masonry. However horse hair is not generally needed when lime plaster is applied directly onto solid masonry walls because the suction action is enough to firmly adhere the lime plaster to the solid masonry.**

**Horse hair is used for plasters that are installed over hempcrete and strawbale structures giving extra strength to the plaster for bridging gaps, wood framing members etc.**



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### **Basic Use:**

**Horse Hair should not be added to high PH lime plasters until immediately before application of the plaster to the wall. This is because the high PH of the plaster will damage and dissolve the hair.**

**Remove string that is binding the bundle of hair together and using a sharp pair of scissors, cut the hair into 1/2" to 1" lengths. Longer lengths are sometimes needed for ceilings.**

**Add approx 3 oz of hair for each five gallon bucket of lime mortar. Add approximately one bundle of hair for each 55 bag of NHL. Actual quantity will vary depending on viscosity of the mortar, the gaps in the lathe and installation skill.**

**Spread the plaster out on the mixing pan or mortar board and evenly sprinkle the hair over the plaster. Using a masonry trowel, shovel or other means, fold the plaster over top of itself several times or until the hair is evenly distributed throughout the mix. Avoid using a mechanical mixer as the hair has a tendency to bunch up on the mixing paddles and arms.**

**Ensure the hair is evenly distributed and not bunched up in clumps and balls.**

### **Safety/Health:**

**For those who are allergic to animal hair this may cause irritation. If irritation occurs, remove the hair from the location and flush area with soap and water. If a known animal allergy exists, wear appropriate safety gear and minimize contact with exposed skin. For protection from accidental ingestion or inhalation, wear a dust mask.**