Installation Guide
Plastrum Base Coat

Product Name: **Plastrum Base Coat Plaster**
Manufacturer: Lancaster Lime Works
717.207.7014 www.lancasterlimeworks.com

Product Description:

Lancaster Lime Works Plastrum Base Coat Lime Plasters are a carbonating, non-hydraulic plaster that is pre-mixed with our high-calcium (98%+) (slaked) lime putty (calcium hydroxide) lime, our special blend of aggregate, our proprietary earth-based binder and water.

When the substrate is primed with the Plastrum Primer, it can be used over historic lime plaster. It was designed for use over modern substrates such as drywall, existing latex paint, existing plaster, foamboard, etc. With high plasticity and superior workability, it forms a strong bond with drywall, latex paint, existing plaster, foamboard etc.

Our lime putty plasters are made with our carbonating lime. They must absorb carbon dioxide to set.

The plaster will keep indefinitely in the original container if carbon dioxide is excluded.

Our lime putty plasters help control the humidity of the internal environment. They resist mold and mildew all while being all natural with no PVA's, Methyl cellulose, gum binders etc. Plastrum Lime Base or Finish Plaster is designed to be used over the Plastrum Lime Primer to make a wide variety of historic plasters.

There are almost limitless types of finishes that can be achieved with the Plastrum Lime Plasters. Installers are required to practice installation methods and techniques before tackling the entire project as it is impossible to describe all the different methods of installation.
Specifics will vary depending on the desired finish and skill of the installer.

Our Traditional Lime Putty Finish Plaster can also be installed over the Plastrum Basecoat.

Important notes:

Preparation of the plaster, the substrate along with properly applying the Plastrum Primer as well as protection and care after installation are just as important as correct application techniques. Proper installation and finishing techniques are the key to a successful project. These instructions are a general guide, not a substitute for the years of experience it can take to become a proficient plastering expert.

Always complete practice pieces to familiarize yourself before tackling the main project. The samples must be done to provide the training needed to streamline the installers' methods and ensure a good outcome.

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Wear personal protective equipment, safety glasses and gloves etc. to avoid skin contact!

Surface preparation:

Fill nail holes and cracks, tape and three coat all seams on cement board, drywall etc. First apply a coat of Plastrum Lime Primer. The Plastrum Base Coat Plaster be used as a leveling material over rough areas.

Preparing the Plaster:

Plastrum needs to be 'knocked-up' - a process of mixing, beating or turning which energizes the lime. The minimum amount of water should be added to make a workable and spreadable mix. The amount of water needed in the plaster will vary depending on the type of finish, skill of installer, type of substrate, color and thickness of finish, etc.

We recommend removing the water from the top of the plaster before mixing and add back into the bucket as needed. For knocking up a single bucket of plaster use a heavy-duty right-angle drill with an eggbeater mixer attachment. Mix for 3-5 minutes or until the plaster has reached the desired consistency. A mixer that does not beat the mortar will not work well. For large quantities of plaster, a top loading - forced action mechanical mixer that "stirs" rather than "lifts" is ideal. Mix for approx. 5 minutes.

If a bell mixer is used, it should be left turning for long enough to achieve a suitable consistency without adding water (sometimes 20-30 minutes).
If more water is required, it should be added ***CAUTIOUSLY*** as too much water will render the plaster too heavy, requiring longer dry time and causing shrinkage cracks that will need compressed as the plaster is drying.

Preparing the Surface:

Use Plastrum Base Coat over the Plastrum Lime Primer. Before applying the Plastrum Lime Primer, surfaces must be clean, free of dust, oil, silicone and loose material. If there is any question as to the suitability of the substrate to properly "hold onto" the plaster then mock-ups must be done.

Use a brush to install Plastrum Lime Primer. This ensures the aggregate has been evenly spread. A roller will cause the aggregate to build up into the nap of the roller and will not be evenly distributed.

Ensure that there are no large buildups or runs of the primer. These buildups will be seen through the plaster. Dry for 24-48 hours before installing the Plastrum Base Coat.

When plastering over very porous surfaces such as concrete block etc, mist the primer or substrate slightly before installation. This keeps the plaster from drying too quickly and allows longer working times.

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Applying the Plaster:

Apply the Base plaster at a consistent thickness. Aim for 1/4" - 3/8" thickness over the primed surface. Varying thicknesses of the plaster will cause different drying rates across the wall. This makes the desired finish more difficult to achieve.

Avoid applying with too much pressure and overworking the plaster. This can lead to blistering. If blistering occurs, stop troweling. Allow the blisters to draw back into the surface.

Finishing the Plaster:

Gently mist if the plaster dries too quickly. In hot and dry conditions, a gentle but complete wetting of the plaster should be done several times to keep the plaster from flash drying. Avoid over-wetting.

When using as the base coat for the Plastrum Finish Plaster or the Traditional Lime Putty finish plaster, the surface of the Plastrum Base must be "floated" and "rubbed-down". Use a wood float or a devil float ensuring the surface of the base coat has a textured and open pored surface.

As the Plastrum dries, a "skin" develops. Breaking the "skin" after it has formed requires misting the wall again and rubbing down with the wood float to ensure a textured and open pored surface.

Note:

Do not use dehumidifiers and heaters to speed up the set. Good, even drying and ventilation is key, accelerated drying will prevent carbonation and will cause the plaster to fail.

Gentle heat may be used cautiously in cold, damp buildings. Protect new lime plasters from frost. Work should not be carried out below 41°F (water starts to freeze at 39 degrees). If work must continue in cold temperatures, (although ill advised) fully enclose and circulate heat.

Protect from rain - heavy rain can wash the lime out or draw it to the surface before the render has carbonated.

Storage of Unused Plaster:

Store the plaster covered with water in airtight original buckets. It is freeze/thaw stable. The bucket could break due to expansion.

Premixed lime plasters and mortars will compact over time. They will take more effort to 'knock up'. For easier results use as soon as possible.

After Care:

Plastrum Lime Plaster will care for your building for years to come. It helps control the humidity and resists mold and mildew. It gives a beautiful finish that no modern plaster can replicate. If desired, you can finish it with Plastrum Limewash.

Lime plaster should never be covered with latex or oil paints or coatings.

Approximate coverage rates:

One 5-gallon bucket of Plastrum Base Coat Plaster covers approximately 25 square feet per five-gallon bucket and 5 square feet per one gallon bucket. Actual coverage rates will vary depending on the thickness it is applied.

Additional Information:

The application of Plastrum Lime Plaster is more involved than using modern Gypsum plaster. It is recommended to use an experienced lime plasterer or at the very least have practical hands-on installation experience.

We recommend potential plaster contractors perform a mockup before entering a contract. It is not possible to cover every point in detail here, if further guidance is needed, please contact Lancaster Lime Works.

These instructions are a general guide

We provide training for contractors, homeowners and specifiers. This can save time on-site ensuring a successful project.
Custom plaster mixes are available

Wear personal protective equipment, safety glasses and gloves etc. to avoid skin contact!