



LimeStrong Artisan plasters are available from select distributors or online at: [www.limestrongartisan.com](http://www.limestrongartisan.com)

# LimeStrong™ Use Instructions

## L I M E S T R O N G   S A N D

LIMESTRONG SAND is designed to create a medium to heavy texture with a matte finish. It is ideal for replicating concrete, stone, and other coarse finishes.

### APPLICATION STEPS

1. Prepare Substrate
2. Prime Substrate
3. Mix LimeStrong Plaster
4. Apply Base Coat
5. Apply Finish Coat
6. Seal Plaster with LimeStrong Soap Finish (optional)

### PACKAGING and COVERAGE

LimeStrong Sand is packaged in 32 lb. bags—enough to mix with 2 gallons of water in a common 5 gallon bucket to make one batch. Coverage per bag/batch is 80-100 square feet using two coats at 1/4 inch total thickness max.

### WATER

For each bag of mix, you will need 2 gallons of clean water.

### COLORING/TINT

Use whatever method you are currently using to tint your plasters. Any universal colorant will work, as will dry powdered pigments. As always, add the tint or pigment to the mix water before adding the dry plaster mix.

### TOOLS and MATERIALS

Clean 5 gallon (20 liter) Bucket	Quart Container
Heavy duty 1/2" mixing drill	Drill attachment mixing paddle
Gloves	Bucket Scraper
Standard Hawk	Standard Trowel
Finish Tools (Sponge or Wood Float)	Spray Bottle w/ Water
LimeStrong Soap (diluted)	Clean Roller and Roller Screen

### SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Limestrong Sand finish plaster can be applied successfully on non-porous and porous substrates. Non-porous substrates include new and painted drywall, and concrete. Porous substrates include stucco, lime and gypsum plaster. Cinder or concrete block construction will need a smoothing/leveling base coat of a coarser, thicker material like *LimeStrong Build Classicus* before applying SAND.

### NON-POROUS SUBSTRATES

**NEW DRYWALL:** Before applying SAND, drywall should be finished and sanded to Level 3 with all joints coated flat. Screw holes should be filled and outside corners beaded and filled. Hollow joints, screw heads, and corner bead may show up in the final plaster finish.

**PAINTED DRYWALL:** In most cases, SAND can be applied directly to previously painted drywall. Repair dents, nail pops, holes, etc. before application

### POROUS SUBSTRATES

**STUCCO, GYPSUM PLASTER, LIME PLASTER:** Porous substrates that are unpainted and physically and mechanically sound are ready for SAND application as-is. Substrate should be clean and dust free. If excessive suction is present, the substrate will need to be primed before application.

### PRIMING SUBSTRATE

New drywall surfaces must be primed prior to application of LimeStrong. We recommend priming drywall surface with a high quality latex based or PVA primer gaged with Dimension Grit™, a fine pumice aggregate. Dimension Grit provides mechanical key for the plaster to adhere to the drywall and allows the lime plaster to spread evenly over the primed surface without sliding. Apply primer with roller. Primer should dry for 12 hours before applying first coat of SAND.

### MIXING LIMESTRONG SAND

**WATER:** Add 2 gallons of water (8 liters) to clean 5 gallon bucket. If using a tint to color SAND, remove 1 quart of water from the bucket and set aside for later use.

**TINT:** Do not shake tint container. Pour entire contents of the tint container into the water in bucket. Rinse the container twice with the saved water and use a small paint brush to clean all of the tint from the sides and bottom of the container

Continues: page 1 of 2

to ensure all the tint is used. With all the tint in the water, mix water with the drill as the tint may have settled to the bottom.

**PLASTER MIX:** 1—Pour half the bag of SAND plaster into the water. Mix well with the drill for 2 minutes. Scrape any unmixed plaster that sticks to the side of the bucket into the mix. 2—Add remaining SAND to bucket. Mix thoroughly and scrape sides of bucket.

## **APPLYING LIMESTRONG SAND**

### **BASE COAT**

With a standard hawk and trowel, apply first coat with a thickness of 1/16 or slightly more so the plaster covers the biggest particles (grain height). Apply as evenly as possible avoiding trowel lines and ridges. When the plaster dries about half way, trowel over it again with a clean trowel to even ridges, high points and imperfections. Avoid making it too smooth as it needs a bit of tooth for the next coat to bond to. If the plaster pulls or stretches, spray the trowel or plaster directly with a very small amount of water to lightly lubricate the plaster surface.

### **FINISH COAT**

The application of the second coat is applied after the first coat is completely dry. For all finishes, apply another coat (grain height) and then double back over the surface with more plaster, working in random directions. This coat is where you can create a troweled texture, if desired.

### **FINISH TEXTURES**

**TROWELED SMOOTH:** When the surface has dried slightly, you can come back with a clean trowel and an optional small amount of water to further smooth the surface. (Optional: apply LimeStrong Soap Finish.)

**SPONGE FLOAT:** With a stucco sponge float or a tile sponge, you can create a sandy, matte finish that typically is more mottled in color. To create this finish, wait until the finish coat is about 50% dry, then using a slightly damp sponge move the plaster around in a swirling pattern.

**WOOD FLOAT:** A wood float finish is similar to a sponge float, but smoother. The subtle texture is created from the biggest sand grains dragging under the float. Wait until the finish coat is 50% dry and, using a damp wood float, swirl and scour the surface to the desired finish texture.

**DRAGGED:** A dragged texture is created when some kind of texturing tool is dragged across the wet plaster. This is a timing-critical process and has to be done evenly in a single pass to achieve a good result. Typically the dragged pattern is

set in the wet plaster, allowed to dry slightly, then smoothed just a bit with a trowel to soften the effect of the texture.

## **LIMESTRONG SOAP FINISH**

A LimeStrong Soap Finish (optional) will give the plaster a silky feeling and will increase stain resistance and wipe-ability of the plaster. The soap finish is applied after the plaster finish coat has completely dried.

LimeStrong Soap Finish comes concentrated and needs to be diluted 8 parts water to 1 part soap. For a full bucket of diluted SOAP, mix the one-half gallon of concentrate with 4 gallons (15 liters) of water.

Apply the soap with a new or clean roller. Use a roller screen in a bucket, dip the roller in the bucket, and roll off any excess with the screen. Start at the bottom of the wall, roll the soap on in random directions, taking care to avoid linear stroke patterns and drips. Apply two coats of soap, one immediately after the other.

## **Safe Use Precautions**

LimeStrong Artisan plasters contains hydrated (slaked) lime, which (because of a high pH) is somewhat caustic. Breathing the powder dust can also cause respiratory irritation. **BE SMART.** Protect yourself. In all situations, if irritation develops, seek medical attention.

**SKIN:** With prolonged contact, lime plaster can irritate and dehydrate skin. Wear protective gloves and a long-sleeved shirt. You can further protect your face, neck, hands and forearms with a barrier cream. Protecting your skin, especially when cuts, scrapes or scratches are present, is always worth the effort. **TREATMENT:** Wash exposed skin thoroughly after handling lime plaster. Keep a bucket of water liberally splashed with white vinegar to neutralize the bite of lime plaster on skin and (at clean-up) tools.

**EYES:** Please take care to protect your eyes when mixing and applying lime plaster. Precautions must be taken to keep airborne powder out of your eyes. Also avoid rubbing the eyes with unwashed hands that have been in contact with lime plaster (wet or dry). **TREATMENT:** Immediately flush eyes liberally with water for several minutes.

**INHALATION:** When mixing or sanding lime-based plasters, especially for prolonged periods, wear a particle mask or respirator that covers the nose and mouth. **TREATMENT:** If inhaled, move immediately to fresh air.