



LimeStrong Artisan plasters are available from select distributors or online at: www.limestrongartisan.com

LimeStrong™ User Instructions

L I M E S T R O N G M A R B L E

LIMESTRONG MARBLE is the finest of our artisan grades, designed to be applied in successive thin coats to create a luminous, polished finish.

APPLICATION STEPS

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

PACKAGING and COVERAGE

LimeStrong Marble is packaged in 30 lb. bags—enough to mix with 3 gallons (11 liters) of water in a common 5 gallon bucket. Coverage per bag is 250-300 square feet per bag/batch using two coats for 1/16 inch total thickness max.

WATER

For each bag of mix, you will need 3 gallons of clean water.*

COLORING/TINT

Adding color or tint to LimeStrong plaster is a simple process. Any universal colorant will work, especially quality dry-powder pigments like those selected for the LimeStrong Color System.* As always, add the liquid tint or pigment powder to the batch-measured mix water before adding dry plaster mix.

TOOLS and MATERIALS

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

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Limestrong Marble finish plaster can be applied successfully on smooth drywall—new or painted.

NON-POROUS SUBSTRATES

NEW DRYWALL: Before applying MARBLE, drywall should be finished and sanded to Level 4 with all joints coated flat. Screw holes and dings should be filled and outside corners beaded and filled.

PAINTED DRYWALL: In most cases, MARBLE can be applied directly to previously painted drywall. It must be completely smooth with no texture. Repair dents, nail pops, holes, etc. 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 MARBLE.

MIXING LIMESTRONG MARBLE

For best results, allow mixed and strained MARBLE to sit for a few hours before use. This will allow it to thicken up slightly.

WATER: Add 3 gallons of water (11 liters) to clean 5 gallon bucket. If using a liquid tint to color MARBLE, remove 1 quart of water from the bucket and set aside for later use.

LIQUID COLORANT: Do not shake tint container. Pour entire contents of the liquid pigment container into the mix water. Rinse the container twice with the saved water and use a small paint brush to clean all of the tint pigment from the sides and bottom of the container to ensure all the tint is used. With all the tint in the water, mix with the drill as the tint may have settled to the bottom.

POWDERED COLORANT: Add weighed/measured pigment powder to pre-measured mix water while agitating water slowly to avoid settling. Tap to knock free any pigment clinging to sides of container. Mix at high speed with drill-at-tached paddle (30 seconds to one minute), making sure

*Water and color pigment amount CALCULATORS available online at: limestrongartisan.com/calculators.html

colorant is completely dissolved in the water. Add plaster immediately. Note: to avoid any chance of pigment bursting or starrng, strain the pigmented water before adding plaster.

PLASTER MIX: 1—Pour one-third to half the bag of MARBLE 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 wet mix. 2—Repeat Step 1 until all remaining MARBLE has been added to bucket. Mix thoroughly and scrape sides of bucket often. Strain.

STRAINING LIMESTRONG MARBLE

Once the MARBLE plaster has been thoroughly mixed, it is necessary to strain it through a paint strainer for best results. Because MARBLE is such a fine finish, the strainer will remove any contaminants that might be present.

Place a clean, unused 5 gallon paint strainer into a clean, empty 5 gallon bucket. Pour half of the mixed MARBLE plaster into the strainer. Pick up the strainer and agitate it inside the bucket, forcing the plaster to flow through. Wearing rubber gloves, gently squeeze any remaining plaster through the strainer, taking care not to puncture it with your fingers. This process will go much easier if the plaster is mixed a little on the thinner side. Allow to sit for a few hours to thicken slightly.

APPLYING LIMESTRONG MARBLE

BASE COAT

With a standard hawk and trowel, apply first coat with a thickness of 1/32 or slightly more so the plaster covers the primer completely. 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. 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. It may be necessary to scrape or sand any high points that may have been missed in the smoothing of the first coat. These surface ridges and bumps will show through as dark spots in the finished plaster. For MARBLE finishes, apply a another tight coat and then double back over the surface with more plaster covering the entire surface evenly. This second coat should be as thin as possible. Pull the plaster tight in random directions.

BURNISHING

As the finish coat begins to dry up slightly, come back to it with a clean trowel. You will be able to lightly begin burnishing the surface. Make several passes (recommended), using more pressure each time.

USE-WINDOW FOR MIXED PLASTER

The lime + pumice formulation of LimeStrong plasters creates a mix that is slightly hydraulic. This hydraulic reaction is strongly affected by temperature. Mixed plaster stored in warm or hot conditions will set faster than if stored in cool, above-freezing conditions. The plaster, once mixed with water, will slowly stiffen and become firm. As a general rule, the mixed plaster will be usable for 7 to 10 days. Within that 7-10 day window, remixing may be necessary to return the plaster to an ideal working consistency.

Store mixed LimeStrong in an airtight container and keep from freezing or extreme heat.

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. Please read our *Safe Use Precautions* publication for information on protecting and treating skin, eyes, and breathing function.