



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

# LimeStrong™ Mixing Guide

The following guidelines provide the best practices for adding colorants and mixing LimeStrong™ Artisan plasters.

## LIQUID TINTS

LimeStrong plasters can be colored with the same liquid tints used for paint. First, remove at least one quart of water from the *batch-measured* water and set aside.

Do not shake tint container. Pour entire contents of the liquid pigment container into the mix water. Rinse the container twice with the set-aside 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 thoroughly with a drill-and-mixing-paddle rig to ensure no tint has settled to the bottom.

## POWDERED PIGMENTS

When using powdered pigments with the finer LimeStrong finishes—STONE or MARBLE—there is always a slight chance of pigment bursting or starring. Some dry pigments can be difficult to entirely disperse in these fine plasters, potentially leaving tiny pigment particles that can show up in finishes that are troweled tight and smooth.

### STEP 1: Add pigment powder to remeasured mix water.

Using a drill-and-mixing-paddle rig at low speed, slowly churn the water while adding the pigment (to avoid settling on bottom). Tap to knock free any pigment clinging to sides of container. Continue to mix at low speed until all powder is wet and dispersed in the mix water. Then mix at high speed for 30 seconds to a minute.

**STEP 2: Strain the pigment and water mixture.** Using a nylon paint strainer (bag type), strain the pigment and water solution into another clean bucket. Make sure the pigmented water solution is freshly mixed and all of the pigment is suspended in the water. Pigment will settle in still water quickly and you will lose some at the bottom of the bucket if it is not immediately poured through the strainer.

The paint strainer serves to catch any particles of pigment that may be hardened and not able to disperse into the water.

**STEP 3: Add plaster immediately.** Remix the pigment and water if it has had a chance to settle. Always make sure the pigment is fully in suspension before adding plaster.

## MIXING THE PLASTER

Add the plaster to the water incrementally. One-third of a bag at a time is about right. At each stage, mix until no lumps are present. Frequently clean the sides of the bucket with a bucket scraper until there is no unmixed or undermixed powder clinging to the bucket. Repeat until all of the plaster has been added. Add a little more water as needed to adjust the consistency of the finished plaster.

Once all the plaster is in the bucket, we recommend mixing at high speed for 3 full minutes, especially when using powdered pigments. This will help the color pigments fully disperse in the plaster mix.

When mixing MARBLE, allow mixed plaster to sit for a few hours before use, allowing it to thicken up slightly.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**MIX-WATER SHORTCUT.** Page 2 of this mixing guide includes an infographic and mix-water tables that you can use to consistently measure the right amount of water for every bucket-batch.

**GRADE-SPECIFIC USER INSTRUCTIONS.** Use/application guides are available for each grade of LimeStrong plaster. Safe use precautions and an olive oil soap finish guide are also available. All can be downloaded (PDF files) from our website.

**LIMESTRONG COLOR SYSTEM.** We have developed a color system for our plasters and limewash that is easy to source, use and consistently formulate. The color system consists of eight (8) standard base colors and a formulation system for calculating shades and blends using those eight colors. The color pigment powders were selected, tested, and designed to be consistently scalable to both batch size and color intensity. They come packaged in a lined, resealable paper bag (250 grams per bag). Colors can be ordered online from our website or purchased from select distributors.

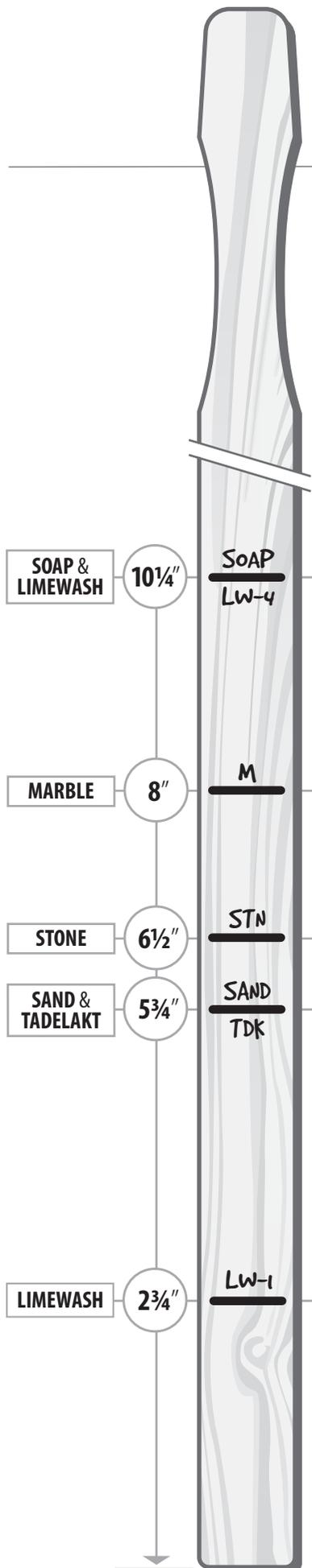
A 4-page PDF FORMULATION GUIDE detailing how to calculate the shades and blend combinations is available for download at our website:  
[limestrongartisan.com/library.html](http://limestrongartisan.com/library.html)

Water and color pigment amount CALCULATORS available online at:  
[limestrongartisan.com/calculators.html](http://limestrongartisan.com/calculators.html)

# LimeStrong™ Mix-Water Guide

A useful method for insuring you consistently add the ideal amount of water for each bag-batch of LimeStrong is to mark a 5-gallon (21-inch) paint stirring stick with the following measurements. Use with/mix batch in a standard 5-gallon bucket. You may need to add a little extra water at the end of mixing to adjust consistency.

- Stick will float up; be sure to press against the bottom of the mix bucket for an accurate depth reading. You can use a large binder clip or small spring clamp to temporarily pin the stick to the side of the bucket and against the bottom.
- Add color tints (liquid or powder) to mix water and mix thoroughly *before* adding LimeStrong powder. If using liquid tints, especially deep colors (lots of tint), adjust your water content accordingly—remove an equal amount of water to account for the tint or the mix will be too soupy.



## LIMESTRONG SAND

**2.0 gallons / 8 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **5 ¾ inches** on stick

## LIMESTRONG STONE

**2.5 gallons / 9 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **6 ½ inches** on stick

## LIMESTRONG MARBLE

**3.0 gallons / 11 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **8 inches** on stick

## LIMESTRONG BASE

**2.0 gallons / 8 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **5 ¾ inches** on stick

## LIMESTRONG TADELAKT

**2.0 gallons / 8 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **5 ¾ inches** on stick

## LIMESTRONG LIMEWASH

**0.8 gallon / 3 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **2 ¾ inches** on stick

**4.0 gallons / 15 liters of water**      Depth Mark: **10 ¼ inches** on stick

# Other Mix Ratios

## LIMESTRONG SOAP FINISH

**1.0 gallons / 4 liters of water per 1 pint** of LIMESTRONG SOAP FINISH concentrate (8 to 1 ratio)

**4.0 gallons / 15 liters of water per ½ gallon** of LIMESTRONG SOAP FINISH concentrate (8 to 1 ratio)

## DIMENSION GRIT™ (ARTISAN)

Add **1.0 Cup** of DIMENSION GRIT (ARTISAN) per **1.0 gallon** of a quality latex or PVA primer