



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

# LimeStrong™ plaster instructions

THIS SAMPLE KIT CONTAINS three grades of our artisan finish plasters—MARBLE (fine), STONE (medium), and SAND (coarse). They are designed to be interior finishes applied to primed, finished drywall or well-prepared plaster base coats. They are a blend of high quality hydrated lime, various grades of pumice aggregate and small amounts of other proprietary ingredients for workability.

### COVERAGE

Each sample contains enough dry material to make up one quart of wet plaster. Including both coats, this should cover approximately—

MARBLE	12 sq.ft.	<i>makes 3 – 2x2-foot sample boards</i>
STONE	8 sq.ft.	<i>makes 2 – 2x2-foot sample boards</i>
SAND	6 sq.ft.	<i>makes 1 – 2x2-foot sample boards</i>

### WATER

For each quart mix, you will use a total of 400-500 ml of water (1.5 to 2 cups). Start with 350 ml (1.5 cups), then add more water if necessary.

### COLORANT

Use whatever method you are currently using to tint your plasters. Any universal colorant will work, as will dry powdered pigments, such a those available in the LimeStrong Color System. As always, add the liquid tint or powdered pigment to the mix water and mix thoroughly before adding the dry plaster mix.

### MAKING SAMPLE BOARDS

Any type of sample board base will work fine. We have been using 1/4-inch MDF board with great success. Apply the plaster to within about an inch of the outside edge and then when it is finished, cut 2 inches off all 4 sides with a table saw. This leaves clean, professional-looking edges.

All surfaces should be primed with PVA or acrylic paint primer before application of the first coat.

We have included a sample of Dimension Grit™, and recommend adding this fine pumice to the primer to provide tooth for additional grip. There is enough Dimension Grit (Artisan Grade) to gage one pint of primer.

### INSTRUCTIONS SPECIFIC TO GRADE:

#### LimeStrong Marble™ (fine)

The Marble finish is like a true Venetian plaster. Similar to Vasari Veneziano™ or American Clay Porcelaina™. It is applied very thin in 2 or more coats. It can be polished to a high sheen or left unburnished for a matte finish.

**Mixing.** We've found the best way to mix plasters for small samples is in a quart sized plastic measuring container. Use a cordless drill with an old kitchen hand mixer beater attached.

Slowly add the plaster powder to 1.5 cups water. Mix well until there are no lumps. Add more water if necessary. For best results, pass the mixed material through a one-gallon paint strainer (included) by filling the strainer with the mixed plaster and squeezing it through into another container.

**First coat.** Apply a thin, even coat around 1mm. Ensure that it is thick enough to not see any of the substrate. Allow to dry about 50% and come back with a clean trowel and gently flatten out/ knock down any ridges or high spots. This should be a very quick pass and not intended to smooth out the surface.

**Second coat.** Allow the first coat to completely dry. Apply your second coat with a double-back technique.

Apply a tight coat over the whole surface. Double back with more material in random directions, filling and flattening. Keep applying super-tight strokes of plaster until the suction has been overcome and you can move the plaster on the surface a little bit. At this point, pull any excess material off the surface and allow to dry for a minute.

With a clean trowel, begin burnishing lightly. As the plaster dries slightly, begin to apply more pressure, burnishing in random directions. At a certain point, you will be able to apply full pressure and burnish as hard as you want. This will result in a smooth, polished surface.

**Soap.** It is not necessary to apply soap to the finished plaster. Olive oil soap is a cheap and easy way to take the finish to another level. The soap creates a silky smooth feel to the plaster, and gives it some stain resistance. *See the common soap application instructions on the next page.*

### **LimeStrong Stone™ (medium)**

The Stone finish grade has a small amount of fine aggregate. It is similar to Vasari Marmorino™ or American Clay Loma™. It is applied thin in 2 or more coats and can be polished or left unburnished for a more matte finish.

**Mixing.** We've found the best way to mix plasters for small samples is in a quart sized plastic measuring container. Use a cordless drill with an old kitchen hand mixer beater attached.

Slowly add the plaster powder to 1.5 cups of water. Mix well until there are no lumps. Add more water if needed.

**First coat.** Apply a thin, even coat around 1-2 mm. Ensure that it is thick enough to not see any of the substrate. Allow to dry for a few minutes and come back with a clean trowel and gently flatten out/knock down any ridges or high spots. This should be a very quick pass and not intended to smooth out the surface.

**Second coat.** Allow the first to completely dry. If there are still any ridges or high spots, gently scrape or sand to remove them. These can show through if you don't. Apply your second coat with a double-back technique.

Apply a tight coat over the whole surface. Immediately double back with more material in random directions. Your trowel will tend to leave the aggregate behind and pull the cream from the surface. Make sure to reapply the cream using it to create a smooth surface. With this finish, you can leave some areas of background less burnished to create a more mottled effect. Keep applying plaster (cream) until the suction has been overcome and you can move the plaster on the surface a little bit.

At this point, pull any excess material off the surface and allow to dry for a minute.

With a clean trowel, begin burnishing lightly. As the plaster dries slightly, begin to apply more pressure, burnishing in random directions.

**Soap.** It is not necessary to apply soap to the finished plaster. Olive oil soap is a cheap and easy way to take the finish to another level. The soap creates a silky smooth feel to the plaster, and gives it some stain resistance. *See the common soap application instructions to the right.*

### **LimeStrong Sand™ (coarse)**

The Sand finish grade is meant for more heavy-textured plaster effects. It has a coarser pumice aggregate that can be built up thicker. Similar to Vasari Carerra™ or American Clay Enjarre™. It is applied very thin in 2 or more coats. It can be textured and smoothed to create a variety of effects.

**Mixing.** We've found the best way to mix plasters for small samples is in a quart sized plastic measuring container. Use a cordless drill with an old kitchen hand mixer beater attached.

Slowly add the plaster powder to 1.5 cups of water. Mix well until there are no lumps. Add more water if needed.

**First coat.** Apply a thin, even coat around 2-3mm a little more than grain height. Knock down ridges or gently float depending on the desired finish.

**Second coat.** Allow the first coat to completely dry. Apply the second coat generously. When the second coat is still wet, you can create depth and texture on the surface. Wood float, drag, brush, etc. to create a distressed-type surface. Or you can create texture for an Old World Tuscan look. As the plaster dries, use a clean trowel to begin (gently) to smooth the surface. Make sure to preserve the depth of your desired texture and not erase it with the trowel. When the texture is set, use trowel pressure to smooth the high areas. This is just one example of many different effects that can be achieved using this material.

**Soap.** It is not necessary to apply soap to the finished plaster. Olive oil soap is a cheap and easy way to take the finish to another level. The soap creates a silky smooth feel to the plaster, and gives it some stain resistance. *Instructions below.*

### **SOAP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Use the same diluted olive oil soap you would for tadelakt. When the plaster is completely dry, apply a first coat of soap with a brush or roller. Start at the bottom and apply upwards in random strokes. The plaster will absorb the first coat readily. Try to fully saturate the surface. Wait a few minutes and apply a second coat. This coat will not soak in and will just serve to dampen the surface. Use a trowel and a clean rag to remove excess soap; lightly burnish the surface with a trowel.