

LIMEWASHING

over old coats of limewash

1. Remove flaking limewash with a stiff brush e.g. a churn brush to get rid of loose material. As it is possible that chalkiness/dust on the original limewash is reducing the quality of key of the new limewash it is important to make sure that the original surface is well wetted. Generally it is easier to ensure that the walls are adequately wetted with a spray rather than a brush.
2. This may involve two or three sprayings, some ½-1 hour prior to limewashing to soak well into the surface.
3. For the same reason of improving the key for the first coat, apply this coat thinly. As we make a relatively thick limewash you can dilute this first coat with a little clean water if necessary and ensure that it dries out slowly. This may involve light spraying if necessary to slow down the drying process where the background is especially "thirsty" or the weather windy or hot.
4. It may be prudent to test how well this first coat has bonded on a trial panel before proceeding to additional coats.
5. Ideally leave each coat to cure for a minimum of 24 hours. For any further coats, follow the same procedure of misting well before limewashing and allowing to dry out slowly, with light spraying if necessary. Protect external limewash from the weather if necessary. A thin coat curing slowly in the presence of moisture will form a more crystalline, hardwearing surface compared to a chalky finish if a thick coat dries out too quickly. After the initial carbonation and curing a limewash will continue to strengthen for several weeks.

If adding casein into a limewash, mix the casein with some warm water first. Always add water to powder and slowly whisk to form a paste and leave to stand for 30 minutes. Slowly whisk in more water until a similar consistency as the limewash is achieved. Leave to stand for a further 15 minutes and then whisk well into the limewash.

Poor bonding of a new limewash onto an existing limewash can result from:

1. Additives in the original limewash such as tallow or raw linseed oil, which reduce the porosity and hence the key for the new limewash.
2. Surface dusting or chalking, which may detract from a sufficiently consolidated surface for the new paint to key onto.
3. Applying the new limewash too thickly. Our limewash is already relatively thick and easy to apply with or without added casein and must be applied thinly.
4. Over rapid drying caused by insufficient damping down prior to limewashing or insufficient slowing down of the drying process e.g. by spraying or physical protection.

5. Applying in low temperatures or when there's a risk of frost.
6. Over enthusiastic application of water before application of lime or application of lime too soon after damping down as this stops the suction.

Safety

Limes are caustic. Always wear eye protection and protective gloves and clothing and follow the safety instructions on the labels. Our advice and information are given in good faith. It's important that users satisfy themselves that they've chosen an appropriate product and have a suitably skilled workforce.