Clay plasters

A practical alternative to gypsum based plasters

INTRODUCTION

The versatility, flexibility, ease of application and cost-effectiveness of clay plasters makes them a practical alternative to gypsum based plasters. Clay plaster has excellent properties of regulating both temperature and humidity, making it ideal for 'breathing' constructions. Clay plaster also has the major advantage that it can be reworked at any time in the future.

Construction Resources stocks a wide range of clay products which are displayed on the ground floor around the 'Earth Pavilion'.

ADVANTAGES

- Clay plaster can take picture hooks, wallpaper and paints
- Clay surfaces are cool in summer and warm in winter
- Clay surfaces absorb and diffuse water vapour
- Clay absorbs odours
- Ideally suited for high comfort, modern buildings and historic building refurbishment
- Clay plaster can be reworked at any time
- Clay plasters are 100% natural

GENERAL

Clay is one of the earliest used basic building materials but is now recognised as being a thoroughly modern and convenient building material with outstanding natural properties.

Clay is ideally suited for high-comfort, low-energy buildings. Clay's natural breathing property of absorbing and diffusing water vapour and heat, helps offset swings in humidity and temperature. Clay also absorbs odours and is an effective sound insulator.

The plasters are made by Claytec, are available from coarse to fine, and produce surfaces with beautiful texture and colour, whether left unfinished or covered with natural paint.

Clay plaster can be applied onto various surfaces such as clay plaster undercoat, gypsum plaster and plasterboard. However, with the exception of the clay plaster undercoat, all other surfaces need to have a primer applied before using clay plaster.

Clay plaster can be reworked at any time in the future by simply spraying dampening with water. Any imperfections or damage can be easily and invisibly rectified. Therefore jobs such as chasing in a new electrical conduit become much simpler tasks and leave no trace of having been done.

Once dry, a clay plastered wall looks much the same as a gypsum wall and will take picture hooks, wallpaper and paints. However plastering a room can be achieved three or four times faster than using gypsum plaster if mechanical spray application is used.

So what is the disadvantage of using clay plaster? Drying times, typically a week, are longer - but careful on-site scheduling of work can avoid delay, especially since the plastering can be a more rapid process in the first place. Clay plaster is widely used all over the continent.

Please speak to a product specialist prior to selection of these products.

PRODUCT DATA

Claytec undercoat plaster
This undercoat plaster is made of clay, sand and straw, giving it a coarse structure as a key for the finishing coat. The material only needs the addition of water. For a finish skim coat, use Claytec clay finish or Tierrafino (see Tierrafino fact sheet)

- Thickness applied up to 50mm
- Covering area at 15 mm thick is 1.5 m²/bag
- Supplied in 30 kg bags
- Applied manually with a trowel or mechanically sprayed

Claytec medium finish plaster
A finish coat made from clay, sand and straw, giving a slightly more textured finish than the fine finish coat

- Thickness applied - 10 mm
- Covering area at 10 mm thick is 2.5 m²/bag
- Supplied in 30 kg bags

Claytec fine finish coat plaster
This natural finish coat is made from clay, sand and plant fibres and gives a fine, slightly textured finish. Can be left as a natural clay colour or painted with natural paint (see natural paints and finishes fact sheet)

- Applied as a skim coat 2-5mm thick
- Covering area at 3 mm thick is 5-7 m²/bag
- Supplied in 30 kg bags