



ANGLIA LIME COMPANY

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HAired CHALK MIX

For over 20 years ALC have been reproducing the plaster used by craftsmen over 250 years ago.

WHAT IS HAired CHALK?

One part mature lime putty, three parts crushed chalk and lots of hair - 12 kg per cubic metre!

WHY USE IT?

The answer is that tradesmen of the 17th Century and earlier knew what they were doing. They used a lime and sand mix for laying a brick plinth and putting up some magnificent chimney stacks but;

THEY DID NOT PLASTER THE BUILDING WITH IT!

With the long tradition of timber framing in East Anglia it must have become evident long ago that timber frames move, sometimes quite dramatically, especially when built from green oak.

SAND-BASED PLASTER IS RIGID AND BREAKS LIKE A BISCUIT WHEN BENT.

This makes it unable to cope with the sort of background movement exerted by a timber frame, not just cracking at the face but more importantly, shearing off the nibs holding the plaster to the lath. This is especially critical on ceilings where there is a constant threat of deflection from a room above while gravity does its best to put the plaster on the floor.

HOW TO USE IT

Easy, whether it's internal or external, on daub or on lath, we recommend using it in two coats, applied as thickly as possible (up to 20mm, in one pass):

Always try to keep a consistent depth of plaster but follow the curves and contours of the building - *flat, but not straight* • Just push the first trowelful hard through the laths to form the key, then lay the next trowelful on top with a clean trowel and a light touch • Very gently pull the 'fat' across in line with the lath to close the plaster off and take out any trowel lines • Do not worry about getting a finish on day one, just flatten the plaster. (Trying to get a finish at this stage will simply cause excessive cracking as the plaster dries out) • Expect some hairline cracking but leave until the plaster has begun to harden (probably one to two days), then finish off the plaster with a wet steel trowel (wet the trowel, not the work) • If necessary, use some of the slurry from the container of plaster to brush into the cracks

DECORATING

If internal, use bound distemper. If external, use limewash.

Always ensure plaster/render is fully carbonated before applying bound distemper or limewash. This should be a minimum of 4 weeks.

**For more information please contact Anglia Lime Company
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