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ANGLIA LIME COMPANY

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**FIBRECHALK**

**and**

**how to use it**

**FIBRECHALK** is an easy-to-use plaster developed by Anglia Lime Company based on their research into a plaster used extensively during the height of timber frame building in the UK from the Fifteenth century through to the Eighteenth century.

The original plaster had to cope with the extreme movement of 'green' oak and wooden lath, also with very high suction clay and brick backgrounds. In a great many medieval buildings it is still in perfect condition after hundreds of years.

**FIBRECHALK** replicates the tremendous flexibility and vapour permeability that made this old plaster so effective.

As well as **FIBRECHALK** being the perfect material for restoration of old plaster onto wooden laths, clay lump, daub and brickwork, its properties make it almost universally relevant for application onto modern building materials, be they lightweight blocks, metal lath, plasterboard or 'eco' products such as woodwool, reed and straw bale.

**FIBRECHALK**, and its 'sister' product HairedChalk, have been used extensively since the late 1990's. It can be applied onto practically any background in any thickness, from a single application between 2mm and 25mm thick to multiple coats. It is regularly used for pargetting work, from simple geometric patterns to heavy relief work up to 75mm thick.

## Application for a perfect finish:

Decide how thick you want the finished plaster to be, taking into account exposure to weather, evenness of the substrate etc. The example below is for a finished thickness of plaster of 20mm to 22mm.

**FIBRECHALK** can be applied up to 20mm thick in one application and, while excellent results are achievable this way, you may prefer to apply in two applications, as follows:

1. First Application: 10mm to 12mm thick, scratched to take next coat.  
N.B. If applying to wooden laths, make sure sufficient plaster is pushed between the laths to form the "nib" – the lump of plaster behind the laths that becomes the anchor for the plaster face.
2. Leave for 2-4 days so that it has begun to dry out but is still 'green' (firm enough that you are just able to mark it with the tip of your finger). The actual time will depend on the ambient temperature and humidity, the suction (water absorbency) of the substrate and the thickness of the plaster you have applied.
3. Second Application: 10mm thick. Do not attempt to trowel a finish immediately or while the plaster is wet.
4. Once the plaster has started to stiffen-up and set - usually the next day but dependent on ambient conditions (see 2. above) - lightly flatten the face of the plaster. [if a little moisture is needed at this point, wet the trowel, not the plaster].
5. At this point it is possible to achieve a choice of finishes. If the plaster is simply left alone to dry, it will set with a texture, not unattractive, a bit like coarse porridge. If the plaster is trowelled again before drying, it is possible to achieve a high polish. N.B. on external plaster, a slightly textured surface provides better weather protection than a polished finish.

**Tips:**

- In applying **FIBRECHALK**, the principal rule is not to try to obtain a perfect finish as soon as the plaster is applied. Each pass of the trowel over the plaster brings water and fine particles to the surface, so be careful not to overwork.
- As with all plastering, think flat, but not straight – always try to keep a consistent depth of plaster but follow the curves and contours of the building.
- Protect the plaster from extremes of weather.
- For internal work in unoccupied buildings during winter months, setting time can be reduced by introducing heat and air movement with electric fan heaters. This is **only possible** due to the unique properties of **FIBRECHALK**. Do not attempt to force dry any other lime plasters.

**How much FIBRECHALK do I need?:**

- 1 litre will cover 1sq metre at 1mm thick. e.g. for a 20mm application, 20 litres per sqm will be required.
- For plastering onto laths, allow an additional 5mm to push between the laths to form the 'nib' (plaster anchor on the back).
- **FIBRECHALK** is packed in 15 litre tubs.

**Decorating:**

**FIBRECHALK** can be decorated using Limewash for external work and Bound Distemper for internal work.

**Decorative Work & Pargetting:**

The sky's the limit as far as pressed-in or applied decoration goes. From traditional combed geometric shapes, to heavy relief and family crests.

It's better when forming work over 20mm thick to build it up in successive 10mm coats, there should be plenty of time to apply fine detail to the work if required.

If you create something you're proud of, email us a picture. If you're happy for us to do so, we'll put it up on the website.

If you have any questions or require sample material please don't hesitate to call or email us at Anglia Lime Company:

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