

Three Coat Lime Plaster on Riven Lath

1. Repair any damaged laths.
2. Pre wet the laths with a mist spray of clean water before starting to spread the scratch coat.
3. The scratch coat is made from one part mature slaked lime putty and two and a half parts well graded sharp sand, 3mm through to fines. This is called "coarse stuff".
4. Mix this into a plaster on a board.
5. Add a large handful of hair to the equivalent of a tub of plaster. (Spread the plaster about 100mm thick on a board and sprinkle one third of the hair evenly across the surface. Mix the plaster back together, roll out flat and add another third of the hair. Repeat the operation with the last of the hair).
6. Spread the plaster onto the pre-wetted lathes at about 10mm, rule off and leave. Do not be tempted to work the plaster at this stage as it will only stick to the trowel.
7. Keep an eye on the plaster and after about three hours (longer on a cold day) the surface will take slight crust and can be worked if required. At this stage scratch the surface, being careful not to run in the same direction as the line of the laths.
8. Leave the first coat for about 4 or 5 days depending on the weather conditions, before applying the intermediate coat.
9. Follow the same procedure for making the equivalent of a tub of "coarse stuff" as with the scratch coat but this time no hair is added. Spread at about 7mm and, once again, scratch and leave until ready to take the finishing coat.
10. The finishing coat is prepared from one part mature slaked lime putty and two parts well graded sharp sand, ranging from 1mm through to fines. This is called "fine stuff".
11. Mix this into plaster on a board.
12. Mist spray the surface of the intermediate coat with clean cold water, allow time for the water to be absorbed and spread the plaster about 1-3 mm thick. Rule off as before and leave for at least 2 hours. When ready, rub up with a plastic or wooden trowel to get the fat back (no need to spray onto the surface). Trowel to the required finish. Under certain conditions you may experience slight crazing of this last coat after a further few hours, in which case, it can be rubbed up and trowelled out.