

THE TRADITIONAL LIME COMPANY



Contractors guide to making mortar using St Astier Hydraulic Lime

Mixing - Always use gauging buckets to mix lime mortars

1. Mix washed well graded sharp sand with NHL 3.5.
2. Dry mix for 10-12 minutes to ensure all lime is dispersed into the aggregate.
3. Add water slowly and then mix for another 8-10 minutes. The longer the final mix, the more workable the mortar will be.

Hydraulic lime mortar made using St Astier hydraulic lime can be reworked for up to 24 hours. When reworking, add the least possible water.

[This is due to the absence of cement or gypsum in the lime and minimal quantity of aluminates]

Contractors guide to pointing using St Astier Hydraulic Lime (3:1 by volume)

Application

1. Rake out joints to a depth of twice the width of the joint.
2. Damp down the joint to control suction.
3. Point the joint, pressing the mortar well in and leaving the mortar flush with the masonry surface.
4. After the mortar has set the face of the mortar should be brushed with a stiff brush (churn brush) to remove the lime 'bloom' and expose some aggregate to enhance the appearance.

Protection

The works should be protected with damp hessian and polythene sheets from the sun and the wind until the mortar has carbonated. The mortar will need dampening with a fine mist to stop it drying out before carbonation has been completed. The length of time for full carbonation will vary but you should expect to fully protect and mist for at least two days.

External Rendering using St Astier NHL

1. Wet surface if dry
2. A stipple coat (4 parts lime to 5 parts sand) will be required if surfaces are of different materials. Apply up to 3mm thick.
3. Apply 10mm scratch coat using NHL 3.5 and washed well graded sharp sand, 2:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume adding fibres if specified. Mix dry for 5-10 minutes and for 5 minutes after adding water. Cross scratch to provide keying.
4. Allow to cure (2-3 days depending on conditions).
5. Mist surface. Apply straightening coat 10mm thick using 2.5:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume. Allow to cure. Scratch using devil float. Cross scratch leaving day between each cross.

THE TRADITIONAL LIME COMPANY

Textured Finish

Mist surface. Apply finish coat using NHL 3.5 and sharp sand at 2.5:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume. Apply 5mm in 2 passes with wood/plastic float.

Polished Finish

Mist surface. Add fines to sharp sand, ensuring that majority of mix is sharp. Apply 5mm in 2 passes using steel trowel.

Protection

Protect each coat with Hessian covers against frost and driving rain for 72 hours min. Protect against drying winds both hot and cold.

Dampened Hessian will protect against strong sun and will slow drying, enabling curing to take place.

Rendering onto woodwool boards

1. Wet surface if dry
2. Mix render using NHL 3.5 and sharp washed sand at 2:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume. Mix dry for 8-10 minutes and for 5 minutes after adding water. Apply 10mm scratch coat pushing 4mm x 4mm render mesh into scratch coat to 5mm depth. Cross scratch to provide keying. Allow to cure (3-5 days depending on conditions).
3. Mist surface. Apply straightening coat 10mm thick using 2.5:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume. Allow to cure. Scratch using devil float.
4. Mist surface. Apply finish coat using NHL 3.5 and sharp sand at ratio 2.5:1(sand/lime) by volume. Apply 5mm in 2 passes with wood float.

Protection

Protect each coat with Hessian covers for 72 hours min. In winter months protection should be for 5-7 days. Protect against drying winds both hot and cold. Dampened Hessian will protect against strong sun and will slow drying, enabling curing to take place.

Internal plastering using St Astier NHL

1. Wet surface if dry
2. Apply 10mm scratch coat using NHL 3.5 and sharp concreting sand at 2:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume. Mix dry for 5-10 minutes then mix for 10 minutes after water added. Allow to cure (2-3 days). Use comb scratcher.
3. Mist surface. Apply straightening coat 10mm thick using 2.5:1(sand/lime) ratio by volume. Allow to cure (2-3 days). Scratch using devil float.
4. Mist surface. Apply fine finish coat using NHL 2 and silver sand at ratio 2.5:1(sand/lime) by volume.
5. (Mix finish coat night before. Leave in mixer overnight, covered with wet sack. Mix again in morning, before use.)
6. Apply 4mm in 2 passes with wood/plastic float. A polished finish can be obtained using a steel trowel.

This document is for information only and does not constitute a specification.

Lime mortars, renders and plasters are naturally formulated products and variations in colour may occur.