

HOW TO...

RENDER A WALL

Rendering is usually undertaken externally, where as plastering is undertaken internally. However, cement based plasters are sometimes known as renders to avoid confusion with gypsum based plasters. This guide deals with cement based plastering / rendering for use as a backing for gypsum based materials or as a render finish in its own right.

Suitable Products

Rugby General Purpose Mortar - A special blend of fine sand and cement ideal for plastering applications. For external rendering some sharp sand could be added to provide a better finish.

Rugby Ordinary Portland Cement and Sharp Sand - Can be used to mix your own render (see table below)

Rugby Render Repair Mortar - A handy to use mortar in a tub for repairing cracks and surface wear to walls

General Tips

- One bag of Rugby General Purpose Mortar will cover approximately 1 m² at a thickness of 13 mm.
- Prepare your site. If it is a repair job, make sure that all the old loose material has been hacked away. Brush down the surface with a stiff brush and clean up.
- If repairing holes greater than 13 mm in depth make up a 'mending' mix of based on 2½ litres of water per bag. This will provide a stiffer 'filler' mix. When rendering over a smooth surface use about 3 litres of water per bag. If a creamier mix is required, add a proprietary plasticiser but always follow the instructions supplied.
- Rugby General Purpose Mortar will remain workable in standard temperatures between 10°C and 25°C for approximately 2 hours, so only mix as much as can be used within this time.
- Cracks sometimes develop underneath first. So always take out old render beyond the end of an existing crack to make sure all the unsound area is removed. Never put good render over a bad base
- If successive coats are applied too soon, absorption from the base brickwork or block work can cause cracks to be seen on the surface. Leaving the coats to dry out thoroughly will help reduce such cracking.

Tools Required

- Shovel • Watering can with rose • Rubber gloves
- Float • Bucket of clean water • Straightedge
- Mixing board or other clean dry surface • Trowel
- Stiff brush or yard broom • Hawk.

Step 1

Before applying the render dampen down the surface with water either sprayed using a garden sprayer or brushed on with a broom dipped in a bucket. A damp wall will help adhesion and reduce the chance of cracks occurring.

Step 3

Cover up to about 1 square metre at a time and then smooth over slowly with steady upward strokes to obtain a really level surface.

Step 4

Continue in approximate metre square areas and after about an hour, if this is the final coat, go back across the whole area checking for any unevenness with the straight edge. Correct if necessary and smooth over.

Step 2

Take a manageable quantity of General Purpose Mortar on the hawk in one hand, so you can bring a good quantity up to the work-face. Starting at the top of the work, slide some of the mix onto the wall face with the trowel upward at approximately 30° and move it up with some pressure to make sure that the bonding gets a good chance from the start.

Step 5

Where several coats are necessary, allow approximately 4 hours for the first coat to set, then lightly scratch the surface with a 'key' or nail in a wavy diagonal pattern of lines about 75 mm apart. Further coats can be applied once the previous one has dried, generally about 5 days to 1 week. Rugby General Purpose Mortar once fully dry is suitable to receive all conventional paints and finishes.

In rendering applications, it is important when applying two-coat renders (normal practice) that the second coat is either thinner or weaker than the scratch coat to avoid problems with shrinkage and de-lamination. A suitable sand for rendering should be chosen. Mix proportions for rendering over strong and moderately strong backgrounds are given below:

	Cement:Sand (with plasticiser)	Cement:Lime:Sand
1 st coat (strong backgrounds)	1 : 3 – 4	1 : ½ : 4 – 4½
1 st coat (moderate backgrounds) or 2 nd coat (moderate and strong backgrounds)	1 : 5 – 6	1 : 1 : 5 – 6

For Your Safety and Comfort

Some people, especially those with sensitive skins can experience soreness from contact with wet cement or mortar, so take the following precautions: • Wear rubber gloves • Keep a bucket of water handy and wash your hands regularly • Make sure that any minor cut or scratch is properly covered with a waterproof plaster • Always read the health & safety warning on the pack before commencing use with the product • Comprehensive datasheets are available to download from our website.