

Product Data Sheet

Thistle® Finishing Plaster

Thistle Finishing Plaster is a gypsum finishing plaster that provides a smooth, inert and high quality surface to internal walls and ceilings, as well as a durable base for applying decorative finishes. It's available in a convenient pack size for smaller jobs.

Where to use

Use it to finish low suction backgrounds like plasterboard, Glasroc F MultiBoard, Glasroc F FireCase, Rigidur H (pre-treated with Thistle GypPrime), flat concrete, and other flat surfaces treated with bonding agents. It's also suitable for medium-high suction gypsum or cement based undercoat plasters.



Product information

Composition

This is a retarded hemihydrate, pre-mixed gypsum plaster.

Colour

Pink.

Nominal weight

7.5kg and 12.5kg bags.

Performance

Here we only provide performance information related to the product. Please see the White Book online for system-dependent performance.

Standards

EN 13279-1:2008, Type B1/20/2.

Declarations of Performance (DoP) available [Click here](#).

Reaction to fire	A1
Thermal resistance (m ² K/W)	0.004

Effect of moisture and condensation

Don't expose the plaster to moisture repeatedly or for long periods of time, as this can cause it to lose strength and adhesion.

Effect of temperature

Thistle plasters aren't suitable for plastering onto frozen backgrounds. However, you can use them in frosty conditions as long as you prevent the plaster from freezing after it's been applied. Dry, bagged plaster isn't affected by low temperatures.

Once Thistle plasters are fully set and dry, they shouldn't be exposed to temperatures above 49°C. When applying in hot or dry conditions, make sure the plaster doesn't lose water too quickly, as it needs some of the mixing water to set and reach full strength.

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Application

Background preparation: plasterboards

Only use Thistle finishing plasters on the face of the board, which is the side without a paper overlap. This doesn't apply to moisture resistant boards. Reinforce joints with Thistle ProTape FT50 or FT100, or with Gyproc Joint Tape.

Background preparation: undercoats

Leave gypsum based undercoats reasonably flat and with a scratch key. Finish them when they're set but not dry to avoid high suction that needs to be damped down first. Use Thistle GypPrime to pre-treat very high suction backgrounds.

Cement based undercoats shrink when they are dry, and can crack days or even weeks after application. If you apply a Thistle finishing plaster before the shrinkage is complete, it's more likely to crack or delaminate, particularly if the undercoat wasn't keyed enough. Therefore, the key needs to be much better, and the drying time allowance much longer, than for gypsum based undercoats.

Retarded ready mixed cement based mortars may have delayed shrinkage, and may contain additives that interfere with the strength or setting of Thistle finishing plasters.

Background preparation: moisture resistant grade boards

Avoid applying skim plaster to Gyproc Moisture Resistant boards. These boards are designed for environments with high humidity, which can cause the plaster to lose strength and adhesion.

Where moisture resistant boards are used in shell and core construction to provide temporary moisture resistance, it's best to skim them after the building envelope has been made weathertight. Only apply plaster to the face of moisture resistant boards, and pre-treat them with Thistle Bond-it.

Background preparation: Glasroc F MultiBoard and Glasroc F FireCase

Apply Thistle finishing plasters to the smooth face of the board. Application techniques and joint reinforcement are similar to those used on plasterboards.

Mixing up

Add Thistle plasters to clean water and use clean mixing equipment, as contamination from previous mixes affects the setting time and strength. Fresh contamination has more of an effect than old, so you should wash equipment just after mixing rather than just before.

Thistle plasters are suitable for mixing by hand or using a mechanical whisk with a slow speed and high torque. While mechanical mixing speeds up the process, there is no need to continue mixing after you've dispersed the lumps and reached the right consistency. Over-mixing wastes time and energy, and can affect setting times, reduce workability, and make it difficult to achieve a flat finish.

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Application (continued)

Applying to different substrates

Plastering onto board backgrounds

- 1 Before applying Thistle Finishing Plaster to Gyproc plasterboards or Glasroc F MultiBoard, Glasroc F FireCase, Rigidur H (pre-treated with Thistle GypPrime) reinforce flat joints using Thistle ProTape FT50 or FT100, or pre-fill any gaps wider than 3mm and reinforce them using Gyproc Joint Tape. Thistle ProTape FT50 and FT100 fibre tapes are self-adhesive, so you can fix them to the board's surface before the first application of plaster. If you're using Gyproc Joint Tape, embed it in the first coat over each joint, leaving enough plaster under the tape to ensure good adhesion. Then press the tape firmly into the plaster and immediately cover it with a further application.
- 2 Apply plaster to the whole surface after the joint treatment has partially set but not dried. Some joints will experience more movement, such as around door or window apertures, where board edges aren't fully supported, or on ceilings below floors that are susceptible to high deflection. In these areas, embed Gyproc Joint Tape in the finish for better resistance to cracking than with fibre tapes.
- 3 Fix Thistle Thin Coat Angle Beads to plasterboard angles by embedding them in dabs of finish plaster. Avoid fixing the bead to the board 'dry'; this could reduce the adhesion as it's difficult to squeeze plaster between the bead and the plasterboard.
- 4 To hold the bead in alignment as the plaster sets, we recommended you use additional mechanical fixings like non-rusting nails, screws and staples. Wipe any surplus from corners before the plaster sets, as scraping it away later may damage the zinc coating.
- 5 Apply the finish plaster with a firm pressure and build it out to the required thickness in two applications, trowelling to a smooth matt finish as it sets. Follow good site practice as outlined in BS EN 13914 Code of Practice for Internal Plastering.

Wall application thickness (mm)	2
Ceiling application thickness (mm)	2
Coverage per bag (m ²)	2.7 at 2mm thick for 7.5kg bags 4.5 at 2mm thick for 12.5kg bags
Working time: maximum	40 minutes
Set time: minimum	90 minutes
Water requirements per bag (litres)	3.4 for 7.5kg bags 5.7 for 12.5kg bags
Dry set weight (kg/m ²)	2.7 at 2mm

Painting and wallpapering

Make sure Thistle plasters are thoroughly dry before decorating, although you can apply a coat of permeable paint in the interim. You can decorate the finished surface using most proprietary paint finishes and wall covering adhesives, but always follow the manufacturers' recommendations for the best results.

Tiling

You can apply tiles up to 20kg per m² directly to Thistle finishing plasters, except where the system includes a bonding agent. As the total weight of tiles and plaster applied over a bonding agent is limited to 20kg per m², consider tiling directly to the background instead.

If you're plastering to provide a background for tiles, avoid polishing the surface. If the surface has already been polished, roughen it and use a suitable primer to create a good key for the tile adhesive.

Snagging and minor repairs

Thistle finishing plasters on plasterboard provide a system that's suitable for moderate impact and wear. When used over undercoat plasters, they offer good resistance to minor casual damage, but the resistance to damage from greater impacts depends on the undercoat used. If the plaster is correctly applied, you shouldn't need to maintain it afterwards.

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Sitework

Storage

Store bags dry, as water causes lumps to form inside. If storing on a concrete floor, use dry timber platforms.

Handling

British Gypsum fully accepts its responsibilities as a supplier of building materials and systems as required by Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. However, when designing and installing systems that use British Gypsum products, you must consider the legal requirements set out in:

- 1 Manual Handling Operations Regulations
- 2 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations
- 3 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH).

Safety Data Sheet

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available [Click here](#).

Shelf life

Stored correctly, this product has a shelf life of six months, and bags are marked with a use by date so you can use them in strict rotation.

Packaging overview

This plaster is packaged in a plastic bag and is supplied palletised.

Quantity per pallet	100 bags: 7.5kg 72 bags: 12.5kg
Pallet: nominal height (mm)	257 for 7.5kg bags 281 for 12.5kg bags
Pallet: nominal length (mm)	337 for 7.5kg bags 411 for 12.5kg bags
Pallet: nominal depth (mm)	82 for 7.5kg bags 95 for 12.5kg bags
Pallet: nominal weight (tonnes)	0.75 for 7.5kg bags 0.9 for 12.5kg bags

Environmental

Disposal

Segregate the plaster from non-gypsum waste for recycling where possible, and dispose of it according to local authority requirements.

BES 6001 classification

Excellent.



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