

Limestrong™ Use Instructions

TADELAKT (DRY USE/DECORATIVE)

THE LIMESTRONG TADELAKT finish can be used over regular drywall (for feature walls and fireplace surrounds, for example) or in situations where one wants to match the look of a wet-use, fully water repellent tadelakt system, but in an area that will receive only occasional splashing—not constant, heavy water. In other words, the dry-area tadelakt finish system detailed below should be considered a **decorative finish**, NOT a **functional one**. It is considered to be *water resistant*, NOT *water repellent*.

See our *LimeStrong Tadelakt Wet Use/Functional Guide* for instruction on wet-area use.

PACKAGING and COVERAGE

Limestrong Tadelakt™ is packaged in 32 lb. bags—enough to mix with 2.1 gallons (8 liters) of water in a common 5 gallon bucket to make one batch. Coverage per bag is approximately 150 square feet (dry area use), using two coats.

BASECOAT

The Limestrong Tadelakt™ material is a *finish coat* only. It needs to be applied over a basecoat of Limestrong SAND™.

Drywall Prep. The drywall should be finished to *minimum* level 3. It should be primed with Primer Grit™ and a good water-based primer.

Application. Limestrong SAND is applied in one coat to an even thickness of 1/16+ (grain height). It should be allowed to dry to about 50%. At this point, use a lightly-dampened sponge float to gently knock down ridges, trowel marks and imperfections. Allow to fully dry/cure overnight.

Expect coverage at 175 to 200 square feet per bag of SAND at one coat. See instructions for applying LimeStrong SAND for more detail on prep and application.

Water and color pigment amount CALCULATORS available online at:
limestrongartisan.com/calculators.html

Recommended TOOLS: limestrongartisan.com/limestrong-applicators.html

TADELAKT FINISH

The tadelakt finish should be applied in a wet-on-wet, or double-back technique. On large surfaces, this should be accomplished with more than one applicator.

First Coat. Apply the first coat liberally, just beyond grain height. Work quickly and feather the material out at the edges, taking care not to leave any hard trowel lines or ridges. It is beneficial to spread the material from wet to dry, feathering out in a cloud-like pattern.

Second Coat. As the moisture from the first coat absorbs into the dry base, immediately begin to apply another coat (double back) on top of the still-moist first coat. This second coat can be applied more liberally than the first, using more material. The goal is to apply just enough material that the basecoat becomes saturated by absorbing all of the water from the newly applied plaster.

Smoothing / Burnishing. At this point, the surface should be just wet enough to begin smoothing. Using a clean, stainless steel finishing trowel, begin to smooth the wall in all directions using light pressure and a flat trowel angle.

A very small amount (mist) of water can be applied to the wall with a hand-spray bottle if there is any dragging or pulling of the plaster at this stage.

Continue to smooth/burnish the surface as it dries. Smoothness and refinement at this stage is at the discretion of the applicator.

Soap. The wall should be completely dry before applying the soap. Overnight is typically sufficient. For a tadelakt finish, the Limestrong Soap Finish should be applied at a richer concentration: 1-part soap to 5-6 parts water is ideal.

Blend the concentrated soap with warm water and apply with a roller, brush, rag or sprayer. Always start at the bottom of the wall and work up, avoiding drips. Work in a random pattern to mitigate roller lines or brush marks.

Apply a minimum of one liberal coat of soap. Additional coats will add luster. There is no maximum amount of coats.

Wax. Wax is an optional step and can be applied if desired. See the *Limestrong Tadelakt Wet Use/Functional Guide* for instruction.