

The aesthetic continuity and functional performance of a tadelakt finish are the results of the methods utilized by the tadelakt artisan and long term care and maintenance by the owner; Limestrong Artisan Plaster cannot guarantee any finish outcomes with Limestrong Tadelakt products.

ETCHING: Etching is the dissolving of a tadelakt surface from acids that can compromise the hydrophobic water repellant functionality of the alkaline lime-based tadelakt finish. Use of Limestrong WAX can restore tadelakt functionality but the aesthetic flaw of etching will remain.

STAINS: Tadelakt surfaces are susceptible to stains that can etch into the tadelakt surface and compromise functionality and aesthetic continuity. In kitchens, avoid contact with oils, acids, and tannins with tadelakt; in bathrooms, prevent concentrated personal care product build-up from container rings, soap, toothpaste, and hair dye. For the best chance of stain removal, apply a poultice-based stain remover made for use on limestone or marble. Installing and ensuring proper settings on a water filtration and water softening system can prevent possible rust stains. It is natural for tadelakt to darken and streak during contact with water - this is normal and will return to baseline color as it dries out.

DRAINAGE: Tadelakt needs adequate drainage. Prompt rinsing of personal care products off tadelakt and use of a squeegee and/or dry cloth to prevent water pooling can lower the risk of deposits impacting a tadelakt finish.

NICHES: Niche shelves are particularly susceptible to staining and damage due to high wear use and storage of products. Replacing the bottom of the niche with rock or tile is one way to extend the longevity of a niche. Consult with a plaster professional as needed to determine the best options for maintenance of a niche.

ROUTINE CLEANING: Tadelakt surfaces should be cleansed with mild vegetable-based soaps. Avoid cleaning products with acidic ingredients as they can etch the surface. The ideal solution for routine cleaning is coconut-olive oil-based Limestrong SOAP concentrate; dilute five-parts water to one-part Limestrong Soap and use a non-abrasive cloth to gently wash the surface. No rinsing is necessary.

CHIPS: Tadelakt can be nicked or chipped, especially on corners and can compromise functionality. Small area patching is possible to restore water-repellent functionality, but the patch will likely be noticeable. If a significant area is damaged, the entire wall may need to be re-finished.

PATCHING: Once sealed with Limestrong SOAP and WAX, applying additional tadelakt is not possible. A tadelakt patch can be tricky both functionally and aesthetically with color matching and blending. To have the best chance at a successful patch, consult with a plaster professional. In the case of large scale damage where the backerboard or substrate is compromised (eg a hole in the wall), the entire surface may need to be redone including all base coats from corner to corner.

CRACKS: Microfissures are normal and naturally occurring in tadelakt. These will darken and be visible when wet and may also be visible when dry. If the tadelakt has been applied correctly, microfissures will not impact the water-repellent functionality of the finish. Long hairline cracks can indicate structural movement in the substrate but usually the functionality remains intact. However, hairline cracks should be evaluated by a tadelakt professional for possible repair.