limestrong
MINERAL FINISHES

Limestrong Artisan plasters are available from select distributors or online at:
www.limestrongartisan.com

Limestrong™ Use Instructions

LIMESTRONG **STONE**

LIMESTRONG STONE is designed to create a medium-to-fine texture with a matte or slightly polished finish (depending on application technique).

APPLICATION STEPS

1. Prepare Substrate
2. Prime Substrate
3. Mix LimeStrong Plaster
4. Apply Base Coat
5. Apply Finish Coat
6. Seal Plaster with Limestrong Soap Finish (optional)

PACKAGING and COVERAGE

Limestrong Stone is packaged in 32 lb. bags—enough to mix with 2.4 gallons (9 liters) of water in a common 5 gallon bucket to make one batch. Coverage per bag is 150-175 square feet using two coats at 1/16 inch total thickness max.

WATER

For each bag of mix, you will need 2.4 gallons of clean water.*

COLORING/TINT Adding color or tint to Limestrong plaster is a simple process. Any universal colorant will work, especially quality dry-powder pigments like those selected for the Limestrong Color System.* As always, add the liquid tint or pigment powder to the batch-measured mix water before adding dry plaster mix.

TOOLS and MATERIALS

Clean 5 gallon (20 liter) Bucket	
High RPM mixing drill	Drill attachment mixing paddle
Gloves	Bucket Scraper
Standard Hawk	Standard Trowel
Finish Tools (stainless steel trowel)	Spray Bottle w/ Water
LimeStrong Soap (diluted)	Clean Roller and Roller Screen

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Limestrong Stone finish plaster can be applied successfully on non-porous and porous substrates. Non-porous substrates include new and painted drywall, and concrete. Porous substrates include stucco, lime and gypsum plaster. Cinder or concrete block construction will need a smoothing/leveling base coat of a coarser, thicker material like LimeStrong BASE or SAND before applying STONE.

NON-POROUS SUBSTRATES

NEW DRYWALL: Before applying STONE, drywall should be fnished and sanded to **LEVEL 4**

PAINTED DRYWALL: In most cases, STONE can be applied directly to previously painted drywall. Repair dents, nail pops, holes, and prime before application.

POROUS SUBSTRATES

STUCCO, GYPSUM PLASTER, LIME PLASTER: Porous substrates that are unpainted and physically and mechanically sound are ready for STONE application as-is. Substrate should be clean and dust free. If excessive suction is present, the substrate will need to be primed before application. Limestrong Stone is meant to be applied very thin. If the surface is rough, it may require a basecoat of limestrong BASE or SAND.

PRIMING SUBSTRATE

New drywall surfaces must be primed prior to application of Limestrong. We recommend priming drywall surface with a high quality latex based or PVA primer guaged with Primer Grit,™ a fine pumice aggregate. Primer Grit provides mechanical key for the plaster to adhere to the drywall and allows the lime plaster to spread evenly over the primed surface without sliding. Primer should dry for *12 hours* before applying first coat of STONE.

MIXING LIMESTRONG STONE

WATER: Add 2.4 gallons of water (9 liters) to clean 5 gallon bucket. If using liquid tint to color STONE, remove 1 quart of water from the bucket and set aside for later use.

LIQUID COLORANT: Do not shake tint container. Pour entire contents of the liquid pigment container into the mix water.

*Water and color pigment amount CALCULATORS available online at: **limestrongartisan.com**

Rinse the container twice with the saved water and use a small paint brush to clean all of the tint pigment from the sides and bottom of the container to ensure all the tint is used. With all the tint in the water, mix with the drill as the tint may have settled to the bottom.

POWDERED COLORANT: Add weighed/measured pigment powder to mix water. Tap to knock free any pigment clinging to sides of container. Mix thoroughly with drill, making sure colorant is completely dissolved in the water. Add plaster immediately. Note: to avoid any chance of pigment bursting or starring, strain the pigmented water before adding plaster.

PLASTER MIX: 1—Pour one-third to half the bag of STONE plaster into the water. Mix well with the drill for 2 minutes. Scrape any unmixed plaster that sticks to the side of the bucket into the wet mix. 2—Repeat Step 1 until all remaining STONE has been added to bucket. Mix thoroughly and scrape sides of bucket often. MIX FOR A FULL 3 MINUTES AT HIGH SPEEED.

APPLYING LIMESTRONG STONE

BASE COAT

With a standard hawk and trowel, apply first coat with a thickness of 1/32 or slightly more or slightly more so the plaster just covers the biggest particles (grain height). Apply as evenly as possible avoiding trowel lines and ridges. When the plaster dries about half way, trowel over it again with a clean trowel to even ridges, high points and imperfections. Avoid making it too smooth as it needs a bit of tooth for the next coat to bond to. If the plaster pulls or stretches, spray the trowel or plaster directly with a very small amount of water to lightly lubricate the plaster surface.

FINISH COAT

The application of the second coat is applied after the first coat is completely dry. For all finishes, apply another coat (grain height) and then double back over the surface with more plaster, working in random directions. This coat is where you can create some kind of troweled texture, if desired.

FINISH TEXTURES

TROWELED SMOOTH: When the surface has dried slightly, you can come back with a clean trowel and, optionally, a small amount of water to further smooth the surface. (Optional: apply Limestrong Soap Finish.)

SPONGE FLOAT: With a stucco sponge float or a tile sponge, you can create a sandy, matte finish that typically is more mottled in color. To create this finish, wait until the finish coat is about 50% dry, then using a slightly damp sponge move the plaster around in a swirling pattern.

WOOD FLOAT: A wood float finish is similar to a sponge float, but smoother. The subtle texture is created from the biggest particle grains dragging under the float. Wait until the finish coat is 50% dry and, using a damp wood float, swirl and scour the surface to the desired finish texture.

POT LIFE FOR MIXED PLASTER

The lime + pumice formulation of Limestrong plasters creates a mix that is slightly hydraulic. This hydraulic reaction is affected by temperature. Mixed plaster stored in warm or hot conditions will set faster than if stored in cool, above-freezing conditions. The plaster, once mixed with water, will slowly stiffen and become firm. As a general rule, the mixed plaster will be usable for 7 to 10 days. Within that 7-10 day window, remixing may be necessary to return the plaster to an ideal working consistency.

Store mixed Limestrong in an airtight container and keep from freezing or extreme heat.

LIMESTRONG SOAP FINISH

A Limestrong Soap Finish (optional) will give the plaster a silky feeling and will increase stain resistance and wipeabilty. The soap finish is applied after the plaster finish coat has completely dried.

Limestrong Soap Finish comes concentrated and needs to be diluted 8 parts water to 1 part soap. Apply the soap with a clean roller. Use a roller screen in a bucket, dip the roller in the bucket, and roll off any excess with the screen. Start at the bottom of the wall, roll the soap on in random directions, taking care to avoid linear stroke patterns and drips. Apply two coats of soap, one immediately after the other. *See Soap Finish Instructions (PDF) for more complete details on the process.*

Safe Use Precautions

Limestrong Artisan plasters contain hydrated (slaked) lime, which (because of a high pH) is somewhat caustic. Breathing the powder dust can also cause respiratory irritation.

BE SMART. Protect yourself. In all situations, if irritation develops, seek medical attention. Please read our *Safe Use Precautions* publication for information on protecting and treating skin, eyes, and breathing function.