

5 Decoration & tiling

- Thistle plasters can be decorated with most paint finishes and wall coverings by following the manufacturers' recommendations.
- Impermeable finishes, such as tiles, should not be applied until the background and plaster are dry.
- Take care with Thistle Hardwall and Thistle Tough Coat which dry from the surface, appearing surface dry before they are fully dry.
- Tiles up to 20kg/m² can be applied directly to Thistle finish coats. If a bonding agent is used the limit is reduced to 12kg/m².
- Tiles should not be applied directly to Thistle undercoats, with the exception of Thistle Dri-Coat.
- Where tiling onto finish plasters, avoid polishing the surface. Where the surface is polished, roughen and apply a suitable primer.



Replastering following a damp proof course treatment

British Gypsum only recommends Thistle Dri-Coat



- Identify and eliminate the source of penetrating and rising damp before any work is undertaken.
- Existing plasterwork should be removed to at least 0.5 metres above the new damp proof course, or the highest detectable sign of dampness.
- Allow curing and shrinkage of Thistle Dri-Coat, then scratch ready for application of Thistle Board Finish plaster.
- Never bridge a damp proof course.
- Coverage of Thistle Dri-Coat is approximately 3.25m² per bag, when applied at 11mm thickness.



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The Thistle plaster selector guide

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Why choose Thistle plasters?

They provide

- A smooth seamless surface to walls and ceilings
- Good airtightness for improved acoustic and thermal performance
- Consistent finishing times, regardless of the weather
- Finishing coat achieved in one visit to the wall
- A scuff resistant surface
- Quicker installation time
- Solid base to fix into
- Easy wallpaper stripping
- Peace of mind with the British Gypsum SpecSure® lifetime warranty*

* Systems comprising of Thistle plasters and accessories are covered by the SpecSure® lifetime system performance warranty, reflecting our confidence in their performance.



How to plaster

1 You will need

Item	Solid Plastering	Skimming
A clean mixing bucket	✓	✓
A manual or mechanical mixing whisk	✓	✓
Gyproc Bucket Trowel	✓	✓
Gyproc Hawk	✓	✓
Thistle Plaster Finishing Trowel	✓	✓
Thistle solid plastering beads	✓	
Water	✓	✓
Thistle skim coat beads		✓
Thistle ProTape FT50, or Gyproc Joint Tape		✓

2 Before you start, the background should be

- Protected from the weather, with no risk of freezing
- Adequately strong, rigid and stable
- Clean and free of dust, shutter release agents, etc
- Reasonably dry
- Free of salt efflorescence

Surface pre-treatment

- For high suction backgrounds use Thistle GypPrime
- For low suction or smooth backgrounds use ThistleBond-it
- See plaster selector chart for details



3 Mixing the plaster

- All mixing equipment should be cleaned before use to prevent contamination.
- Pour the required amount of water into the mixing bucket (see selector chart for details). Only add clean water and do not use any additives.
- Add plaster to the water and mix by hand or a slow speed, high torque mechanical whisk. Thistle Projection should only be mixed by a mechanical plastering machine.
- Thistle plasters should be mixed to a smooth creamy consistency. There is no need to continue mixing after lumps have been dispersed. Over mixing can affect setting times and cause difficulty in achieving a flat finish.



4 Application

- Check the use-by date on the bags, making sure you use the oldest material first.
- Ensure the room temperature is controlled. Plaster should not be applied to frozen backgrounds or in very hot or dry conditions.
- Sequence the work. Setting time is approximately 90 minutes, but finishing times can be extended in low temperatures by 30 minutes or more.
- Do not mix more than you'll be able to use, we suggest a maximum of two bags.

Solid Plastering

- For corner reinforcement fix beads to all external angles using undercoat plaster.
- Thistle Plaster Stop Beads can also be used for defining and reinforcing edges of solid plasterwork.
- Apply plaster with firm pressure after the joint treatment has stiffened but not set, building out to approximately 8mm thickness.
- Scratch each coat and allow to set before applying the next.
- The maximum thickness of undercoat plaster is 25mm. Greater thicknesses will require additional support, such as metal lathing, spaced away from the background if necessary.
- Rule the final coat to an even surface and lightly scratch to form a key for finish coat plasters.

Skim Plastering

- For corner reinforcement fix beads to all external angles.
- Reinforce all plasterboard joints and internal angles by using Thistle ProTape or Gyproc Joint Tape. Gyproc Joint Tape will provide greater resistance to cracking particularly when board edges are not fully supported.
- Apply plaster with firm pressure after the joint treatment has stiffened but not set, to approximately 1mm thickness.
- Apply a second coat of plaster whilst the first coat is still wet to bring the total thickness to 2mm.
- Trowel to a smooth matt finish as the plaster is stiffening.
- Use any additional water sparingly and only in the latter stages of trowelling.

Plaster Selector Guide

THISTLE

Undercoat solid plaster

Skim finish plaster

Specialist plasters	What is the background surface?														
	Aircrete blocks	Common bricks	Medium-density blocks	Dense blocks	Engineering bricks with raked joints	Plasterboard & Glasroc F MULTIBOARD	Cast in situ & pre-cast concrete	Painted / tiled surfaces	Metal lathing	Thickness applied - Walls	Thickness applied - Ceilings	Coverage per bag (at 11mm)	Water requirement (litres per bag)	Dry set weight (at 11mm)	
Thistle Dri-Coat Cement based plaster for replastering after a damp proof course. Thistle X-Ray For use in medical and dental installations.															
Two coat	Thistle Hardwall High impact resistance for most masonry backgrounds. Can be spray applied.			NOT ON SMOOTH LOW-SUCTION BLOCKS					WHEN BRIDGING COLUMNS AND LINTELS	11mm	8mm	3.0m ²	15	9.3kg/m ²	
	Thistle Tough Coat High coverage for most masonry backgrounds. Can be spray applied.			NOT ON SMOOTH LOW-SUCTION BLOCKS					WHEN BRIDGING COLUMNS AND LINTELS	11mm	8mm	3.5m ²	17.5	8.5kg/m ²	
	Thistle Browning For solid backgrounds with adequate key.	USE G IN EXTREME CASES									11mm	8mm	3.5m ²	17.5	8.4kg/m ²
	Thistle Bonding Coat For smooth and low suction backgrounds.			USE B ON SMOOTH LOW-SUCTION BLOCKS	USE B ON MR BOARDS	USE B	USE B				11mm	8mm	2.75m ²	14	12.1kg/m ²
One coat	Thistle Universal One Coat For hand or spray application to most backgrounds.			USE B ON SMOOTH LOW-SUCTION BLOCKS	USE B ON MR BOARDS	USE B	USE B			13mm	10mm	2.25m ² at 13mm	15	15kg/m ² at 13mm	
	Thistle Projection For application by mechanical plastering machine.			USE B ON SMOOTH LOW-SUCTION BLOCKS	USE B ON MR BOARDS	USE B	USE B	USE SPRAY LATH		13mm	10mm	2m ² at 13mm		Depends on machine settings	

Specialist plasters	What is the background surface?								
	Dry undercoats	Damp undercoats	Plasterboard	Flat, smooth concrete	Waterproofed cement-based undercoats	Thickness applied	Coverage per bag (at 2mm)	Water requirement (litres per bag)	Dry set weight (at 2mm thickness)
Skim coat	Thistle Multi-Finish A versatile plaster for skim finishing undercoats and plasterboards.	DAMPEN BACK-GROUND FIRST		USE B ON MR BOARDS	USE B	2mm	10m ²	11.5	3.4kg/m ²
	Thistle Board Finish For low to medium suction backgrounds especially plasterboard.			USE B ON MR BOARDS	USE B	2mm	10m ²	11.5	3.4kg/m ²
	Thistle Durafinish A versatile plaster that is 60% tougher than standard skim plasters.	USE G	USE G			2mm	10m ²	12	3.4kg/m ²
	Thistle Spray Finish Gypsum finish plaster for spray or hand application.			USE B ON MR BOARDS	USE B	2mm	11m ²	12	2.4kg/m ²

Minimum temperature to be maintained until dry is 2°C for Thistle Board Finish, Thistle Multi-Finish and Thistle Spray Finish, and 5°C for Thistle Durafinish

Suction Control



Thistle GypPrime
Suction control primer used to reduce suction on very dry backgrounds. Use diluted (up to 5 parts water to one part Thistle GypPrime) or undiluted if severe suction control is required. Plaster is applied after Thistle GypPrime has soaked into the background.

USE G Use Thistle GypPrime where you see this symbol

Bonding Agent



ThistleBond-it
Bonding agent for smooth low suction backgrounds. Apply undiluted, in one coat. Plaster when dry.

USE B Use ThistleBond-it where you see this symbol

Setting times
Thistle undercoat plasters - 1½ to 2 hours.
Thistle finish plasters - 1½ to 1¾ hours.

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