



Protect Tadelakt, Marmorino, and 0.5 mm lime plaster with encaustic

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Tadelakt, marmorino, stucco fine and 0.5 mm lime plaster can be applied above kitchen countertops and cooktops. However, an additional* treatment is necessary to make the surface resistant to grease splashes. Marseille soap treatment alone will make the surfaces waterproof in case of water splashes.

**To effectively protect surfaces exposed to grease, it is advisable to treat them with encaustic made of beeswax and safflower oil, which facilitates easier cleaning of the surfaces. (Note that these treatments enhance the color of the surfaces.)*

In general, smooth and glossy surfaces are easier to clean than rough or very matte surfaces.

Work Steps:

To prevent the substrate and its potential irregularities from showing through the oiled layer, the colored decorative surface must have a minimum layer thickness of 2 mm.

These are, in any case, the typical layer thicknesses of the 0.5 mm lime plaster, marmorino, and Tadelakt. For thin-layer stucco fine, it is necessary to apply a support layer beforehand, such as 0.5 mm lime plaster in the same shade.

The surfaces are initially finished according to the general instructions of the products used, including compacting to a glossy finish, and also soaped with polishing soap. The soap allows the encaustic to be absorbed more slowly and evenly during the next working step.

It is important that the final layer is completed with uniform pressure. Otherwise, less compact areas will absorb more encaustic, and more compact areas will absorb less, potentially resulting in different color intensities.

Before applying the encaustic, the soaped surface should rest for 4 to 6 weeks to allow the carbonation process to take place.

For oiling surfaces, we recommend encaustic made of beeswax and safflower oil. Due to its wax content, encaustic is slightly thicker than pure oils and does not run on the surface. This prevents drip marks, which generally cannot be leveled afterward.

Apply quickly, generously, and AS EVENLY AS POSSIBLE over the entire surface with a wide brush or sponge. Let the encaustic soak in for approximately 30 minutes!

Then, wipe the surface with a soft, absorbent cotton cloth to remove excess encaustic that has not been fully absorbed.

IMPORTANT: Always create sufficiently large test areas first (on leftover drywall or gypsum panels, for example) to familiarize yourself with the materials, their treatment, and the resulting visual effect. Tadelakt surfaces exhibit fine microcracks typical in the polished lime layer. Their color is generally intensified by the application of encaustic or becomes darker.

- **Cleaning and Maintenance:**

Take care of the encaustic-treated surfaces for an additional 2 to 3 weeks, avoiding soiling them during this period to prevent the need for water





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cleaning. This allows the encaustic to fully harden and achieve its full protective effect.

On surfaces treated with encaustic, grease splashes will cause much fewer issues and often remain completely invisible. It is worth noting that significant grease splashes can still cause a slight darkening of the affected areas. These stains should be cleaned as quickly as possible.

It is important to maintain the surfaces on a regular basis:

You can easily clean the surfaces with a soft sponge/cloth and soapy water, such as Marseille soap or *Marius Fabre* black soap. If, after some time of use and repeated cleanings, the surfaces appear dull, it is necessary to maintain or refresh them with encaustic made of safflower oil and beeswax to preserve the protective effect of the surfaces.

Attention : Do not clean with other cleaning products (such as bathroom cleaners), scouring products, alkaline agents, or abrasive sponges and cloths (microfiber), as they would damage the surfaces treated with encaustic.

