



# PROTECTION OF LIME PLASTERS AND LIME PAINTS WITH MARSEILLE SOAP

The treatment of lime plasters and lime paints with Marseille soap after their application is an ancient technique already practiced in Roman times for the protection of lime coatings.

## Properties

The soap-treated lime coatings are permeable to diffusion, water repellent and easy to clean. Water or other liquids splash onto the surface without leaving a trace. Dirt does not penetrate the plaster or paint, it remains on the surface and is easily removed.

**NOTE :** The application of Marseille Soap on a lime coating tinted with pigments can give a light whitish patina that can be very decorative. The more concentrated the soap solution and the more heavily pigmented the lime coating, the more pronounced the patina effect will be. If the whitish patina effect is not desired, reduce the recipe to half and apply twice, respecting the drying time between each coat.

## Where to apply this treatment?

Wherever there is a risk of heavy soiling, dust and water splashes: stairwells, kindergartens, children's rooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

**NOTE :** The coatings treated in this way cannot replace tiles, for example in the shower or on the kitchen backsplash.

## How does it work?

The natural fatty acids contained in authentic vegetable soaps (such as Marseille soap) react in the presence of fresh lime to form lime soaps. Lime soaps are water repellent, white in color and completely insoluble in water. For this to work, fresh lime is essential. Lime that has already set can no longer form lime soaps. Therefore, it is important to **apply the soap no later than 24 hours after the last application of lime (as paint or plaster)**. This reaction of lime does not occur with synthetic soaps such as liquid soaps, neutral soaps, etc.

## Surfaces

Surfaces that are suitable for this treatment are lime-based:

- Lime paints
- Lime plaster 0.5 mm
- Lime plaster 0.9 mm
- Lime plaster 1.4 mm

Surfaces that are not suitable for this treatment:

- All paints or coatings that are not lime-based





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## How to make Marseille soap solution

- **Untreated untinted lime paints or plasters:**  
Dissolve 20 to 40 g of Marseille soap in 1 liter of hot water
- **Tinted lime paints and plasters:**  
Dissolve 10 g or less of Marseille soap in 1 liter of hot water

**WARNING :** With darker shades, it is recommended to dissolve 5 g of Marseille soap in 1 liter of hot water. If necessary, let it dry and apply a second coat (5 g of Marseille soap in 1 liter of hot water) as needed.

## Application

Before treating large areas, do sample tests on a small area (e.g., behind furniture or inside a closet) to verify the suitability of the substrate and to become familiar with the technique.

On textured substrates (textured lime paint, textured lime plaster), a water-repellent surface can also be achieved, but cleaning will be more difficult due to the rough nature of the surface.

Apply the lime plaster or paint to the appropriate surface. Just after drying (24 hours - at the latest - after application), apply the still **hot** solution of Marseille Soap.

Repeat the application if necessary. Apply a thin layer with a **paint brush, criss-crossing the movements** of the brush with each pass. Always start **at the bottom of the wall and work your way up** (to avoid streaks). **Note that the application cannot be done with a roller.**

In the case of lime plasters, apply Marseille Soap within the first 24 hours but make sure the surface has started to 'pull'. The surface will be slightly fresh to the touch but stable. Drying times vary according to ambient temperature, humidity and thickness of the coating.

## VIDEO on the application technique:

[Marseille soap application technique](#)





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## Decorative effects (requires some skill and experience)

- **Decorative glaze in one coat:**  
Tint the soap solution directly with Tockay pigments:  
100 g of pigments maximum for 1 liter of soap solution. Apply with a paint brush.
- **For smooth and shiny surfaces:**  
Press the lime coating with a smoothing trowel, after drawing the coating treat it with a soapy solution, finish by pressing with a smoothing trowel to obtain a glossy finish.

## Cleaning

- Liquid soiling (beverages, etc.) should be wiped off immediately with a soft absorbent cloth (cotton) without using scouring agents.
- In case of already dry soiling, wash with a soft sponge soaked in cold to lukewarm water, then wipe with a soft cloth.
- Do not use any commercial cleaning products.

## Renovation

Surfaces waterproofed with this soap solution must be sanded before any refurbishment. Before any new application of paint or plaster, check that the surface is again absorbent by simply wetting it with a little water. Then let dry before applying a new coat.

*This technical data sheet reflects our current state of knowledge. It does not guarantee the application of the product: this depends on the working methods, the nature of the support, the ambient temperature!*

*We advise you to check the suitability of the product for the properties of the substrate, and to carry out a sample test on a small surface beforehand. It is your responsibility to check that this sheet has not been modified or replaced by a more recent edition. Consult our website: [www.tockay.com](http://www.tockay.com)*

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