

## Plastering a wall



To begin, scrape or brush off any loose plaster, dust or small particles. Mix the plaster in a plastic vessel according to manufacturer's instructions - proportions may be slightly different. Dampen the wall with clean water. If the water soaks in, you may want to apply some diluted PVA sealer over the surface which will help the plaster to bond. Keep the container and the water you use for mixing plaster completely clean and rinse it between

mixes so no lumps of setting plaster get into the next batch. Add the plaster to the water and never add water to plaster.

Fill your plastering trowel and apply the plaster to the surface, keeping it at an angle. Be careful not to allow the whole side of the trowel to come into contact with the plaster as the suction can cause the fresh plaster to come away from the wall. Apply firm pressure and use upward strokes, flattening the angle of the trowel as you go. Level the plaster with a rule, starting from the bottom and working it from side to side, moving your way up. Use the rule to remove any excess plaster, before going back to fill in any hollows with more plaster. When the undercoat has set, level the surface once more before applying the finishing coat. Allow the final coat to stiffen before smoothing it.

Tips: Try to get the plaster smooth while it is wet rather than rubbing it down with a power sander or abrasive paper when it is dry. If you need to, spray water onto the surface to keep it from drying out too quickly. If there are any ridges, they can be removed with a knife. Use firm pressure, sweeping a wet trowel up and down. Remember to leave the plaster to dry out for at least six weeks before decorating.

The text says the first thing you should do is:

- mix the plaster
- dampen the wall
- clean the vessel
- scrape or brush off any loose plaster

2: The text says if water soaks into the wall you should:

- Put a thin base coat of plaster on it.
- Apply some diluted PVA sealer on it.
- Wet the entire surface with a damp sponge.
- Wait for the area to dry before you start.

3: A trowel is:

- A type of plastering knife.
- The container used for mixing plaster.
- A type of tray.
- A hand tool used by plasterers for spreading plaster.

4: How should you position a trowel?

- Keep it flat and close to the wall.
- Use the whole side of the trowel.
- Keep it at an angle, flattening it as you go.
- Use downward strokes.

5: The text says suction from the trowel can cause:

- the plaster to get air bubbles
- the plaster to crack
- the plaster to bubble
- the plaster to come away from the wall

6: The text says before filling in any holes you should:

- Wet the holes with a damp cloth
- Remove any excess plaster with a rule.
- Apply a layer of PVA.
- Rub the wall down with sandpaper.

7: The text includes the following plastering tip:

- Wait for the plaster to dry before rubbing it down.
- Use a power sander or abrasive paper.
- Remove ridges with a trowel.
- Don't spray the surface if it starts to dry out.

8: 'abrasive' is another word for:

- sticky
- smooth
- rough
- wrinkly

9: To remove any ridges the text says you should:

- not use any pressure on the wall
- use a knife
- use a wet sponge
- use a brush

10: The text says that once the plaster has been set:

- You can go ahead and paint.
- You need to wait 24 hours for it to dry out.
- You need to wait 6 weeks for it to dry out.
- You need to keep it damp for 24 hours then let it dry.