

# Mike Wye & Associates

Suppliers of Natural Building and Decorating Products

Buckland Filleigh Sawmills, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5RN, UK

Phone us on 01409 281644,  
or e-mail us at [sales@mikewye.co.uk](mailto:sales@mikewye.co.uk)



## Limewash - a beautiful traditional paint made in Devon

Limewash is a very ancient paint made from limestone which has been crushed, burnt and slaked with water to make lime putty. The lime putty is matured for several months before being thinned with water to make limewash. Limewash is naturally white and forms a complex crystalline matrix which has a matt, slightly chalky appearance. It is coloured with pigments and can be used internally or externally where it works best on porous surfaces such as a traditional lime plaster, lime render, stone and brick. Unlike modern barrier paints, limewash works by sinking into the surface. It hardens by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to form crystals of calcium carbonate which give the limewash its deep matt appearance and protective qualities. When used on porous surfaces, the colour will deepen if there is any dampness in the background material, hence its attractive shading. Tallow (animal fat) or raw linseed oil are traditional additives which help to improve its watershedding qualities when used externally.

As it is a water-based paint, limewash isn't easily absorbed into less porous surfaces such as cement renders or hard gypsum plasters, and therefore it won't wear nearly as well on these. Additives such as casein (skimmed milk) can be added to help it bond to these less porous materials.

## The benefits of limewash

**Breathability** The way older dwellings are built affects the best way to repair and decorate them. Old buildings were traditionally of solid wall construction, rendered with breathable lime mortars and limewashed. These materials reduce the effects of condensation and allow the moisture in the walls to evaporate to the outside. Misguidedly trying to seal the weather out of traditional structures can lead to dampness, rot and condensation problems, causing decay in structural timbers and damage to the cob and stone walls themselves.

**Special properties** Being alkaline, limewash is anti-bacterial and insecticidal (woodworm and death-watch beetle hate it) - hence its wide usage on farm buildings. It also has fireproofing qualities - all the houses on the Thames were lime plastered and whitewashed after the great fire of 1212 as a precautionary measure.

## Limewash Colours

Our limewash range is coloured with both Natural and Manufactured pigments. The natural pigments are clay and silica, coloured with iron oxides in the earth. They are mined all over the world but some take their names from their primary locations - Sienna, and Umbria for instance. Natural pigments have less colouring intensity than manufactured pigments which are produced mainly from iron oxides to replicate traditional earth pigments. These are much stronger in hue, consistent and very durable.

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## LIMEWASH PRICE LIST 2009

Prices do not include delivery costs or VAT

No.	Name	Price	
		10lt	20lt
	<b>Manufactured</b>		
1	Parchment	£9.00	£15.00
2	Aurora	£9.00	£15.00
3	Pinenut	£11.00	£18.00
4	Sunlight	£11.00	£18.00
5	Tan	£11.00	£18.00
6	Apricot	£13.00	£21.00
7	Terracotta	£13.00	£21.00
8	Red Earth	£13.00	£21.00
9	Cob	£13.00	£21.00
10	Mandarin	£11.00	£18.00
11	Blush	£9.00	£15.00
12	Soft Pink	£9.00	£15.00
13	Rose	£11.00	£18.00
14	Plum	£13.00	£21.00
15	Brick	£13.00	£21.00
16	Ariel	£13.00	£21.00
17	Sky	£13.00	£21.00
18	Ultramarine	£15.00	£24.00
19	Foggy blue	£15.00	£24.00
20	Chambray	£15.00	£24.00
21	Shell	£13.00	£21.00
22	Mint	£13.00	£21.00
23	Sage	£13.00	£21.00
24	Leaf	£13.00	£21.00
25	Seagreen	£13.00	£21.00
26	Olivio	£9.00	£15.00
27	Pistachio	£11.00	£18.00
28	Hayfield	£13.00	£21.00
29	Cardamom	£13.00	£21.00
30	Blue Grass	£15.00	£24.00

No.	Name	Price	
		10lt	20lt
	<b>Manufactured</b>		
31	Stellata	£13.00	£21.00
32	Buttermilk	£11.00	£18.00
33	Egg Noodle	£11.00	£18.00
34	Chick Pea	£13.00	£21.00
35	Catkin	£13.00	£21.00
36	Assissi grey	£11.00	£18.00
37	Elephant	£15.00	£24.00
38	Pigeon	£15.00	£24.00
39	Albert	£13.00	£21.00
40	Grape	£13.00	£21.00
	White	£8.00	£12.00
	<b>Natural</b>		
41	Ochre Yellow	£13.00	£21.00
42	Ochre Gold	£15.00	£24.00
43	Peach	£13.00	£21.00
44	Marigold	£15.00	£24.00
45	Marrakech	£13.00	£21.00
46	Red Ochre	£15.00	£24.00
47	Raw Sienna	£13.00	£21.00
48	Sienna	£15.00	£24.00
49	Burnt Sienna	£13.00	£21.00
50	Red Sienna	£15.00	£24.00
51	Raw Umber	£13.00	£21.00
52	Umbria	£15.00	£24.00
53	Burnt Umber	£13.00	£21.00
54	Red Umber	£15.00	£24.00

This chart illustrates our range of traditional limewash colours, but we also provide a colour matching service for a fee of £20 + VAT. This is refundable on orders over 100 litres. The colours shown are a close approximation, not an exact match. We provide 250ml sample jars of limewash for £1.00 plus postage, packing and VAT.

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## Manufactured Pigments

<b>1. Parchment</b>	<b>2. Aurora</b>	<b>3. Pinenut</b>	<b>4. Sunlight</b>	<b>5. Tan</b>
<b>6. Apricot</b>	<b>7. Terracotta</b>	<b>8. Red Earth</b>	<b>9. Cob</b>	<b>10. Mandarin</b>
<b>11. Blush</b>	<b>12. Soft Pink</b>	<b>13. Rose</b>	<b>14. Plum</b>	<b>15. Brick</b>
<b>16. Ariel*</b>	<b>17. Sky*</b>	<b>18. Ultramarine*</b>	<b>19. Foggy Blue *</b>	<b>20. Chambray*</b>
<b>21. Shell*</b>	<b>22. Mint</b>	<b>23. Sage*</b>	<b>24. Leaf</b>	<b>25. Sea Green*</b>
<b>26. Lime White</b>	<b>27. Pistachio</b>	<b>28. Hayfield</b>	<b>29. Cardamom</b>	<b>30. Bluegrass*</b>
<b>31. Stellatta</b>	<b>32. Buttermilk</b>	<b>33. Egg Noodle</b>	<b>34. Chickpea</b>	<b>35. Catkin</b>
<b>36. Assissi Grey</b>	<b>37. Elephant</b>	<b>38. Pigeon</b>	<b>39. Albert</b>	<b>40. Grape</b>

**\*note** The colours marked with an asterisk contain a blue pigment and it is advised that they be used within 14 days as the blue pigment is not lime-fast.

## Natural Pigments

<b>41. Ochre Yellow</b>	<b>42. Ochre Gold</b>	<b>43. Peach</b>	<b>44. Marigold</b>	<b>45. Marrakech</b>
<b>46. Red Ochre</b>	<b>47. Raw Sienna</b>	<b>48. Sienna</b>	<b>49. Burnt Sienna</b>	<b>50. Red Sienna</b>
<b>51. Raw Umber</b>	<b>52. Umbria</b>	<b>53. Burnt Umber</b>	<b>54. Red Umber</b>	

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## USING LIMEWASH

This is a brief guideline only. Full technical sheets are available from our office or on our website.

**Safety** Limewash is caustic. Protect eyes and skin from contact.

**Coverage** A litre of limewash will cover 3 - 6 m<sup>2</sup> for one coat, depending on the smoothness and porosity of the surface being limewashed. Apply thinly.

**Porosity** Limewash works best on a porous surface such as new lime render and plaster. Casein paint can be added to improve adhesion on less porous surfaces. When in doubt, test a sample area.

**Preparation** Remove any loose particles, dust, dirt, lichen etc. with stiff brush and wash down. Treat mould growth with a weak fungicide (dilute bleach) and rinse off well.

**Damping** On dry surfaces spray the area with water before limewashing as this prevents the water in the limewash from being sucked out too quickly on application.

**Application** Please whisk the limewash thoroughly before use as the putty will settle out. It will look transparent on application but will dry opaque. Coloured limewashes dry to a much lighter shade than the wet limewash. 4 coats are recommended on new external lime render, 3 coats on new internal lime plaster. Ideally leave each coat to cure for a minimum of 2 days. A thin coat curing slowly in the presence of moisture will form a more crystalline, hard-wearing surface compared to a chalky finish if a thick coat dries out too quickly. After the initial carbonation and curing limewash will continue to strengthen for several weeks.

**Weather** Do not apply in low temperatures or when there is a risk of frost. Protect external limewash from strong sunlight when it is drying. Ultramarine Pigment Ultramarine pigment will fade in wet limewash. Please use limewash which contain ultramarine within a week.

**Storage** Please store tubs of limewash in frost-free conditions.