



**AMERICAN CLAY**<sup>®</sup>  
Naturally Beautiful Walls<sup>™</sup>  
U.S. PATENT 7485186

## Lime Washing Instructions Using American Clay Lime Putty

### What You Will Need

- Required safety equipment: safety goggles and safety gloves
- Painters tape
- Drop cloths
- Pump-style garden sprayer or airless sprayer
- 5 gallon bucket
- Tile sponge
- Stainless steel trowel
- Lexan plastic trowel (*\*for use with Lomalina<sup>™</sup>, Porcelina<sup>™</sup>, Forté Finish, and Forté White finishes*)
- Paint brush or “ceiling brush” (large – 4” wide by 1” thick)
- Paint brush (large – 4” wide by 1” thick) with fine/soft bristles
- Spade handle 1/2” gear-driven low-speed mixing drill and plaster paddle

### Lime Putty Disclaimer

These instructions are for Artisans/contractors who have experience with American Clay plasters, including American Clay Lime Putty. Handy homeowners and first-time applicators should not use American Clay Lime Putty.

### Important Notes

1. Ensure American Clay Lime Putty is covered with a layer of water in bucket to help to store indefinitely.
2. Lime washing will noticeably change the color on the wall, creating a more vivid look, and is used primarily as an easier way (less work) of changing the color on the surface as well as making the surface more resistant to water.

3. Never use lime wash over a dry surface.
4. Ultramarine based pigments, when combined with lime, will quickly degrade. Use any lime mixture quickly as the color will change dramatically over the course of 12 to 24 hours. This change is permanent. When using color pigments with an ultramarine base use in smaller portions in order for the product to be used within the proper timeframe. Standard color pigments with ultramarine include:
  - i. Barefoot Beach, Bluefield, Breezy Point, Catalina, Chesapeake Bay, Crystal Cove, Desert Plum, Fairfield Green, French Quarter, Glacier, Grace Bay, Havasu, Islamorada, Jasper, Kentucky Moon, La Jolla Shores, Lake Tahoe, Painted Desert, Powder River, Rio Grande Pecan, Santa Barbara Verde, Snake River, Taos, Toledo, Treetop, and Verde Valley.
  - ii. Also, any color blend that uses the standard color pigments above is not lime safe and must be used within the appropriate timeframe.
5. Prior to using lime wash, consider the type of texture you want your finished surface to have. For example, during clay plaster application, compress the surface using appropriate technique to achieve desired finish (i.e. smooth, matte, sand finish).
6. Lime wash will work on any of the clay plaster finishing products. However, when working on a smooth finish like Lomalina™, Porcelina™, Forté Finish, and Forté White, a more diluted lime wash will work better. Also, use a stainless steel or Lexan plastic trowel (needed for whiter or lighter colors) instead of a brush when working the clay. If using a stainless steel trowel, try to avoid burn marks.

## Overview

**All surfaces require two major steps to complete the lime wash application:**

1. Mixing American Clay Lime Putty for lime washing
2. Applying lime wash

## Application

Follow standard installation procedures using application system desired. Fully complete application process before beginning lime wash application.

## Lime Washing Coverage

200 to 400 square feet per gallon of lime wash. Each gallon of American Clay Lime Putty should produce 4 to 7 gallons of lime wash, depending on dilution.

## Mixing American Clay Lime Putty For Lime Washing

1. Always begin by using safety glasses (or goggles) and safety gloves when working with American Clay Lime Putty.
2. Mix in a bucket with a ratio of 1 part American Clay Lime Putty to a minimum of 3 parts water.  
(\*Note: Lime wash can be mixed up to a ratio of 1 part American Clay Lime Putty to 10 parts water depending on application technique)
3. Mix thoroughly with a spiral drill mixer if using large quantities or use a regular kitchen whisk if mixing in smaller quantities.
4. While doing Step #2 colors should be added, if desired, or the lime wash will remain white.
5. For standard colors, the ratio of color is 1 color pack to 1 gallon of American Clay Lime Putty. For blended colors, follow the formula listed with the name (i.e.: 2 Kentucky Moon color packs + 1 Verde Valley color pack = Seabrook) and mix with 1 gallon of American Clay Lime Putty. For smaller quantities, use the appropriate ratios of pigment to lime.
6. Consistency of the lime wash should be similar to skim milk. It should not be as thick as paint, if too thick the lime wash will crack.

## Applying Lime Wash

1. Use a coarse brush to remove loose material off of the surface.
2. Use a spray bottle or lightly damp sponge to dampen the wall. If the surface becomes too wet, let dry for a couple of minutes.
3. Take the "ceiling brush" and start applying the lime wash in a cross-hatched pattern from the bottom of the surface up and continue to work across the wall.
4. Next, work out the brush strokes with a paintbrush with fine/soft bristles. Wipe the lime washed areas with the brush back and forth to remove the marks. Every so often, the bristles of the brush should be dried off. Alternatively, you can use a trowel to work the brush stroke marks off the wall.
5. If working on a large wall, it is recommended to have a person behind you working the brush marks out.
6. Two or three coats of the lime wash should be sufficient, depending on coverage. For second and third coats repeat the same process, working on the damp surface. Subsequent coats should be applied after the surface loses its sheen.
7. Next, as the wall is drying (never when the wall is already dry) get a paint brush that is even larger and softer and keep working the stroke marks off the wall trying not to remove color from the wall. This initiates the polishing process as well. Repeat as necessary.
8. Let the wall dry completely.
9. Your wall should now be finished. Rub fingers across the wall and check for chalkiness. If it is chalky, work the surface with a barely damp sponge being careful not to introduce too much moisture.
10. The lime wash can be waxed to create a more polished surface.

## Cleanup

**All cleanup can happen with water.** Tools can be cleaned up with warm water. All other cleanup can be achieved with a damp sponge. If pigment stains any surface cleanup can be achieved with white vinegar.

## Storing Lime

After a job is over, excess lime wash can be saved for use at a later time. However, only lime washes mixed without Ultramarine pigments can be stored. Lime washes mixed with Ultramarine pigments will degrade and become unusable, **see Important Notes: #4.**

## Does the Plaster Need to Be Sealed?

**American Clay recommends not sealing most American Clay plasters** because sealers reduce the positive benefits of the clay, make the wall harder to maintain, and sealers can be difficult to apply. For instructions and further questions or discussion, please call 1-866-404-1634.

## Technical Information & Warnings

1. Lime washed plaster is repairable just as sealed American Clay plaster is repairable, it simply takes more expertise.
2. Lime gauged or washed American Clay plaster cannot be used in direct water applications such as showers or steam rooms. Lime gauged plaster does not insure water repellency, it does resist water penetration.
3. Lime gauged or lime washed American Clay plaster cannot be applied directly over painted or sealed surfaces. Proper preparation of the surface must be done prior to application.
4. Lime wash is intended to be used over absorbent surfaces. For painted or sealed surfaces, a matte primer or other absorbent coat must be applied prior to using lime wash.
5. If used to add color depth and/or sheen to a plaster surface, up to six coats of lime wash may be used. A one or two coat application will add a semi-transparent surface. More coats will increase opacity.
6. Lime wash can be applied over lime gauged plaster. It will further increase the surface hardness over time. When using both application methods on one surface, lime gauged application must be completed entirely before lime wash application begins.
7. The results of American Clay Lime Putty must be tested before final approval by the customer. Artisans/contractors should have prior experience with American Clay Lime Putty prior to attempting a project.

**\*REVISED 08/09/2016 RA**