



SECTION 092526 NATURAL CLAY PLASTER | SUBMITTAL | REVISED 07/12/2016

**PRODUCT**

**American Clay Plaster – Forté Base**

**DESCRIPTION**

**American Clay Plaster - Forté Base** is a base coat material which can be applied over a properly prepared substrate. Most surfaces require our general priming system which includes a specific list of approved primers to be mixed with Primer Sand additive. Forté Base can also be used as a finish coat (in a two coat process) for those looking for a suede-like texture.

**TECHNICAL DATA**

**Composition:**

- » A proprietary blend of aggregates, clays, and polymer.

**Limitations:**

- » For interior use only. Not applicable for exterior projects.
- » Not to be applied over substrates which are subject to movement from absorption and excessive moisture (e.g.: wallpaper, wood) and ill-prepared old substrates.

**Packaging:**

- » 50 lb. bags (22.67 kg)

**Coverage:**

- » 160 square feet per 50 lb. bag (per coat)

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

**Preparation:**

- » Complete any “General Preparation” steps required to bring the surface to a relatively flat, dust free, well-bonded surface. For instructions regarding specific substrates, please visit [www.americanclay.com](http://www.americanclay.com).
- » Room should be at least 50°F (10°C).

**Masking:**

- » Protect floors with drop cloths or plastic. Tape all adjacent surfaces. Keep tape 1/8” (3 mm) away from the surface being plastered, so tape does not pull off any plaster when tape is removed.

**Applying Sanded Primer:**

- » Coat the entire surface with an approved multipurpose, transitional or stain-blocking paint primer mixed with American Clay Primer Sand. For the most up to date list of approved primers, please visit [www.americanclay.com](http://www.americanclay.com).
- » Apply a second coat on all outside corners and other vulnerable areas.

**Mixing:**

- » Pour 1 3/4 gallons (6.62 L) of water into a 5 to 15 gallon (20 to 60 L) plastic container. Add 1/2 bag plaster and mix.
- » Add enough water to dry color pigment (if color is desired) to create a slurry and mix (optional, helps prevent starrng.)
- » Add pigment (wet or dry) to bucket and mix.
- » Add remaining plaster and more water if needed to bring plaster to a “soft-serve ice cream” consistency.
- » Let plaster sit for 1 hour prior to application and remix.

**First Coat Application:**

- » The first coat of plaster is always Forté Base.
- » Using a hawk and trowel, apply the first coat slightly thicker than one credit card.
- » Let first coat dry completely.

**Second Coat Application:**

- » The second coat can be Forté Base, Forté Finish, or Forté White.
- » Apply: Forté Base slightly thicker than one credit card; Forté Finish as thin as one credit card; and, Forté White a bit thinner than one credit card.
- » Apply plaster in vertical strips, trying to avoid horizontal seams. Maintain a wet edge at all times and go from one edge of the wall to the other without breaking.
- » Adjust the texture: when wall is "leather hard" you may smooth the wall by hard troweling, remove trowel marks with a dry sponge, or create an evenly rough surface by rubbing the entire surface with a dry sponge.

**Compression:**

- » **Compression is mandatory. This step must be completed to ensure proper installation.**
- » **Sponge Finish:** after the wall is dry, use a lightly damp tile sponge and in a circular motion lightly buff the surface. Then brush excess sand off wall.
- » **Matte finish:** lightly mist dry plaster, so surface is fully damp but water is not running down wall. Hard trowel with Japanese steel trowel.
- » **Burnishing (optional):** done after hard troweling. Let plaster set, so it is not quite so wet, and use plastic trowel to avoid leaving gray “burn” marks.
- » The wall should feel smooth and stable, not sandy, dusty or “hairy” when you finish.

**Storage:**

- » American Clay Forté plaster may be stored wet in the bucket for up to three days.
- » It is recommended that after three days the plaster be dried out on a sheet of plastic and rehydrated with water for repairs.

**MANUFACTURER**

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