



# NATURAL MINERAL FILLER

## Mixing, applying and finishing, step by step

Natural Mineral Filler is a dry, ready-mix lime mortar for preparing and resurfacing interior walls. Bound with natural hydraulic lime instead of gypsum or cement, it is breathable and, unlike ordinary lime fillers, it grips low-absorption surfaces, so it fills straight over sound painted walls as well as bare plaster. This guide covers mixing, applying and finishing, and answers the questions we hear most.

**Safety first:** this is a lime product. Mixed, it is alkaline and **causes skin irritation and serious eye damage.**

Always wear gloves and eye protection, keep dust down (mix gently, ventilate the room, wear a dust mask), and keep it away from children. Rinse any splashes off skin at once, and if it gets in your eyes, rinse with water for several minutes and seek medical advice.

### What you will need

- Natural Mineral Filler (1, 3, 5 or 10 kg)
- A clean bucket and clean water
- A whisk / paddle mixer on a slow drill (450 to 500 rpm), a fast mixer over-mixes it
- A filling knife or plastering trowel, and a hawk for larger areas
- A spray bottle of clean water to dampen the wall
- 4 x 4 mm glass reinforcing mesh for tricky substrates (see Step 3)
- Gloves, eye protection and a dust mask

### How much do I need?

As a guide, allow about **1.6 kg of powder per mm of thickness, per square metre**. So a 10 kg bag skims roughly 6 m<sup>2</sup> at 1 mm, or about 3 m<sup>2</sup> at 2 mm.

|                 |                                                                                                       |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water to add    | Roughly 0.21 to 0.24 litres of clean water per kg of powder (about 4.25 to 4.75 L for a 20 kg batch). |
| Layer thickness | 2 to 4 mm per layer, up to a maximum of 10 mm overall in built-up layers.                             |
| Working time    | Use each mix within about 4 hours. Mix what you can comfortably use in that time.                     |

## Step by step

### 1 Mix it

Add the powder to the water (not the other way round) and whisk for 4 to 5 minutes with a slow paddle mixer to a smooth, lump-free paste, like thick cream. Do not use a high-speed mixer, and do not mix by hand. Let it stand for a minute, then give it a final stir.

### 2 Prepare and dampen the wall

The surface must be stable, clean and flat. Remove anything loose, flaking or powdery, and clean sound paint or resin coatings. Just before applying, lightly mist the wall with clean water so it is damp but not wet (plasterboard does not need dampening). A soaking-wet, glistening surface will stop it sticking, so let any surface water soak in first.

### 3 Use mesh on tricky surfaces

On straightforward plasterboard, brick or blockwork you can apply directly. On mixed or awkward backgrounds, old gypsum, lime or cement plasters, painted or resin surfaces, or insulation boards, embed a 4 x 4 mm glass mesh: apply a first 3 to 6 mm layer, press the mesh in, then a second 2 to 4 mm layer once it has firmed up. If in doubt, do a small adhesion test first.



## 4 Apply and build up

Trowel on in one or two layers of 2 to 4 mm, up to 10 mm total. Work it flat and firm. For a smoother face, give it a final pass with a wet trowel or float as it starts to set.

## 5 Let it cure, then finish

Allow about 7 days drying per 10 mm of thickness. When fully dry it can be left in its natural mineral state, or over-painted with a breathable mineral paint such as a lime or silicate paint, our Mineral White is ideal. Avoid sealing it under a plastic emulsion, which would trap moisture.

## Tips for a good result

- Thin layers beat one thick one, build up to depth rather than filling deep holes in a single pass.
- Keep the wall damp-not-wet: too dry and it grabs; too wet and it slides.
- Only mix what you can use in about 4 hours, it cannot be re-wetted once it starts to go off.
- For a paint-ready face, close it up with a wet trowel as it firms, rather than sanding hard later.

## Common questions

### Can I really fill over painted walls?

Yes, that is one of its strengths, it bonds to sound, low-absorption surfaces that ordinary lime fillers will not grip. The paint must be sound and stuck fast, so remove anything flaking and, on doubtful surfaces, do a quick adhesion test first.

### How deep can I fill in one go?

Up to 4 mm per layer and 10 mm overall in built-up layers. For deeper repairs, build up in stages, letting each layer firm before the next.

### Do I always need the mesh?

No. It is for awkward or mixed backgrounds and over old or painted plasters. On sound plasterboard, brick or blockwork you can apply directly.

### How long before I can paint over it?

Let it dry fully first, roughly 7 days per 10 mm of thickness. Then finish with a breathable mineral paint. It needs to breathe, so avoid standard plastic emulsions.

### Can I use it outside?

No, it is for internal use only.

### Can I sand it smooth?

You can lightly smooth it, but the neatest finish comes from closing the surface with a wet trowel as it sets. If you do sand, wear a dust mask and keep the dust down.

### What can I do with leftover mix?

Once it has started to set it cannot be revived, so mix in sensible amounts. Let washings and surplus set hard, then dispose of them as building waste, never down the drain. Reseal the bag and keep it dry.

Soil & Sky Natural Mineral Filler. Application guide v1.0, 2026. Guidance is given in good faith; always test on your own surfaces first. A full safety data sheet is available on request.