

## **LIMEWASH**

### **1.0 PROTECTION**

Protect the floors, windows, fixtures and furniture with dust sheets so that no limewash is allowed to fall on them. All splashes must be cleaned up completely with clean water to the satisfaction of the CA.

### **2.0 PREPARATION**

- 2.1 Thoroughly brush off all dust and loose material using stiff and then soft bristle brushes.

### **3.0 SAFETY**

Limewash is a strong alkali and attention must be given to the protection of hands and eyes, when limewashing. Eyewash facilities must be provided.

### **4.0 LIMEWASH**

- 4.1 The lime is to be high calcium from a source approved by the CA.
- 4.2 Limewash can be produced by mixing water and mature lime putty, supplied from an approved source, or slaking on site if the contractor prefers.
- 4.3 The limewash needs to be kept relatively thin. As a working guide, it should be the consistency of single cream (with a lime putty that has been matured for at least three months and slaked with the correct amount of water this will usually mean a, by volume, ratio of 1 putty to 9 water).
- 4.4 Pigments are to be natural 'earth' pigments. They are to be mixed with a little hot water, to avoid lumps, before being added to the limewash.
- 4.5 Copperas pigment is specified for the external envelope of the historic house and should be prepared by boiling ferrous sulphate crystals and put directly into limewash or slake quicklime with the crystals to produce a copperas limewash (heat of slaking melts the crystals). The copperas pigment produces a very bold colour and very dramatic (green in the tub and upon initial application but then turns a lustrous/glowing yellow gold upon 'rusting').
- 4.6 Limewash turns lighter in colour as it dries. Produce pigmented samples and apply to the wall in a position agreed with the CA, or apply to paper and allow to dry. Do not add pigment to the final limewash until the colour has been agreed with the CA.

### **5.0 APPLICATION**

- 5.1 Immediately before application, working in suitably sized areas, the surface to be lime washed is to be dampened with water to reduce suction.
- 5.2 Apply limewash with a 'grass' or natural bristle brush, working it well into any cracks or joints. Do not allow the limewash to build up thickly, which can cause crazing on drying out.
- 5.3 When the first coat has dried (allow 24 hours), then proceed to second and then to subsequent coats in the same way. Lightly dampen previous coats before the next. Assume five coats will be required unless the CA instructs otherwise.