

1.0	Table of Contents	
2.0	Marble Finish	2
2.1	Description	
2.2	Materials & Steps Summary	
2.3	Properties	
2.4	Resources	
2.5	Application Guide Disclaimer	
3.0	Preparation	3
3.1	Gather Tools	
3.2	Sample Making	
3.3	Review Video Tutorial	
3.4	Review Safety Precautions	
3.5	Substrate Preparation	
4.0	Marble Finish Application Guide	5
4.1	Tips & Considerations	
4.2	Stone Plaster: Mixing & Application	
4.3	Marble Plaster: Mixing, Straining, & Application	
4.4	Olive Oil Soap Sealer: Mixing & Application	
5.0	Completion	8
5.1	Storage	
5.2	Clean up & Disposal	
6.0	Project Consultation	8

2.0 Earthaus Marble Plaster Finish

2.1 Description

Inspired by traditional Italian Venetian plaster, the Earthaus Marble Finish is a very fine grained formula that is polished by burnishing for an ultra-smooth and reflective finish. The darker the color, the more color variation and mottling will appear with burnishing. Marble Finish is not suitable for shower use.

The short and long term aesthetic continuity and functional performance of an Earthaus Marble Finish is the result of the methods utilized by the installer and care and maintenance by the owner. Earthaus Plaster cannot guarantee any finish outcomes with Earthaus Marble products.

2.2 Steps Summary: total thickness 1/16"

1. Substrate preparation: Prime with Earthaus Primer Grit additive over level-4 finished drywall or previously painted wall
2. Stone Plaster: One 1/32" coat*
3. Marble Plaster: Two coats totaling 1/32"*
4. Mineral Pigment Pack: One Pack per bag of Stone and Marble Plasters
5. Olive Oil Soap Sealer: One coat

** 1/32" is the thickness of a credit card*

2.3 Properties

- Earthaus plasters are made with high quality US-quarried lime, pumice, mineral pigments, and plant-based binder.
- Earthaus Olive Oil Soap Sealer is sustainably sourced in the US.
- 100% natural materials
- Excellent adherence and workability
- Zero VOCs or chemical additives
- Lime plaster absorbs CO2 and becomes limestone as it cures
- Mold and mildew resistant finish
- Durable and breathable finish

2.4 Resources

See: [Earthhaus Marble Finish Application Information](#) to view:

- *Marble Finish | Overview*
- *Marble Finish Sample Kit | Application Guide*
- *Marble Finish | Care & Maintenance Guide*
- *Marble Finish | Video Tutorial*

2.6 Disclaimer

The information provided in Earthhaus Artisan Plaster Guides is given in good faith, based on current knowledge and Earthhaus experience with the plaster products when they are properly stored, handled and applied in normal situations. The Application Guide is useful for information and consulting but is not legally binding. In particular, it does not exempt the user from testing and verifying the suitability of the product for the desired application and purpose. Any modification to the instructions and recommendations by the user, they will assume all the corresponding risk and responsibility. Earthhaus Plaster reserves the right to modifications that improve the product or its application.

3.0 Preparation

3.1 Gather Tools

Many of the recommended tools for Plaster Sample Kits are organized and listed on our website. Each tool is linked to an online purchase option.

[Recommended Tools](#)

Primer: Mixing and Application

- Drill
- Small Mixing Paddle
- Roller or Brush

Plaster: Mixing, Straining, and Application

- 1200 RPM variable speed drill
- Egg Beater style mixing paddle
- 5 gallon buckets:
- Large Mixing Tub: 10 gallon
- Mesh Strainer: 5 gallon
- Sponge

- Hawk
- Trowel

Olive Oil Soap Sealer: Diluting, Mixing, and Application

- 1 gallon bucket
- Roller or Brush

3.2 Sample Making: Substrate Options

A. Sample Boards

Marble Finish samples can be made on sheetrock, Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF), tile backer board, or bisque ceramic tiles. Plywood and particleboard are not recommended because tannins can leach and discolor the plaster. For health, note that standard MDF board is made with formaldehyde, a known carcinogen. The substrate needs to be dry and free from impurities that could hinder the bonding of Primer and Grit.

B. Wall Sample

Marble Finish can be applied to primed level-4 finished drywall or primed previously painted walls. The substrate needs to be dry and free from impurities that could hinder the bonding of primer and Earthaus Primer Grit.

3.3 Review Video Tutorial

It's recommended to review the video Tutorial demonstrating the standard application recommendations for the Earthaus Marble Finish.

[Earthaus Marble Finish | Video Tutorial](#)

3.4 Safety Precautions

As lime-based products, Earthaus Stone and Marble Plasters are highly alkaline during mixing and while wet. It's recommended to wear a dust mask and safety glasses and cover exposed skin during mixing, and wear neoprene gloves and protective clothing during application. If skin comes in contact with wet Stone or Marble plasters and causes irritation, rinse skin with white vinegar to neutralize the lime. If Stone or Marble plaster gets into your eyes, flush your eyes with an eyewash.

[Safety Data Sheets](#)

3.5 Preparing the Substrate

A. Suitable Primers

Earthaus does not make a primer product. We recommend using a primer with zero to low VOCs. For a list of suitable primers:

[Earthaus Primer Grit Product Guide](#)

B. Application of Primer with Earthaus Primer Grit

1. Add one cup of Primer Grit per one gallon of primer.
2. Mix Primer Grit into a primer product with a drill and mixing paddle for 30 seconds until fully integrated.
3. Drywall should be dry and free from any dust or impurities that could hinder the bonding of primer with Grit.
4. Use a brush or roller to apply one coat of primer with Grit evenly to the finished drywall.
5. Allow the primer to dry fully to ensure that the Grit is completely bonded to the surface

4.0 Marble Finish Application Guide

A. Tips & Considerations

1. **Even coats:** Paying attention to applying plaster coats evenly and preventing any high spots or ridges in the basecoat particularly will minimize aesthetic issues in the finish coat and help ensure color continuity.
2. **Thickness of coats:** Novices tend to apply too thick of coats which can show up as ridges and trowel lines. Too thick of coats will increase the risk of cracking.
3. **Burnishing:** Polishing for high sheen is a time sensitive technique. Using lots of pressure and approximate 45 degree angle on the trowel to burnish for high sheen; the plaster should be wet still but firm enough that no material comes off on the trowel when burnishing.
4. **Color variation:** Burnishing done too hard can bruise a plaster finish and darken the color. Burnishing in areas with high spots or ridges are very easily bruised. Color variation and color mottling can increase with burnishing
5. **Texture variation:** Marble can be made matte/un-Soaped/un-burnished

B. Base coat: Stone Plaster Mixing & Application

Mixing Stone Plaster

1. Add 9 liters/2.4 gallons of water to a 5 gallon bucket
2. Add the Mineral Pigment Pack to the water and mix vigorously for one minute with a high RPM drill. It is highly recommended to pour the pigmented water through a five gallon paint strainer to minimize the potential for pigment bursts. A pigment burst is a small chunk of unmixed pigment that can burst into the finished plaster when troweled over.
3. Add 1/3 of the bag of Stone Plaster to the strained pigmented water. Mix well then scrape any powdered plaster from the sides of the bucket.
4. Add the next 1/3 of the bag, mix, scrape, and repeat until all the powdered Stone Plaster is incorporated.
5. Once all of the Stone Plaster has been incorporated, mix vigorously with a high RPM drill for 3 minutes, minimum. The long and thorough mixing time will ensure full pigment dispersion and minimize the possibility of any unmixed particles.
6. Adding a small amount of water may be necessary due to variations in pigment quantity in each color and slight variation in plaster content per bag. Be careful to not add too much water. Aim for a plaster consistency of a thick milkshake.

Stone Base coat Application

1. Apply an even base coat of Stone approximately 1/32nd inch thick. 1/32 inch is the thickness of a credit card
2. When the first coat of Stone plaster is approximately 60% dry, use a clean trowel to smooth out any trowel marks or ridges.
3. Allow the Stone base coat to dry fully before applying the Marble finish coats.

C. Finish Coats: Marble Plaster: Mixing, Straining, & Application

Marble is a two coat, "wet-on-wet" application. This means that the two coats are applied in succession and the coats should not dry between coats. The two coats are very thin. For both coats, the maximum total thickness is 1/64".

Mixing

1. Add 3 gallons/11 liters of water to a five gallon bucket.
2. Slowly pour the powdered Marble plaster into the water while mixing with a high rpm drill and mixing paddle
3. Mix for 3 minutes to remove all lumps.

Straining

1. Place the strainer over a second five gallon bucket
2. Pour $\frac{1}{3}$ of the mixed Marble plaster into the strainer.
3. Pull the strainer out of the the bucket
4. With gloved hands, gently squeeze all of the plaster through into the large mixing tub
5. Allow the strained plaster to sit for 30 minutes to thicken slightly before application.
6. Repeat this process until all of the mixed Marble Plaster has been strained.

Application

1. Apply a “tight coat” which means a coat just thicker than the largest grains of aggregate in the Marble plaster.
2. When the first tight coat is firm but still wet, “double back” (apply another) tight coat.
3. As the plaster begins to firm, use a clean trowel to burnish the surface.
4. If an unsealed matte finish is desired, the Marble finish is complete.

D. Olive Oil Soap Sealer: Mixing & Application

Apply Earthaus Olive Oil Soap sealer when the Marble plaster surface is completely dry (minimum 12 hours). Soap sealer is concentrated and needs to be diluted with water before use:

1. Dilute one quart of Olive Oil Soap with 2 gallons of warm water and mix thoroughly to create a soapy water solution.
2. Using a brush or small roller, apply the soap liberally starting from the bottom. Take care to avoid drips or runs.
3. When the Marble plaster finish has been fully saturated, wipe off any excess soap with a clean cloth and allow the surface to dry out completely.
4. If desired, additional coats of Olive Oil Soap Sealer can be applied
5. The color will lighten and stabilize once fully dried, approximately 12 hours later.

5.0 Completion

5.1 Storage

Once mixed, Stone and Marble Plasters will keep for 14 days covered at room temperature. To rework previously mixed Stone and Marble after storage, it is essential to remix the plasters using a drill.

5.2 Clean Up & Disposal

To clean primer tools and dispose of excess primer, follow the directions from the manufacturer. The strainer can be disposed of in the trash. To clean plaster tools and dispose of excess Stone and Marble Plasters, allow the plaster to fully dry in the container. Once dried, the plaster will become easily removable from the container and can be disposed of in the trash.

6.0 Project Consultation

For questions unique to your project, phone consultation is available with an Earthaus expert.

[Project Consultation](#)

Earthaus, LLC

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