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Earthaus Tadelakt | Care & Maintenance Guide

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

1.0 Routine Care

1.1 Cleaning:

A gentle, plant-based diluted soap is recommended for routine cleaning. Cleaning products with chemical or acidic ingredients can damage an Earthaus Tadelakt Finish. Earthaus Olive Oil Soap Sealer works well:

1. Dilute five-parts warm water to one-part Olive Oil Soap Sealer
2. With a non-abrasive cloth, gently wipe and clean the Tadelakt Finish surface
3. Rinsing is not necessary
4. Routine cleaning should be done monthly at minimum.
5. Routine cleaning can be done as frequently as needed or desired without consequence

1.2 Upkeep:

- A. A coat of Beeswax Protective Sealer should be applied annually at minimum Wax can be applied as frequently as needed or desired without consequence.
- B. A bead of clear silicone caulk on the joint between Tadelakt and other materials should be maintained to prevent water/liquids from wicking up into the Tadelakt and causing discoloration.

2.0 Damage Types: Risks & Repair

2.1 Etching

1. Risk & Response:

Etching is the dissolving of the natural Tadelakt seal from acidic or chemical substances. Etching will appear as a sandy rough spot in contrast to the smooth Tadelakt finish. To prevent etching, the following substances should be immediately wiped from a Tadelakt finish with a damp cloth (not an exhaustive list):

Food: oils, acids, and ingredients containing tannins

Personal care products: soaps, gels, toothpaste, hair dye, products with unknown chemical ingredients.

2. Repair:

The functionality and aesthetic of etched Tadelakt will be compromised. For areas that need to remain functionally water-repellent, patching is necessary. For areas that do not need to be functionally water-repellent, patching is optional. Depending on the skill of the applicator doing the patch, a patch's aesthetic may be less appealing than the etched area.

2.2 Staining

1. Risk & Response

Staining is the discoloration of a Tadelakt finish. To prevent staining, the following substances should be immediately wiped from a Tadelakt finish with a wet cloth (not an exhaustive list):

Food: oils, acids, and ingredients containing tannins

Personal care products: soaps, gels, toothpaste, hair dye, products with unknown chemical ingredients.

2. Repair

For the best chance of removing a stain from a Tadelakt Finish, do not use water or soap. Attempt dry stain removal first by lightly scrubbing the stain with a mildly abrasive cloth. If that doesn't remove the stain, use a diluted solution of a gentle, plant-based soap and gently scrub the stain.

3. Natural & Non-Problematic Discoloration

It is common for Tadelakt to darken in areas of heavier water exposure and lighten again as it dries out. This is normal and not problematic as long as it dries out. Ensure that your Tadelakt Finish is properly maintained with annual waxing. A bead of clear silicone caulk on the joint between Tadelakt and other materials should be installed to prevent water/liquids from wicking up into the Tadelakt Finish and causing discoloration.

2.3 Cracking

1. Hairline Cracking Risk & Response

Hairline cracks are very fine, long and linear cracks in a Tadelakt finish that occur some time after Tadelakt application. Hairline cracking can indicate structural movement in the substrate but usually the functionality of the finish remains intact. However, aesthetically, hairline cracks can absorb water and darken the surrounding Tadelakt until it eventually dries back out.

2. Hairline Cracking Repair

Hairline cracks should be evaluated by a Tadelakt expert to determine if any water-repellent functionality has been compromised. Hairline cracks may be able to be repaired.

3. Normal Microfissures

Microfissures are extremely fine and light-colored web-like cracks that are distinctive features of authentic traditional Tadelakt. Microfissures are superficial and do not pose a risk to the water-repellent functionality of the Tadelakt Finish. The existence of microfissures has been used to authenticate traditional and authentic Tadelakt.

2.4 Chipping/Nicking

1. Risk & Response

Chipping and nicking are the removal of an area of a Tadelakt finish usually occurring by blunt force. Chipping will damage the Tadelakt seal and its water-repellent functionality in addition to the aesthetic of the finish.

2. **Repair:** To repair a chipped area, it must be patched. For areas that need to remain functionally water-repellent, patching is necessary. For areas that do not need to be functionally water-repellent, patching is optional. Depending on the skill of the applicator doing the patch, a patch's aesthetic may be less appealing than the etched area.

2.5 Mold

1. Risk & Response

Properly smoothed and burnished Tadelakt will not have any open rough texture. Improperly smoothed and burnished Tadelakt will have areas with open rough texture which may be susceptible to accumulation of substances and resulting mold growth.

2. Repair

Spray 3% hydrogen peroxide onto the affected Tadelakt surface until fully

covered. Let the area sit for 10 minutes, then scrub off the mold and hydrogen peroxide with a toothbrush. Let the area completely dry then apply one coat of Olive Oil Soap Sealer, let dry again then apply two coats of Earhaus Beeswax Protective Sealer (allow the first coat to dry two hours before applying the second coat). Wait 12 hours before exposing the area to water.

3.0 Patching

To restore stained, etched, nicked, or chipped Tadelakt, small area patching may be possible. A patch may be noticeable, depending on the area and skill level of the repairer. If a large area of Tadelakt is damaged, the entire area may need to be re-finished for visual continuity. Consultation with a plaster professional is recommended for patching.

4.0 Project Consultation

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

- [Project Consultation](#)