

Holkham Linseed Paint – Use as an Emulsion

August, 2004

This can be used on most types of plaster, brick or stone walls (internally or externally) or cement floors, but should not be used on lime plaster. For any wooden surfaces use undiluted Holkham Linseed Paint. Emulsion should not be used on any woodwork.

The **advantages** of using Holkham Linseed Paints as emulsion paint are as follows:

- Extremely healthy for the occupants of the house as the paint is completely solvent free.
- It is a porous paint and as such allows old walls to breathe thereby allowing them to dry out naturally in the summer.
- It is hardwearing.
- It is relatively easy to keep clean being washable with a damp cloth.

The **disadvantages**, however, are that:

- It can be a lengthy and difficult process to mix.
- Is suitable for an experienced painter rather than a keen DIY-er.
- It takes a long time to dry between coats.

How To Use It:

To mix: Use equal amounts of linseed oil paint and water (1 litre of paint to 1 litre of water) and add 1 teaspoon of linseed soap per litre of paint. It is better to use soft water if possible. You will also need an electric drill and a paint whisk attachment for it, see picture.

Pour the paint into a large clean tub and begin whisking. Whilst whisking continuously, using the electric drill and paint whisk attachment, add the linseed soap and then gradually add the water – small amount at a time. Do not forget to move the whisk around to ensure that all the paint and water is thoroughly mixed as this can affect the finished result. Once all the water has been added continue mixing for at least half an hour. Leave the resulting mixture to stand for another half hour – if water has returned to the surface then further mixing and standing time will be needed at this stage. Once you have achieved a mix that doesn't separate out when left for half an hour then you can commence painting.



The resulting emulsion can then be applied with a roller. Rollers should be completely dry before painting – water in the roller will affect the surface appearance of the paint.

If you add more than a litre of water per litre of linseed oil paint then the resulting emulsion will have a less glossy finish but do not add more than 200ml extra water.

It will take approximately 48 hours to dry each coat depending on heat and ventilation. Do not apply further coats until you are certain that the paint is completely dry. Often the paint will dry at different rates depending on the substrate, which can look untidy. It is important to wait until it is fully dry before applying any further coats of paint. New plaster should be fully dry before painting as the moisture in the plaster may affect the surface appearance of the paint. Please remember that plaster takes a considerable time to dry out fully and may not be dry even if the surface appears to be.

You will generally require three or four coats of paint.

If you are uncertain at any stage please stop and ring for advice. Office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays.