

Product Data Sheet

Thistle® SprayFinish

Thistle SprayFinish is designed for skim finishing large wall areas using a spray machine to automatically mix and apply the finishing plaster more quickly.

Where to use

Use it to finish low suction backgrounds like plasterboard, Glasroc F MultiBoard, Glasroc F FireCase, Rigidur H (pre-treated with Thistle GypPrime) and surfaces treated with Thistle Bond-it. Trowel finish the plaster in the usual way for a smooth, hardwearing surface that's ready for decoration with no sanding. It's ideal for ceilings and places that are hard to reach.

Certifications

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) available [Click here](#).



Product information

Composition

This is a retarded hemihydrate, pre-mixed gypsum plaster.

Colour

Off-white.

Nominal weight (kg)

25.

Performance

Here we only provide performance information related to the product. Please see the White Book online for system-dependent performance.

Standards

EN 13279-1:2008, Type B7/50/6.

Declarations of Performance (DoP) available [Click here](#).

Reaction to fire	A1
Thermal resistance (m ² K/W)	0.004

Effect of moisture and condensation

Don't expose the plaster to moisture repeatedly or for long periods of time, as this can cause it to lose strength and adhesion.

Effect of temperature

Thistle plasters aren't suitable for plastering onto frozen backgrounds. However, you can use them in frosty conditions as long as you prevent the plaster from freezing after it's been applied. Dry, bagged plaster isn't affected by low temperatures.

Once Thistle plasters are fully set and dry, they shouldn't be exposed to temperatures above 49°C. When applying in hot or dry conditions, make sure the plaster doesn't lose water too quickly, as it needs some of the mixing water to set and reach full strength.

Application

Background preparation: plasterboards

Only use Thistle finishing plasters on the face of the board, which is the side without a paper overlap. This doesn't apply to moisture resistant boards. Reinforce joints with Thistle ProTape FT50 or FT100, or with Gyproc Joint Tape.

Background preparation: undercoats

Leave gypsum based undercoats reasonably flat and with a scratch key. Finish them when they're set but not dry to avoid high suction that needs to be damped down first. Use Thistle GypPrime to pre-treat very high suction backgrounds.

Cement based undercoats shrink when they are dry, and can crack days or even weeks after application. If you apply a Thistle finishing plaster before the shrinkage is complete, it's more likely to crack or delaminate, particularly if the undercoat wasn't keyed enough. Therefore, the key needs to be much better, and the drying time allowance much longer, than for gypsum based undercoats.

Retarded ready mixed cement based mortars may have delayed shrinkage, and may contain additives that interfere with the strength or setting of Thistle finishing plasters.

Background preparation: moisture resistant grade boards

Avoid applying skim plaster to Gyproc Moisture Resistant boards. These boards are designed for environments with high humidity, which can cause the plaster to lose strength and adhesion.

Where moisture resistant boards are used in shell and core construction to provide temporary moisture resistance, it's best to skim them after the building envelope has been made weathertight. Only apply plaster to the face of moisture resistant boards, and pre-treat them with Thistle Bond-it.

Background preparation: Glasroc F MultiBoard and Glasroc F FireCase

Apply Thistle finishing plasters to the smooth face of the board. Application techniques and joint reinforcement are similar to those used on plasterboards.

Mixing up

Machine operation: The most common way to mix and apply Thistle SprayFinish is using a worm pump plastering machine. To learn how to do this with your chosen machine, please refer to the machine manufacturer's guidance. In general, the plaster's consistency should be slightly softer than that used for hand application. You don't need to throw away any plaster you mix to check the consistency. Instead, you can apply this by hand when carrying out small jobs like prefilling joints, fixing beads, and finishing reveals.

Hand operation: You can mix Thistle SprayFinish by hand or using a mechanical whisk with a slow speed and high torque. While mechanical mixing speeds up the process, there's no need to continue mixing after you've dispersed the lumps and reached the right consistency. Over-mixing wastes time and energy, and can affect setting times, reduce workability, and make it difficult to achieve a flat finish.

Wall application thickness (mm)	2
Ceiling application thickness (mm)	2
Coverage per bag (m ²)	11 at 2mm thick
Working time: maximum	55 minutes
Set time: minimum	105 minutes
Water requirements per bag (litres)	12
Dry set weight (kg/m ²)	2.7 at 2mm

Applying to different substrates

Plastering onto board backgrounds

- 1 Before applying Thistle SprayFinish to Gyproc plasterboards or Glasroc F MultiBoard, Glasroc F FireCase, Rigidur H (pre-treated with Thistle GypPrime), reinforce flat joints using Thistle ProTape FT50 or FT100, or pre-fill any gaps wider than 3mm and reinforce them using Gyproc Joint Tape. Thistle ProTape FT50 and FT100 fibre tapes are self-adhesive, so you can fix them to the board's surface before the first application of plaster. If you're using Gyproc Joint Tape, embed it in the first coat over each joint, leaving enough plaster under the tape to ensure good adhesion. Then press the tape firmly into the plaster and immediately cover it with a further application.
- 2 Apply plaster to the whole surface after the joint treatment has partially set but not dried. Some joints will experience more movement, such as around door or window apertures, where board edges aren't fully supported, or on ceilings below floors that are susceptible to high deflection. In these areas, embed Gyproc Joint Tape in the finish for better resistance to cracking than with fibre tapes.
- 3 Fix Thistle Thin Coat Angle Beads to plasterboard angles by embedding them in dabs of finish plaster. Avoid fixing the bead to the board 'dry'; this could reduce the adhesion as it's difficult to squeeze plaster between the bead and the plasterboard.
- 4 To hold the bead in alignment as the plaster sets, we recommend you use additional mechanical fixings like non-rusting nails, screws and staples. Wipe any surplus from corners before the plaster sets, as scraping it away later may damage the zinc coating.
- 5 Before you begin spraying, cover any windows, doorways and openings, holding the cover in place with masking tape. Alternatively, another person can hold a piece of plywood or board in place during the spray application. Before you add any Thistle plasters to your chosen machine, consult the manufacturer's instructions on water, pipes and pump sizes. The spray machine should be set up in a well ventilated area, with operatives using the correct personal protective equipment. Adjust the machine settings and spraying technique for an even spray pattern to a thickness of 2mm, spraying the first 1mm layer horizontally and the second vertically. The cross hatching technique allows an even application of plaster.
- 6 Five to ten minutes after you have applied the plaster to the whole area, flatten it while trying not to remove any material. At this stage the surface may contain trapped air bubbles or blisters, and it's best to leave them at this stage as they will come out more easily later. After approximately 35 to 40 minutes, you can complete your first trowel up to remove any air bubbles, hollows or trowel marks. At approximately 65 minutes, or when the surface has taken on a dull matt finish, start your second trowel.
- 7 At about 95 to 110 minutes, cross trowel to finish the surface. If you apply any water in the later stages, this should be minimal and applied to the trowel rather than directly to the plaster. This process is more efficient with two or more people, one spraying while the other follows with a spatula.
- 8 For areas that are more intricate, use the trowel as you normally would. Apply the finish plaster with a firm pressure and build it out to the required thickness in two applications, trowelling to a smooth matt finish as it sets. Follow good site practice as outlined in BS EN 13914 Code of Practice for Internal Plastering.

Painting and wallpapering

Make sure Thistle plasters are thoroughly dry before decorating, although you can apply a coat of permeable paint in the interim. You can decorate the finished surface using most proprietary paint finishes and wall covering adhesives, but always follow the manufacturers' recommendations for the best results.

Tiling

You can apply tiles up to 20kg per m² directly to Thistle finishing plasters, except where the system includes a bonding agent. As the total weight of tiles and plaster applied over a bonding agent is limited to 20kg per m², consider tiling directly to the background instead.

If you're plastering to provide a background for tiles, avoid polishing the surface. If the surface has already been polished, roughen it and use a suitable primer to create a good key for the tile adhesive.

Snagging and minor repairs

Thistle finishing plasters on plasterboard provide a system that's suitable for moderate impact and wear. When used over undercoat plasters, they offer good resistance to minor casual damage, but the resistance to damage from greater impacts depends on the undercoat used. If the plaster is correctly applied, you shouldn't need to maintain it afterwards.

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Sitework

Storage

Bags should be stored inside on a flat and stable surface, away from any sources of moisture, heat or direct sunlight. If storing on a concrete floor, use dry timber platforms. The bags should not be stored near any edges, openings, walkways or traffic areas, where they could fall or cause obstruction. Damaged or opened bags should be used first or discarded appropriately.

Handling

British Gypsum fully accepts its responsibilities as a supplier of building materials and systems as required by Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

To reduce manual handling risk, employers and workers should follow HSE's Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (MHOR) and the HSE's guidance on manual handling at work (INDG143). Employers should carry out a risk assessment and implement control measures to avoid or minimise the need for manual handling. Workers should follow safe lifting and moving techniques and report any hazards.

Safety Data Sheet

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available [Click here](#).

Shelf life

Stored correctly, this product has a shelf life of four months, and bags are marked with a use by date so you can use them in strict rotation.

Packaging overview

This plaster is packaged in a paper bag and is supplied palletised.

Quantity per pallet	56 bags
Pallet: nominal height (mm)	1050
Pallet: nominal length (mm)	1250
Pallet: nominal depth (mm)	1050
Pallet: nominal weight (tonnes)	1.4

Environmental

Disposal

Segregate the plaster from non-gypsum waste for recycling where possible, and dispose of it according to local authority requirements.

BES 6001 classification

Excellent.



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