



# Thistle Undercoat Plaster (Convenience bags)

## Product Data Sheet

### Introduction

#### Overview

Thistle Undercoat Plaster is a gypsum-based undercoat plaster suitable for low suction backgrounds such as brickwork, block-work or concrete, Gyproc plasterboard, expanded metal lath or surfaces treated with bonding agents. Used in conjunction with Thistle Finishing Plaster, Thistle Undercoat Plaster provides a smooth, inert, high quality surface to internal walls and ceilings and a durable base for the application of decorative finishes. Thistle Undercoat Plaster is a lightweight, retarded hemihydrate that is pre-mixed gypsum plaster incorporating exfoliated vermiculite aggregate, which only requires the addition of clean water to prepare it for use.

#### Applications

Thistle Undercoat Plaster enables easy application where an uneven surface needs to be levelled before applying the finishing plaster or where the background suction is not suitable for Thistle Finishing Plasters. Artex offers a range of bag sizes, making the product ideal for either the small patching jobs or larger applications.

#### General product information

Product	Bag weight	Approx. water required for mixing	Approx. coverage* per bag (@ 11mm depth & 10% wastage)
Thistle Undercoat Plaster	7.5kg	4.2 litres	0.75m <sup>2</sup>
	12.5kg	7.5 litres	1.25m <sup>2</sup>
	20kg	12 litres	2.00m <sup>2</sup>

\* Coverage is dependent on background and thickness of application and details above should be used only as a guide.

### Installation

#### Background preparation

Surfaces should be reasonably dry, clean, free from dust and protected from the elements, and suitable for the chosen specification. In addition, some masonry backgrounds of exceptionally high suction may require pre-treatment with Thistle Bond-It bonding agent.

It is advisable to brush down the surface to remove any dust or loose pieces and then dampen the surface. Some masonry backgrounds of exceptionally high suction may require pre-treatment to control their suction. Additionally, if plastering is to be undertaken on a concrete surface, ensure all mould oil, grease or other agents present are removed from that surface. Fine concrete does not require 'wetting' prior to plastering. Normal ballast concrete should be given sufficient time to mature before applying the plaster. Plaster should not be applied onto a 'green' background or if there is free water visible. Mature concrete will require wetting to displace the air before plastering. Any concrete that is exceptionally smooth will require pre-treatment with Thistle Bond-It bonding agent.

#### Mixing

Joints between plasterboards should be reinforced with either Thistle Pro-Tape (there is no need for pre-filling as it is self-adhesive) or by pre-filling with plaster and embedding Gyproc Joint Tape. Apply plaster to solid backgrounds with firm pressure. The best results are obtained by applying a 'tight' coat, then turning back with the same batch of material

to fill out to the required thickness. If a substantial area is to be covered, a 'feather-edge' is used to straighten the plaster to a reasonable plane, whilst at the same time filling in any hollows. When the plaster has stiffened sufficiently, score the surface lightly to form a key to enable the Thistle Finishing Plaster to adhere to.

#### General application

Thistle Undercoat Plaster is pre-mixed with aggregate and only clean water needs to be added to prepare it for use. Simply sprinkle plaster into clean cold water and then mix until thick and creamy. Mechanical mixing should be carried out with a high torque yet slow or variable speed type. Hand mixing should be carried out in a bucket, tray or mixing bath, making sure that the mixing vessel and tools are clean and free from set pieces of plaster as this may shorten the setting time and reduce the strength of the plaster when set. Fresh contamination has more effect than old, so equipment should be washed right after mixing.

**Tiling:** Tiles of up to 20kg/m<sup>2</sup> can be applied directly to the Thistle finish 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/m<sup>2</sup>, consideration should be given to tiling directly to the background. When plastering to provide a background for tiles, avoid 'polishing' the finished surface. Polished finished surfaces should be roughened and a suitable primer used.

*Note: Tiles should not be applied directly to Thistle undercoats.*

## Installation (continued)

This table will help you choose the correct plaster for the background you are working on. The figure indicates the recommended coat thickness in millimetres.

Plaster selector guide	Thistle Undercoat Plaster	Thistle Finishing Plaster	Thistle One Coat Plaster
Common bricks	11mm		11mm
Engineering brick (raked joint)	11mm		11mm
Medium density block	11mm		11mm
Dense block	11mm		11mm
Plasterboard	8mm*	2mm*	8mm*
Cast in situ / pre-cast concrete	11mm*		11mm*
Flat, smooth concrete		2mm*	11mm
Damp undercoat plaster (e.g. finished same day)		2mm*	
Dry undercoat plaster (e.g. finished after leaving overnight)		2mm+	

\* Thistle Bond-It bonding agent is required on concrete and moisture resistant plasterboards.

+ Dampen background first.

## Conditions

### Storage

Thistle Undercoat Plaster should be stored off the floor in a clean and dry environment as absorption of moisture can shorten the setting profile and cause set lumps to form in the bags and possibly reduce the strength of the set plasterwork. The plaster is bagged in two-ply poly lined paper sacks and the valves are ultrasonically sealed to enable a longer shelf life than normal trade bags, so if stored correctly, the product shelf life is 6 months. Bags are printed with a 'use by date' in order to assist with stock rotation.

### Standards

Thistle Undercoat Plaster complies with **EN 13279-1 type B4/20/2 and C3/20**. Artex Limited is a quality assured company and operates a Quality Management System in accordance with **BS EN ISO 9001:2008**. The QMS is independently audited (certificate no: **FM 504548**).

### Manual handling

It is important to observe appropriate Health and Safety legislation when working on site, e.g. protective clothing and equipment, etc. In practice, consideration must be given to design criteria requiring specific project solutions. Thistle Undercoat Plaster should be always carried using correct manual handling techniques and safe systems of work appropriate to the size and length of the product. Some of these guidelines are summarised to the right. For further guidance, please refer to the Manual Handling section of the

British Gypsum **SITE BOOK** and the British Gypsum Manual Handling Guide. Both can be downloaded from **www.british-gypsum.com** or can be obtained by calling the British Gypsum Drywall Academy Advice Centre on 0844 800 1991.

- Whenever possible, place one foot in front of the other to produce a good base and reduce the pressure on the body.
- Assess the load by placing your hand on it and moving.
- Only handle what you feel you can manage.
- Initiate movements with your legs, unlocking the knees and driving with the legs to start the lift.
- Keep the load as close to your body as possible when lifting or handling.
- Turn instead of twisting and move your feet.
- Let your back find its natural curvature.
- Never lose control of the load.

### Loading and unloading pallets

- Always wear safety shoes.
- Always place one foot forward by operating from the corner of the pallet or placing one foot on the pallet taking care to ensure that the pallet does not tip in the process.
- Unlock the knees for low level work.
- Take a firm grip of the load with both hands.
- Lift using the legs to start the movement.
- Turn by moving the feet.

## Conditions (continued)

### Application and installation

- Always work in a balanced position.
- Operate with one foot forward.
- Keep the body upright.
- Always use appropriate platforms where necessary.

### General notes

In practice, consideration must be given to design criteria requiring specific project solutions. Please contact the British Gypsum Drywall Academy Advice Centre for further guidance on 0844 800 1991 or at [bgtechnical.enquiries@bpb.com](mailto:bgtechnical.enquiries@bpb.com)

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For a comprehensive and up-to-date library of information visit the British Gypsum website at: [www.british-gypsum.com](http://www.british-gypsum.com)

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