



LIME WASH

The application of Lime Wash is simple, and when applied properly the results are wonderful, however, as Lime Wash is a natural coating made from lime and natural earth pigments, different substrates (surfaces) and climatic conditions can affect the lime wash in many different ways.

Porter's do not recommend using Lime Wash if the temperature is below 14°C, or will drop below 14°C overnight. The chances of this happening during mid-winter months are very high, so it is often advisable to hold off painting until the warmer weather.

At all times of the year it is essential to follow instructions regarding mist spraying. After the second coat of lime wash is dry, lightly mist spray the wall 6 times, allowing wall to dry up completely between sprays. In winter, this will probably mean completing the actual application earlier in the day than during summer, as it is essential that the mist spraying is complete before the temperature drops in the evening. During summer in areas like Sydney or Brisbane that are humid, you would only need to mist spray 2 or 3 times as the high humidity helps to cure the lime.

The purpose of mist spraying is to cure and carbonate the lime in the Lime Wash. If there is insufficient mist spraying and the temperature drops, or there is rain, the lime will be unstable and can leach out of the coating, causing white efflorescence on the surface. Do not apply lime wash if rain is forecast.

When mist spraying, be careful not to drench or wet down the wall, as this will actually cause the leaching that you are trying to avoid. It is far better to do many light sprays than one or two heavy ones.

Each house or building that has been lime washed house develops it's own unique look. Different surfaces, their varying porosity and the way they reflect light can affect the lime wash colour, as well as the way the lime wash settles in and begins its characteristic aging, weathering and soft streaking.