

New plaster: Mist coat before painting

You will need to apply a mist coat of paint onto new plaster to seal it and prevent your top coat of paint from peeling.

A mist coat is a thin layer of watered-down paint. Start by preparing the mist coat so it has the right ratio of paint to water. Then, apply it evenly to your walls and let it dry. Once dry, you can apply your top coats over the mist coat.

Make your own mist coat using any standard emulsion, which is a water-based paint. For instance, a low cost, own brand emulsion will do just fine for this. Mix the paint with enough water so that the paint becomes watery and runny. Depending on the paint, a 50/50 ratio will usually ensure the paint is wet enough to absorb into the plaster and seal it.

Do not apply the mist coat to plaster that is still wet as this can damage the plaster. It normally takes plaster one to two days to dry. Touch the plaster with your hand to check there are no wet spots.

The mist coat can be applied with a paint roller. It can be a messy job as the paint will be very wet and runny, although not so runny that it can't be applied onto the wall as a thin layer. Apply one even layer onto the plaster in smooth, fluid upward motions. You can go over an area with more mist coat if it does not appear covered. You want the wall to be painted with an even layer so that the plaster is sealed.

The mist coat will require some time to dry properly. Do not touch it for 24 hours or overnight so it has time to dry. Once the mist coat has dried, apply two layers of your chosen paint.