

## Plaster skimming

Plaster skimming to plasterboard is a popular method of providing a smooth, seamless surface ready to receive decorative treatment

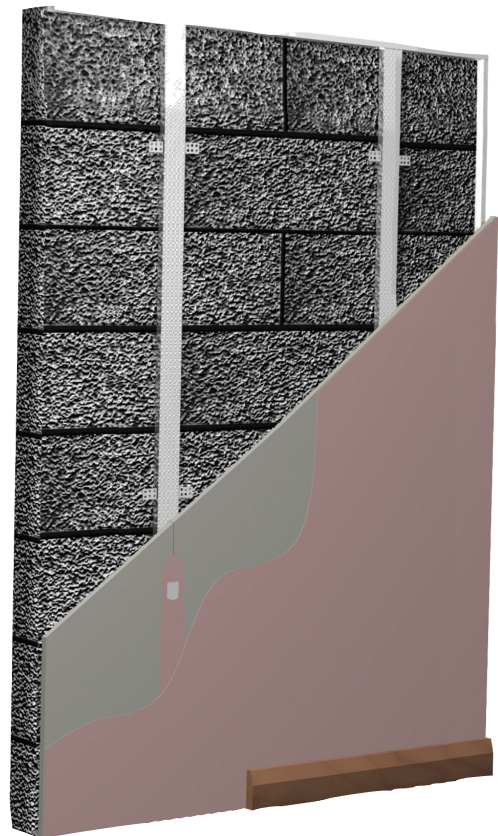


# Plaster skimming

Skim plastering gives many of the advantages of a traditional solid plaster finish such as robustness, acoustic enhancement and a quick turnaround on site.

## Key benefits

- Surfaces are finished in one visit to site
- A smooth and uniform finish can be achieved in one visit to site using our Gyproc plaster range
- Enhanced acoustic performance is achieved by using Gyproc Finish Plasters on a range of GypWall systems



## Additional information

Whatever your requirement, the flexibility of plaster skimming can be used in conjunction with a wide range of system solutions

# Plaster skimming performance

## Reaction to fire

All Gyproc Finish Plasters achieve a Euroclass A1 reaction to fire rating. This makes them an appropriate finish for almost all situations.

► Refer to C02. S01. P16 – Fire.

**Table 1 – Physical properties**

Plaster category	Plaster type	Bag weight kg	Approx. coverage m <sup>2</sup> (based on 2mm thickness)		Approximate setting time hours
			per 1000kg	per bag	
Essential	Gyproc Skimcoat	25	375	9.4	2 - 3
	Gyproc Carlite Finish	25	375	9.4	2 - 3
	Gyproc Carlite Ultra Finish	25	375	9.4	2
Specialist	Gyproc Magnetic Plaster	25	200 <sup>1</sup>	5 <sup>1</sup>	1.5

<sup>1</sup>Based on 3mm thickness.

## Sound insulation

The application of Gyproc Finish Plasters can help the plasterboard element to achieve optimum acoustic performance. They do this in two ways:

- A change to the measured acoustic performance, by applying 2mm Gyproc finishing plasters to both sides of certain GypWall partitions, has a positive effect on the sound insulation rating. This benefit results in a performance uplift of up to  $R_w$  2dB
- Any small gaps or other air paths will be sealed during plastering, limiting flanking routes for sound transfer

This is effective on partitions that are limited by their high frequency performance (coincidence region). This application will also add mass to the partition, which has a positive effect on the mid-frequency of the spectrum.

► Refer to C02. S01. P31 – Building acoustics.

## Stability

Gyproc Finish Plasters attain high strength during the drying process and do not suffer from inherent shrinkage cracks.

## Quality of finish

Homeowners and building occupiers are quick to notice a poor quality finish. Gyproc finishing plasters, are capable of providing a superior, smooth surface whether you're skimming on plasterboard or using a two-coat plaster system. And it's ready to take whatever decorative treatment you choose.

► Refer to C07. S02. P434 – Plaster systems.

## Damage resistance

A skim finish not only provides a better finish, it is also more robust, providing additional resistance to damage in high traffic areas or rooms subject to greater wear and tear. Gyproc finishing plaster provides additional resistance to accidental damage, glancing impacts and repeated abrasion, which can cause scratching, gouging or chipping of other wall finishes. Using Gyproc finishing plaster reduces the extent and frequency of repair work, and minimises associated costs and disruption. It also has excellent adhesion, therefore damage to small areas does not spread or cause debonding, which makes repair easier.

## Gyproc Magnetic Plaster

Can be applied to new or existing walls. Applied with a minimum 3mm thickness it can be decorated with standard emulsion paint or combined with specialist decorative finishes, including blackboard and whiteboard paint or wallpaper.



## Plaster skimming design (continued)

### Planning - key factors

Care must be taken when applying finish coats in low temperatures and an allowance made for slightly longer setting and drying times. Plasters must only be applied where backgrounds are not frozen or will remain at 5°C or above until dry.

### Backgrounds

#### Plasterboards (excluding moisture resistant grade boards)

Skimming should be specified only on the face of boards, i.e. the side without a paper overlap. This will be the ivory face in the case of Gyproc WallBoard and Gyproc DuraLine and the coloured face of Gyproc FireLine, Gyproc SoundBloc, Gyproc WallBoard Premium and Gyproc Habito. Joints must be reinforced. For greatest resistance to cracking this should be carried out using Gyproc Paper Joint Tape.

While the tape and jointing process using Gyproc Paper Joint Tape bedded into an appropriate Gyproc jointing filler remains our best practice recommendation and offers a higher quality and stronger joint, *Gyproc systems may also achieve their stated fire, sound insulation and duty performance claims using a full surface treatment of 2mm Gyproc finishing plasters, applied as per Gyproc's current recommendations, over scrim taped joints; in lieu of the tape and jointing process using Gyproc Paper Joint Tape bedded into an appropriate Gyproc jointing filler.*

#### Glasroc F MULTIBOARD, Glasroc F FIRECASE and Rigidur

Skim finishing should be applied to the smooth face of the board. Rigidur needs to be treated with diluted Gyproc GypPrime prior to skimming to control the suction. Application techniques and joint reinforcement are similar to those used on plasterboards.

#### Moisture resistant grade boards

Skim plastering is not normally specified to Gyproc Moisture Resistant and MR grade boards. These types of board are intended for use in environments of higher than normal humidity for which no gypsum plaster is designed to be suitable.

Where moisture resistant board options are used in shell and core construction to provide temporary resistance to high moisture conditions, they can be skimmed at a later date after the building envelope has been made weather-tight. Likewise, moisture resistant

board can be skimmed where they are being used for convenience and are away from wet areas. Tiling is not recommended on plaster skimmed plasterboard. Application techniques and joint reinforcement are the same as those used on plasterboards. Plaster should be applied only to the face of moisture resistant boards. Pre-treatment with ThistleBond-it is required when using Gyproc Finish Plasters.

# Plaster skimming components

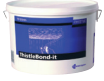
## Plasterboard accessories



### Gyproc Paper Joint Tape

A paper tape designed for reinforcement of flat joints or internal angles.

## Finishing products



### ThistleBond-it

Bonding agent for smooth and/or low suction backgrounds providing an adequate key.



### Gyproc GypPrime

Primer to reduce suction on very dry backgrounds.

## Essential Finish Coat



### Gyproc Skimcoat

To provide a plaster skim finish on most common backgrounds including undercoat plasters and plasterboard. Can provide enhanced acoustic performance.



### Gyproc Carlite Finish

To provide a plaster skim finish on most common backgrounds including undercoat plasters and plasterboard. Can provide enhanced acoustic performance.



### Gyproc Carlite Ultra Finish

Offers all the benefits of Gyproc Skimcoat and Gyproc Carlite Finish with a reduced set time of 90-120mins, making it ideal for smaller jobs.

## Specialist Finish Coat



### Gyproc Magnetic Plaster

To provide a plaster skim finish that provides an attraction to magnets used to finish a wide range of backgrounds, including undercoat plasters and plasterboard.

## Plaster skimming installation overview

This is intended to be a basic description of how skimming is applied.  
For detailed installation guidance refer to the [Gyproc Installation Guide](#).



Gyproc plasters should be mixed by adding to clean water and using clean mixing equipment. Contamination from previous mixes must be avoided as this can adversely affect the setting time and strength.



Angle Bead is fixed to the plasterboard angle by embedding in the finish plaster.



Where there is an increased risk of cracking, or where joints exceed 3mm, the joints are reinforced with Gyproc Paper Joint Tape\* bedded in Gyproc plaster.



Gyproc plaster is applied with firm pressure, built out to the required thickness in two applications and trowelled to a smooth matt finish. Good site practice should be followed, as outlined in *BS EN13914 - 2: Design Considerations and Essential Principles for Internal Plastering*.



### Additional information

For full installation details, refer to the [Gyproc Installation Guide](#), available to download from [gyproc.ie](http://gyproc.ie)

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