



PRODUCT DATA SHEET

SKIMCOAT

Overview

Gyproc Skimcoat is for use on a wide range of backgrounds. They provide a smooth, inert, high quality surface to internal walls and ceilings, and a durable base for the application of decorative finishes. Gyproc Skimcoat is a retarded hemihydrate, pre-mixed Gypsum plaster, requiring only the addition of cleanwater to prepare them for use.

Applications

Gyproc Skimcoat is designed for the finishing of a wide range of backgrounds, from low-suction (e.g. plasterboard, Glasroc F MULTIBOARD and Glasroc F FIRECASE, sufficiently flat concrete and other flat surfaces treated with bonding agents) through to medium-high suction gypsum or cement-based undercoat plasters.

Standards

Gyproc Skimcoat complies with *EN 13279-1 type B1/20/2*, and are manufactured under a quality system independently audited and certified as conforming with *ISO 9001: 2008*.

Performance

Fire protection

Gypsum plasters are non-combustible when tested in accordance with relevant EN and BS standards, achieving Euroclass A1 and satisfying the requirements for Class O surfaces in the National Building Regulations. Gypsum plasters provide good fire protection due to the unique behaviour of gypsum in fire.

When gypsum-protected building elements are exposed to fire, dehydration by heat (calcination) occurs at the exposed surface and proceeds gradually through the gypsum layer. Calcined gypsum on the exposed face adheres tenaciously to uncalcined material, retarding further calcination which slows as

the thickness of calcined material increases. While this continues, materials adjacent to the unexposed side will not exceed 100°C - below the temperature at which most materials will ignite and far below the critical temperatures for structural components. Once the gypsum layer is fully calcined, the residue acts as an insulating layer while it remains intact.

Thermal resistance

It should be assumed that Gyproc Skimcoat makes a negligible contribution to thermal resistance of building elements.

Effect of temperature

The surface to be plastered should be free of frost and it is recommended that the background temperature should be at least 5°C. The gypsum plaster should not be subjected to temperatures below 5°C before it has set.

Dry, bagged plaster is not affected by low temperatures. Once fully set and dry, Gyproc Skimcoat is only suitable for situations where the temperature does not exceed 43°C. During the application of gypsum plasters in hot and/or dry conditions, care should be taken to ensure that rapid loss of water is avoided.

Gypsum plasters require a proportion of the mixing water in order to set and achieve full strength. If the water is dried off too rapidly, the strength of the plaster will be impaired.

Effect of condensation and other moisture

Gyproc Skimcoat should be protected from continuous exposure to moisture. Prolonged or repeated exposure to moisture may cause a loss of strength and/or adhesion.

Coverage Information

COVERAGE PER BAG M ²	SETTING TIME HOURS	WATER REQUIREMENT LITRES	DRY SET WEIGHT KG/M ²	PALLET QUANTITY BAGS
9.4*/11.25** @ 2mm thickness approx.	2-3	13L per bag	2.3	63 bags

* Coverage over undercoats
** Coverage over plasterboard

Background preparation

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, Gyproc WallBoard PREMIUM and Gyproc DuraLine, or the coloured face of Gyproc FireLine and Gyproc SoundBloc. Joints must be reinforced with Gyproc Paper Joint Tape. A range of corner and stop beads is available for reinforcement of external angles and edges.

Moisture resistant grade boards

Skim plastering should not normally be specified to Gyproc Moisture Resistant and MR grade boards. These types of board are intended for use in environments of higher than normal humidity. 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. Plaster should be applied only to the face of moisture resistant boards and pre-treatment with ThistleBond-it is required.

Glasroc F MULTIBOARD and Glasroc F FIRECASE

Skim finishing using Gyproc Skimcoat should be to the smooth face of the board. Application techniques and joint reinforcement are similar to those used on plasterboards.

Undercoat plasters

Gypsum-based undercoats should be left reasonably flat and with a scratch key. They are usually finished when set but not dry – if they are dry there will be higher suction which may need to be reduced by damping down before finishing. Cement-based undercoats shrink on drying and can crack, up to days or even weeks after application. If Gyproc Skimcoat is applied before the shrinkage is complete there is an increased risk of delamination or cracking of the finish, particularly if the undercoat was not adequately keyed. The key provided to cement-based backgrounds therefore 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 which interfere with the strength or setting of Gyproc Skimcoat.

Storage

Bags should be stored dry, as absorption of water shortens the setting time, causes set lumps to form in the bags and may reduce the strength of the set plasterwork. If storing on a concrete floor, dry timber platforms should be provided. Gyproc Skimcoat, stored correctly, has a shelf life of 90 days.

Mixing

Gyproc Plasters should be mixed by adding to clean water in clean mixing equipment. Contamination from previous mixes adversely affects the setting time and the strength. Fresh contamination has more effect than old – so equipment should be washed just after mixing rather than just before. Gyproc finishing plasters are suitable for mixing by hand or mechanical whisk of a slow speed, high torque type. While mechanical mixing speeds the process up, there is no need to continue mixing after dispersing lumps and achieving the right consistency – over-mixing wastes time and energy, can affect setting times, lead to deterioration in workability and create difficulty in achieving a flat finish.

Safety Data Sheet

A safety data sheet (SDS) for this product is available on www.gyproc.ie

Installation

Plastering to board backgrounds

Plaster is applied with firm pressure, built out to the required thickness in two applications and trowelled to a smooth matt finish as the plaster progressively sets. Good site practice should be followed as outlined in I.S. EN 13914-2:2016 Design, preparation and application of external rendering and internal plastering - Part 2: Internal plastering.

Gyproc Angle Bead is fixed to the plasterboard angle by embedding in 'dabs' of finish plaster. To hold the bead in correct alignment as the plaster sets it is recommended that additional mechanical fixings are used (non rusting nails, screws or staples) as required. Before this plaster sets, any surplus should be wiped from the corner, because scraping it away later may damage the zinc coating. If the bead is fixed to the board 'dry' the adhesion may be reduced because it is difficult to squeeze plaster between the bead and the plasterboard.

Before applying Gyproc Skimcoat to Gyproc plasterboards or Glasroc F MULTIBOARD, flat joints are reinforced using Gyproc Paper Joint Tape. Gyproc Paper Joint Tape is embedded in the first coat over each joint, leaving sufficient plaster under the tape to ensure good adhesion. Gyproc Paper Joint Tapes are pressed firmly into the plaster and immediately covered with a further application.

Plaster is applied to the whole surface after the joint treatment has partially set, but not dried. For joints which may be subject to more movement (including around door or window apertures, where board edges are not fully supported or on ceilings below floors which are susceptible to high deflection), Gyproc Paper Joint Tape embedded in the finish provides better resistance to cracking than fibre tapes.

Plastering to undercoat plasters

Apply with firm pressure, built out to the required thickness in two applications and trowel to a smooth matt finish as the plaster progressively hardens through setting or by loss of water into the background. If background suction is excessive, dampen it down before finishing.

The guidance in the following standard documents should be followed:

- I.S. EN 13914-2:2016 Design, preparation and application of external rendering and internal plastering - Part 2: Internal plastering
- I.S. CEN/TR 15124: 2005 Design, preparation and application of internal gypsum plastering systems
- I.S. CEN/TR 15125: 2005 Design, preparation and application of internal cement and/or lime plastering systems
- Apply plaster to the plasterboard and joints surface (or undercoat plaster), after the joint treatment has set.

Note: Setting plasters or fillers should not be used over readymix or air drying fillers.

Decoration

Gypsum-based plasterwork must always be thoroughly dry before decorating, although a coat of permeable paint can be applied in the interim. Plaster surfaces can be decorated with most proprietary paint finishes and will accept the majority of wall covering adhesives. The manufacturers' recommendations in respect of applied decorative treatments should always be followed.

'Painting will tend to reveal any inherent surface irregularities. These minor imperfections will be highlighted when gloss or semi-gloss paints are used, particularly where the plasterwork is subjected to intense or shallow angle lighting', as detailed in I.S. CEN/TR 15124:2005 Design, preparation and application of internal gypsum plastering systems.

Maintenance

Gyproc Skimcoat on plasterboard provides a plastering system suitable for moderate impact/wear areas. When used over undercoat plasters the resistance to minor casual damage is good, while the resistance to damage from greater impacts depends also on the undercoat used. If the plaster is correctly applied, it should not require any form of maintenance.

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For a comprehensive and up-to-date library of information visit the Gyproc website at: www.gyproc.ie



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