



Maintenance and Repair Manual for American Clay Plastered Walls

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For complete application instructions, please see our web site
www.americanclay.com
in the "Product Application" section

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INTRODUCTION

To repair American Clay Plaster first determine how deep the damaged area is. If the damage is only to the top (finish) coat, and the surface has not been treated or sealed, then the area may not need more than to be misted with water and sponge or trowel the area to remove the scratch. If the damage is through both layers of plaster, step by step instructions follow for raw (unsealed), and sealed or treated walls.

NOTE: Be sure to check that the area needing to be patched has no damage to the primed surface, cleaning the damaged area, and re-priming with an approved multipurpose, transitional or stain-blocking paint primer mixed with American Clay Primer Sand, or use American Clay Sanded Primer Elite. (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.) Lightweight and topping compounds may require a additional primer coat prior to the application of our Sanded Primer Elite. Test in a small area prior to proceeding on the entire project to check suitability of the required preparation.

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY WALLS ARE SEALED?

You will need to know this in order to use the correct section of this manual.

Sealed walls will not allow water to soak in.

Here's a quick test:

1. Using a spray bottle, lightly spray the wall with water.
2. If water beads on the surface, your wall is sealed.
3. If the water soaks into the wall surface, it's not sealed.

Repeat the test on several areas of the wall to make sure any sealer has been uniformly applied.

MAKE YOUR MAINTENANCE MANUAL

We invite you to copy this manual and put it in your repair kit, along with dried leftover plaster (plaster with add-mix cannot be saved and reused; plaster mixed with water and with Mud Glue, Up & EZ! or PlasterPlus water can be dried and reused).

Record for each room or wall the color of the first and second coat, the type of plaster used for the first and second coat (first coat is always Loma or Enjarre, second coat can be Loma, Porcelina or Marittimo) and the system used for installation (Traditional, Dos Manos or Enjarre One Coat). Also record if there was any sealer was used, and what type. (Recording the batch numbers from the pigment and the plaster may help in later color matching if needed.)

Room	First Coat Color and Plaster and batch numbers	Second Coat Color and Plaster and batch numbers	System Used	Sealer/Type
Examples:				
Salon B	Tucson Gold 111207 Loma 023008	T. Gold 111207 Porcelina 100907	Traditional	None
Restroom 22-M	Powder River 120907 Loma 023008	Powder River 010408 Marittimo 021408	Traditional	Yes/AC Pen Sealer

Note: Earth plasters are far easier to repair than gypsum-based plasters. While it is easy for homeowners to touch up American Clay Plasters, larger patches take experience to repair and blend into the wall. It may be faster to recoat the wall.

Note: Walls that are sealed can be harder to repair. A wall has been sealed if water beads on the surface. Use the directions appropriate for sealed walls.

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MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING UNSEALED WALLS

Always use a BARELY DAMP sponge when instructed to sponge out marks.

- **Cleaning is easy** - sponge out any marks
- **Scratches are easy** - sponge out
- **Permanent marker is easy** - sponge out
- **Stains** - sponge out as quickly as possible after stain happens. If stain remains, remove stained plaster and replace with plaster saved for repairs.
- **Nail holes are easy** - push in plaster, match texture. (Galleries like American Clay for this reason.)
- **Shallow nicks and dings** - determine how deep the damaged area is. If the damage extends only to the top (finish) coat, and the surface has not been treated or sealed, then the area may only need to be misted with water and sponged or troweled to remove the scratch. Small amounts of rehydrated plaster may be added to nicks and dings and blended in with a trowel or sponge (depending upon compression technique used on the rest of the wall).

- **Larger or deeper repairs** - larger repairs take experience to make them blend into the rest of plaster. It may be easier to recoat the wall with another finish coat of plaster. If you choose to repair the plaster, follow as many of the step-by-step instructions below that are needed to complete your repair.
 1. If drywall needs repair, cut back to studs, remove 2"-3" of the surrounding plaster, and replace drywall. Tape and mud seams with regular joint compound. (If using hot mud, prime area with an approved primer to even out suction rates.) (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.) Go to step 4.
 2. If the damaged substrate is not drywall, repair the substrate with a material appropriate for that substrate that maintains even suction rates. Go to step 4.
 3. If the substrate has not been damaged, clean the area with a soft brush and check to see if the textured primer has been damaged. If you even suspect that it has been damaged, go to step 4. If the textured primer is intact or it was not exposed, go to step 5.
 4. Brush an approved multipurpose, transitional or stain-blocking paint primers mixed with American Clay Primer Sand, or use our Sanded Primer Elite to exposed substrate. (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.)
 5. Tape the edges of the clay patch.
 6. Rehydrate plaster that was saved for repairs* (10% of total wall material should have been dried out and saved for repairs. If no material was saved, contact your applicator for material or contact American Clay with color name and type of plaster used. If you do not know this information, send American Clay a 1"x1" chip of the plaster. American Clay will sell you a 5# bag to match the color.)
 7. Apply a thin coat of Loma and allow to dry. Reapply as many coats as needed to bring surface to 1/32" below the finished surface. (Skip this step if surface has not exposed the first coat.) Let dry.
 8. Apply second coat, leaving it "proud" (higher than surrounding wall). Do not try to feather it into the surrounding wall.
 9. **Let patch dry.** This is critical! (This is a good time to shift over to working on other areas needing repair.)
 10. Remove tape.
 11. Shave off excess, so that patch is level with the surrounding plaster. (If working with Marittimo, shave before totally dry, and shave in one direction).
 12. Mist the damaged area with water and a sponge, blending the edges into the finished wall. Let this dry completely.
 13. Rewet and compress the patch and the surrounding area with the same technique used on the rest of the wall. Note: it is easy to over-polish (thus burnish) the edges of a patch. Work with a soft plastic trowel to avoid this.

* If the plaster was applied with the Traditional System, or with Up & EZ! or PlasterPlus rehydrate the plaster with water. If the plaster was mixed with Mud Glue™, applied a Mud Glue™ solution (two gallons of water to one package of Mud Glue™ mixed for 2-3 minutes. Remember to add the Mud Glue™ while the mixer is running).

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MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING SEALED WALLS

- **Cleaning**—use a damp sponge, wiping lightly, so as to not remove much material
- **Stains, permanent marker, etc.**—if reworking with a sponge does not take out a stain, remove stained plaster and replace with patching plaster saved for repairs (see steps 6-10 below)
- **Small nicks and dings, scratches, stains, etc**—follow steps 6-14 below
- **Major or deep repairs**—
 1. If drywall needs repair, cut back to studs, remove 2"-3" of the surrounding plaster, and replace drywall. Tape and mud seams with regular joint compound. (If using hot mud, prime area with an approved primer to even out suction rates.) (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.) Go to step 4.
 2. If the damaged substrate is not drywall, repair the substrate with a material appropriate for that substrate that maintains even suction rates. Go to step 4.
 3. If the substrate has not been damaged, clean the area with a soft brush and check to see if the textured primer has been damaged. If you even suspect that it has been damaged, go to step 4. If the textured primer is intact or it was not exposed, go to step 5.

4. Brush an approved multipurpose, transitional or stain-blocking paint primers mixed with American Clay Primer Sand, or use our Sanded Primer Elite to exposed substrate. (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.)
5. Apply a thin coat of Loma and allow to dry. Reapply as many coats as needed to bring surface to 1/32" below the finished surface. (Skip this step if damage has not exposed the first coat.)
6. Sand through sealer for 2"-4" around the patch.
7. Rehydrate leftover finish material with water. (10% of total wall material should have been dried out and saved for repairs. If no material was saved, contact your applicator for material or contact American Clay with color name and type of plaster used. If you do not know this information, send American Clay a 1"x1" chip of the plaster. American Clay will sell you a 5# bag to match the color.)
8. Apply finish material to the patch, blending it into 1" of the surrounding surface that has had the sealer removed.
9. Match the texture of the rest of the wall on the patch.
10. Let the patch dry. (This is a good time to shift over to working on other areas needing repair.)
11. Rewet the surface and compress, using the same technique used on the rest of the wall.
12. Allow to dry thoroughly.
13. Dilute sealer with 1-2 parts water (the more water used, the less the sealer will change the color of the plaster patch).
14. Spray sealer on patch and on a 4'x4' irregular area around the patch, troweling or sponging off any excess sealer or drips that may have formed. Additional coats may be needed to thoroughly seal the patch.

NOTE: Patches on sealed surfaces are extremely hard to blend in with the rest of the wall, even for an experienced applicator. If the plaster, pigment, sealer and the finishing techniques are not the same as the original materials and techniques, significant variations in color and gloss may occur. It may be easier to recoat the entire wall with 1-2 new coats of plaster, depending on the desired affect.

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RE-COATING AMERICAN CLAY PLASTER WALLS

Existing **Sealed American Clay plaster** may be re-coated only after:

1. Adding a minimum of 30% Add-Mix hardener to the additional coats of American Clay plaster.
OR
2. Using American Clay PlasterPlus, Up & EZ! or Mud Glue™ in the first coat of American Clay plaster.
OR
3. Coating the wall(s) with an approved multipurpose, transitional or stain-blocking paint primer mixed with American Clay Primer Sand, or use American Clay Sanded Primer Elite. (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.) Lightweight and topping compounds may require a additional primer coat prior to the application of our Sanded Primer Elite. Test in a small area prior to proceeding on the entire project to check suitability of the required preparation.

Unsealed American Clay plaster will tolerate additional coats of clay plaster without further wall preparation.

Except:

- Prior to using PlasterPlus or Up & EZ!, any unsealed clay without an additive will need to be sealed prior to proceeding.

American Clay **Black soap** is not a sealant, it is an aesthetic enhancer. It is not recommended in high humidity areas or areas that may get splashed.

To **Paint Over** American Clay plaster, the clay plaster must be sealed using American Clay Penetrating Sealer or approved primer. (See Page 6 for a list of approved primers.) We recommend that you dilute the sealer with 50%-75% water and add subsequent coats to achieve seal.

We recommend that to maintain the "green" qualities of American Clay plaster, another coat(s) of American Clay plaster be put over the existing coats. You may change color, as the plaster is opaque.

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COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Do the pigments fade?

The natural oxides and ochres used in our color lines are resistant to the fading caused by UV light, allowing repairs and color matches for years to come. However, as natural pigments may vary slightly over time, your dried-and-saved leftover plaster is best for repairs, because it is from the same batches of plaster and pigment as your walls. Having the batch numbers from your pigment and plaster, we can better match a color months or years later, but we cannot guarantee perfection.

Can I paint over American Clay Plasters?

American Clay, when sealed with our Penetrating and/or Gloss Sealer, accepts standard latex paints. Unsealed walls accept casein paints and lime washes. Waxed walls and walls finished with American Clay Black Soap Finish will not accept paint.

Do wine and coffee stain the walls?

Some stains can come out if sponged with water in a timely manner. Some stains are more difficult to remove and require sanding and repairing of the stained area.

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INSTRUCCIONES DE REPARACION

Para reparar Mezcla de Tierra de American Clay primero determina que tan danada esta la area. Si el dano esta por encima de la base del acabado, y la superficie no a sido tratada o sellada, entonces la area no necesita mas que remojar con agua y esponja o darle con la llana para borrar la raya, si el daño esta por las dos bases de mezcla, paso por paso instrucciones siguiendo (sin sellar) y selladas o Pardeds tratadas.

NOTA: Asegura que la area que necesita ser reparada no tiene daño en la textura de principio, limpiando la area dañada, y poner textura de principio es una buena idea si no estas seguro.

Para areas que no estan selladas

Remoja la area dañada con una esponja o una botella de rociar siguiendo con una esponja. Trabaja la area dañada con la esponja asta que el material se "abra" o ligeramente aspera. Toma mezcla que quedo de la aplicacion y batela a una consistencia adecuada. Pon material a la area dañada dejandola ligeramente mas alta que la pared acabada. Asegura a aislar la area dañada (no trates de "emplumar" el parche a acabados que lla existe acegurando dejar al parche en la area dañada. **DEJA ESTO QUE SE SEQUE COMPLETAMENTE!**

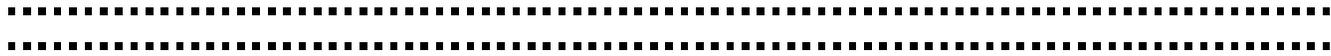
Despues que la area este seca, raspa la area que dejaste mas alta asta dejarla ligeramente baja que la pared a cabada (haces esto para controlar el grosor del acabado del parche, asi como el grosor afecta el color y el acabado. La area alrededor del parche ponla aspera con agua y una esponja como esta mencionado arriba; aplica una segunda capa de material al parche (dejandolo aislado a la area dañada). Deja esto que se seque completamente. Remoja la area dañada con agua y una esponja, doblando la orilla acia el acabado de la pred. Deja esto que se seque completamente. Luego remoja la area otro ves emparjando la textura del acabado de la pared.

Para areas que an sido selladas o tratadas

Repara las paredes como arriba con las siguientes diferencias:

1. Lija la area alrededor del parche como el primer paso emplumando las orillas como una cuarta de pulgada en todas las direcciones, y lijando por medio del (o quebrando con agua) sellador 2"-4" alrededor del parche. Esto te deja algo de material para trabajar como ballas entmezclando la costura.
2. Cuando acabes con el aprche, y la textura se empareja al acabado de la pared, rocea mas sellador en un area de cuatro pies por cuatro pies alrededor del parche, con una llana quitando el exceso de sellador o gotas que se formen.

NOTA: Recomendamos que revajes el sellador con 50% de agua y agrega subsequentes capas para lograr el sellado.



The following is a list of primers that have been approved in our test applications. You must use a primer from the list below.

Zero and Low VOC Isolating Primers	Conventional Primers
Safecoat® Transitional Primer (Zero)	Kilz® 2
American Pride or Mythic® Multipurpose Primer (Zero)	Dunn Edwards® Ultra Grip™
Kilz® Clean Start™ (Zero)	
Mythic® Tintable Accent Primer (Zero)	
Global Green® Stain Blocker Primer (Low)	
Global Green® Wallboard Primer (Low)	
YOLO® Base Primer (Zero)	
Bondz® Maximum Adhesion Primer (Low)	

We will add to this list after successful testing of any additional approved primers. An up-to-date list is available on the web site in the "Product Application" section.

AMERICAN CLAY ENTERPRISES, LLC PRODUCT WARRANTY

AMERICAN CLAY ENTERPRISES, LLC PRODUCT WARRANTY: American Clay Enterprises, LLC expressly warrants that all American Clay products will be reasonably free of defects in materials and workmanship, and that when properly handled and applied, will conform to applicable manufacturing specifications. This limited warranty only applies to products that are stored, handled and applied in the manner recommended by American Clay Enterprises, LLC. American Clay will furnish an equivalent amount of product at no cost or will refund the purchase price, at manufactures discretion. This guarantee does not include labor or the cost of labor for product application. Due to the variety of uses and applications which American Clay brand products may be put, AMERICAN CLAY CAN MAKE NO WARRANTY THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND CAN MAKE NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, OTHER THAN THOSE SET FORTH ABOVE.
