



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Venetian Plaster

Venetian Plaster is a thin, decorative, plaster coating applied in multiple layers, which are then troweled to a high-gloss or matte finish. When troweled and burnished to a high gloss, the Venetian Plaster gives the appearance of depth and texture and becomes abuse resistant. Left un-burnished the plaster has a matte or dull appearance and is rough and stone-like. This un-burnished finish is not as abuse resistant as the burnished plasters. Venetian Plasters can be applied over any standard gypsum wallboard or prepared gypsum plaster base. These Plasters are applied to the interior wall and ceiling panels and decorative embellishments such as crown moldings or cornice details. They may also be used as an exterior specialty finish.

Most of the modern Venetian or “venetian-like” plasters are proprietary blends or coatings. Venetian plaster techniques include **Marmorino**, **Scagliola** and **Sgraffito**. There are three main material types of Venetian plaster, each, exist with different characteristics and price points.

NATURAL LIME-BASED - Historical Venetian plaster is traditionally composed of a lime slake, natural minerals and pigments. A two to four part application process, this labor-intensive plaster is applied with standard plastering tools, is abusive-resistant and can be used for exterior and interior purposes.

ACRYLIC-BASED - Less labor intensive, acrylics formulated for exterior use are applied by a plasterer to a properly densified brown coat or an acrylic- modified skim coat. For interior applications, finishers commonly apply this material to a level 5 gypsum wallboard finish.

GYPSUM-BASED - Often the most cost effective, gypsum Venetian plaster performs and is installed very much like gypsum wallboard compound. These products tend to be the least labor-intensive and are not as abusive-resistant as traditional lime plasters. Only a level three gypsum wallboard finish is required for some gypsum Venetian plasters. This type of Venetian plaster is recommended for interior application only.



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FAUX FINISH:

Faux Finishing and Faux Painting are terms used to describe a wide range of decorative painting or plastering techniques that can mimic the Venetian plaster finish. The name comes from the French word faux meaning false. These techniques began with the use of paint or plaster applied to a given surface, to replicate materials such as marble and wood, but has subsequently come to encompass many other decorative finishes for walls and ceilings. The faux process has been used to create the Venetian look but does not have the same “depth” appearance nor does it appear with the high gloss of the burnished Venetian finishes.

In modern day faux finishing, there are two major materials/ processes used;

Glaze Process - This process involves using a translucent mixture of paint and glaze applied with a brush, roller, rag, or sponge to create a multi-tint layer. The layering can add depth to the final appearance. The glaze is applied to a base material such as drywall mud or other plaster type material. The faux glaze may be sealed with a compatible sealer to lock in the color and provide a slight polished look. Glazes may also be used to create the stone look of a marble product complete with texture variances and fissures commonly seen in the natural stone product.

Plaster Process - This process can be done with tinted plasters, or plasters washed over with earthen pigments, and are generally applied with a trowel or spatula. Drywall mud products are also used for this process. The finished result can be either smooth/flat to the touch or textured. Like the glazed plasters, a high polish look is not achieved.