



Painting Fundamental - 17

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Tools/Supplies: Clean container for mixing; clean cold water; patching compound; mixing tools such as a paint stick; margin trowel; putty knife

Procedure Steps:

1. Make sure the area or items are prepped and ready to receive the compound or patching material.
2. Determine the quantity of compound you will need for an area. The setting time of the compound will be a determining factor of how much you mix at a time. Setting time usually listed on the container or bag.
3. Start with clean cold water in a mixing container.
4. Slowly add the dry material to the water stirring constantly until you have the proper consistency for your desired use making sure there are no air bubbles or lumps.
5. Note the amount of dry to liquid is between one-part liquid to one and a half or two parts dry depending on the consistency you're looking for.
6. Depending on the quantity needed, mixing can be done in a 5-gallon bucket with a drill and a mixing paddle or a small cup and putty knife.

Tips:

- Make sure your container and water are clean. A dirty container or dirty water can speed up the setting time.
- Both the temperature of the water and the outside temperature can affect the setting time.
- To increase your working time, use cold water. To reduce the dry time, use warm water.
- Do not over mix the product because it will accelerate the drying time which reduces your products working time.
- Organic materials such as vinegar or milk will slow the setting time. (This could be useful with plaster of paris which has a fast setting time).
- Concrete or plaster bonding agents will give the material extra adhesion but will slow the setting time.
- After the material sets it may still contain a fair amount of moisture in it.
- Clean tools and containers before material hardens for an easier cleanup.
- Do not apply a setting type compound over a premixed compound because it may not adhere.
- Materials can be shaved with a sharp carbide scraper. Sometimes this is easier than sanding.
- Don't put cleaning water or excess materials down the drain.
- Be aware that if your mixing tool has sharp edges, it can nick the sides of your plastic mixing container which can contaminate the compound.

TYPES OF PATCHING MATERIALS