

# 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. (Art 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 joint compound. Prime area with approved primer (mixed with Primer Sand additive) to even out suction rates. 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 sanded primer has been damaged. If you even suspect that it has been damaged, go to step 4. If the sanded primer is intact or it was not exposed, go to step 5.
  4. Prime area with approved primer (mixed with Primer Sand additive). Apply to any exposed substrate. Let dry.
  5. Tape the edges of the clay patch with blue painters tape.
  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 2"x2" chip of the plaster. You can purchase small 2 lb. or 5 lb. sample packages of plaster pre-mixed with color pigment from American Clay.

7. Apply a thin coat of base coat plaster and allow to dry. Reapply as many coats as needed to bring surface to 1/32" or 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 using a sharp trowel, 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 use a sponge to smooth the edges into the finished wall. Let this dry completely.
13. Re-mist 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.

## **MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING SEALED WALLS**

*\*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 effect.*

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

- Cleaning - use a barely damp sponge
- Stains, permanent marker, etc. - if a barely damp 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 joint compound. Prime area with approved primer (mixed with Primer Sand additive) to even out suction rates. 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 sanded primer has been damaged. If you even suspect that it has been damaged, go to step 4. If the sanded primer is intact or it was not exposed, go to step 5.
4. Prime area with approved primer (mixed with Primer Sand additive). Apply to any exposed substrate. Let dry.
5. Sand through sealer 2" to 4" around the 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 2"x2" chip of the plaster. You can purchase small 2 lb. or 5 lb. sample packages of plaster pre-mixed with color pigment from American Clay.
7. Apply a thin coat of base coat plaster and let dry. Reapply as many coats as needed to bring surface to 1/32" below the finished surface. Let dry. (Skip this step if damage has not exposed the first coat.)
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. Re-wet 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.