

# Thistle DriCoat

## Product Data Sheet

### Product description

#### Overview

Thistle DriCoat is a cement-based renovating plaster formulated for re-plastering after the successful installation of a new damp-proof course. For other re-plastering operations, British gypsum recommends the use of the appropriate plaster for the same new background – usually Thistle HardWall or Thistle BondingCoat.

#### Applications

Thistle DriCoat is intended for re-plastering after the successful installation of a new damp-proof course. Walls which have had defective damp-proof courses (or none at all) are likely to contain hygroscopic salts, which can continue to be a source of dampness, even after rising damp is prevented, because they absorb atmospheric moisture. Thistle DriCoat is cement-based with waterproofing additives, which restrict the migration of these salts from the background through the plaster and thereby limit their detrimental effect on internal decoration.

### Product performance

#### Fire resistance

It should be assumed that Thistle DriCoat makes a negligible contribution to fire resistance or fire protection of building elements.

#### Thermal resistance

11mm Thistle DriCoat with a final coat of 2mm Thistle BoardFinish or Thistle MultiFinish (total thickness 13mm) has a thermal resistance (R) of 0.04m<sup>2</sup>K/W.

#### Effect of temperature

Thistle DriCoat is not suitable for plastering onto frozen backgrounds. Use in ambient conditions below 5°C may reduce the strength of the set plasterwork and should be avoided. Once fully set and dry, Thistle DriCoat should not be exposed to situations where the temperature exceeds 49°C due to potential detrimental effects on the finishing plaster. Dry, bagged plaster is not affected by low temperatures. During application in hot and/or dry conditions, care should be taken to ensure that rapid loss

of water is avoided. The plaster requires 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

Thistle DriCoat is unaffected by exposure to moisture encountered in most building situations, however any applied finishes including finishing plasters may be unsuitable for such conditions. Thistle DriCoat must not be used to resist water under hydrostatic pressure.

#### Product information

Coverage per bag m <sup>2</sup>	Setting time hours	Water requirement litres	Dry set weight kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Pallet quantity kg
3.0 @ 11mm thickness	N/A	13.0	7.5 @ 11mm plus 3.4 of finish	1000 (40 bags)

# Application and installation

## Background preparation

The source of the rising dampness must be identified and eliminated. The existing plasterwork should be hacked off to a height at least 0.5m above either the new damp-proof course or the last detectable sign of dampness. Where the old plaster is gypsum based, it must be completely removed. Following chemical damp-proof injection, old mortar joints, which are the site of the higher salt concentrations, should be thoroughly raked out and the face of the brickwork brushed with a wire brush.

Ideally, re-plastering with Thistle DriCoat should be delayed as long as possible to allow the background to dry out. Before re-plastering, any salts brought to the surface of the background during drying should be carefully removed. Heavy salt contamination in the background can cause persistent damp problems. Buildings such as old farmhouses, stables and barns not originally built with a damp-proof course, or buildings that have been exposed to storage of chemicals, are particularly at risk from this problem. Thistle DriCoat should not be used in these situations unless a proper survey shows that the risk from salts is minimal. An independent wall lining may be a better solution. Chimney breasts are another area where salt deposits may be heavy.

## Storage

Bags should be stored dry, as absorption of water 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. Thistle DriCoat stored correctly has a shelf life of 6 months and bags are printed with the 'use by:' date in order to permit use in strict rotation. Any bags not used before their 'use-by:' date should be disposed of appropriately and not used.

## Mixing

Thistle DriCoat plaster is pre-mixed with aggregate and only clean water needs to be added to prepare it for use. Hand mixing should be carried out in a clean tray or bath. Excessive mechanical mixing should be avoided. Tools and water used in mixing must be clean. Contamination from previous mixes can reduce the strength of the plaster when set.

## Application

Application of Thistle DriCoat can proceed once the background is clean, sound, free from dust and efflorescence, and where only residual moisture is present. Low suction or smooth backgrounds, such as engineering bricks, should be treated prior to plastering with a water-resisting bonding aid (by others) which should be plastered in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

Where the background is dry, it is important to control suction with the application of water. This prevents rapid drying of the plaster which would impair its strength. Angle beads must not be fixed with gypsum-based materials. If the floor is solid, a 50mm gap should be left between the plasterwork and the floor level. Under no circumstances should the damp-proof course be bridged.

## Finishing

Initial curing and shrinkage of the scratched undercoat must be allowed to take place prior to application of finish plaster. In good drying conditions, a minimum delay of 24 hours is required. In cold / damp conditions, or where background suction is low, a longer delay will be necessary. If sufficient delay is not allowed, cracking or shelling of the finish coat may result. Finish using Thistle BoardFinish (optional if tiling - see 'Decoration' below).

## Decoration

Thistle plasters can be decorated with most paint finishes and wallcoverings. Follow manufacturers' recommendations. Impermeable finishes, including tiles, should not be applied until the background and plaster are dry. A permeable paint can be used in the interim. *BS EN 13914 Code of Practice for Internal Plastering* states that plastering should be done under similar or better lighting conditions than the final work will be judged in. This is particularly important for glossy finishes and / or low-angle natural or artificial lighting.

# Application and installation continued

## Tiling

Tiles up to 20kg/m<sup>2</sup> can be applied directly to the Thistle finish except where the system includes a bonding agent. As the total weight of tiles and plaster applied over a bonding agent is limited to 20kg/m<sup>2</sup>, consideration should be given to tiling directly to the background. If plastering to provide a background for tiles, avoid polishing the surface. Polished plaster surfaces should be roughened and a suitable primer used. Tiles may be applied directly to Thistle DriCoat.

## Maintenance

Thistle DriCoat with a final coat of 2mm Thistle BoardFinish provides a plastering system suitable for moderate to high impact / wear areas. If the plaster is correctly applied, it should not require any form of maintenance.

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British Gypsum March 2018 BG-PDS-106-02

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