

# External Plastering On Wooden Lath

## NHL 2

A binder to be used with well-graded sharp sands, coarse or fine depending on the use (see: Sands for NHL mortars). Its elasticity moduli are around 1,305,000 psi at 28 days and the free lime content is over 50%. Lath should be break and but jointed, clean and sufficiently strong to adequately span between framing members.

On refurbishment and repair work, laths must be thoroughly cleaned to remove old mortar and all dust and should be dampened to avoid moisture absorption from the mortar. When working with NHL 2 the mortar should have hair or fiber reinforcing well distributed throughout the mix. In the case of animal hair at least 2.5 lbs. of long strong hair per cubic yard of mortar will be required, more in some cases. All coats will require hair or fiber reinforcing with the exception of the finishing coat, which should not be thicker than 3/16".

Mortar should be applied by laying on trowel to a properly prepared background, ensuring a good penetration between the laths and covering the outer face of the laths by at least 3/8".

Control of drying conditions and protection from rain, wind and frost are essential to ensure a good slow rate of curing. This will vary due to atmospheric conditions and temperature but a minimum curing period of 7-10 days between coats is recommended. Good keying between coats is essential as well as dampening.

The final thickness of the plaster coat will be determined by several factors, such as detailing and existing conditions, but in all cases exposure will be the primary consideration. Thicker plasters will be required in areas of high rainfall. Coats should not be stronger or thicker than the preceding coats. External plastering on lath is a specialized skill and should only be carried out by experienced tradespeople.

For internal work see Plastering with NHL.

All above information is given as general indication only. Dosages and application may vary in accordance to materials and aggregates used and site conditions. Please coordinate with your St. Astier distributor to finalize mortars mixes. Good working practices in mortar mixing, protection and curing are assumed at all times.