

Thistle Durafinish Product Data Sheet

Introduction

Overview

Thistle Durafinish is a gypsum finish plaster specially formulated for increased resistance to accidental damage. It enables significantly longer maintenance intervals and lower long-term cost in heavy traffic areas of many types of building.

It may be used on a wide range of backgrounds, including most undercoat plasters, and to enhance the surface damage resistance of any British Gypsum partition or wall lining system. It is particularly suited to the applications for **GypWall EXTREME** and **GypWall ROBUST**.

Applications

Thistle Durafinish is designed for the finishing of a wide range of backgrounds, from low-suction (e.g. Gyproc

plasterboards, Glasroc F мицтівоаяр, Glasroc F FIRECASE, Rigidur H, Thistle Dri-Coat, sufficiently flat concrete) through to the medium-to-high suction of gypsum or cement-based undercoat plasters.

Most backgrounds which normally require a bonding agent to provide adhesion can be directly plastered with Thistle Durafinish (e.g. MR plasterboards, cast in-situ concrete, previously plastered surfaces), provided they are clean, sound and reasonably dry.

High suction backgrounds, such as undercoat plasters, require pre-treating with Thistle GypPrime prior to the application of Thistle Durafinish.

Standards

Thistle Durafinish complies with EN 13279-1 type B7, "gypsum plaster for plasterwork with enhanced surface hardness".

All British Gypsum plasters are manufactured under a quality system independently audited and certified as conforming with *ISO 9001: 2008.*

Performance

Damage resistance

Thistle Durafinish has excellent resistance to glancing impacts and repeated abrasion typical of the accidental damage which causes scratching, gouging or chipping of other wall finishes. This can reduce the scope of, and extend the intervals between, maintenance, helping to reduce costs and maximise the occupiers' use of the building. It also has excellent adhesion to most backgrounds, so damage to small areas does not spread or cause debonding, making repair easier.

Limitations

Thistle Durafinish may not be suitable where resistance to determined and deliberate attack is required. Resistance to heavy perpendicular impact is largely determined by the background to which Thistle Durafinish is applied. For advice on the suitability of Thistle Durafinish for other situations, please contact the British Gypsum Technical Advice Centre.

Fire protection

Thistle Durafinish achieves a Euroclass A2, s1-d0 reaction to fire rating.

Fire resistance

Gypsum plasters provide good fire protection due to the unique behaviour of gypsum in fire. When gypsum-protected building elements are exposed to fire, dehydration by heat (calcination) occurs at the exposed surface and proceeds gradually through the gypsum layer. Calcined gypsum on the exposed face adheres tenaciously to uncalcined material, retarding further calcination which slows as the thickness of calcined material increases.

While this continues, materials adjacent to the unexposed side will not exceed 100°C – below the temperature at which most materials will ignite and far below the critical temperatures for structural components. Once the gypsum layer is fully calcined, the residue acts as an insulating layer while it remains intact.

Thermal resistance

It should be assumed that Thistle Durafinish makes a negligible contribution to thermal resistance of building elements.

Effect of temperature

Unlike other gypsum plasters, ambient and background temperature must be maintained above 5°C until fully dry to obtain the full damage resistance. Once fully set and dry, Thistle Durafinish is suitable for situations where the temperature does not exceed 49°C. Dry, bagged plaster is not affected by low temperatures.



Installation

During application in hot and / or dry conditions, care should be taken to ensure that rapid loss of water is avoided. A proportion of the mixing water is required 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

While Thistle Durafinish has greater water resistance than most gypsum plasters, it should be protected from continuous exposure to moisture. Prolonged or repeated exposure to moisture may cause a loss of strength and / or adhesion.

Installation

General

Thistle Durafinish has slightly different working characteristics and suction resistance to Thistle Multi-Finish. An installation guide is available at www.british-gypsum.com

Background preparation

Plasterboards – including MR (moisture resistant) boards: Skimming should be specified only on the face of boards, i.e. the side without a paper overlap (the ivory face of Gyproc WallBoard, Gyproc WallBoard TEN, Gyproc DuraLine, Gyproc HandiBoard, and the coloured face of Gyproc FireLine and Gyproc SoundBloc). Joints must be reinforced with Thistle ProTape FT50 or FT100, or Gyproc Joint Tape. A range of corner and stop beads is available for reinforcement of external angles and edges.

Glasroc F миltiboard, Glasroc F firecase and Rigidur н:

Skim finishing using Thistle Durafinish should be to the smooth face of the board. Application techniques and joint reinforcement are similar to those used on plasterboard.

Undercoat plasters:

Gypsum-based undercoats should be left reasonably flat and with a scratch key. They are usually finished when set but not dry – if they are dry there will be higher suction. Thistle GypPrime is recommended to be applied to the undercoat plaster prior to the application of Thistle Durafinish. Cementbased undercoats shrink on drying and can crack days or even weeks after application.

If Thistle Durafinish is applied before the shrinkage is complete, there is an increased risk of delamination or cracking of the finish, particularly if the undercoat was not adequately keyed. The key provided to cement-based backgrounds therefore needs to be much better, and the drying time allowance much longer, than for gypsum-based undercoats.

Retarded ready-mixed cement-based mortars may have delayed shrinkage, and may contain additives which interfere with the strength or setting of Thistle Durafinish.

Identification

Thistle Durafinish is light grey in colour when dry, enabling it to be easily distinguished from Thistle Board Finish and Thistle Multi-Finish, which are pink.

Properties

| Coverage | Setting | Water | Dry set | Pallet |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------|---------|-------------------|
| per bag | time | requirement | weight | quantity |
| m² | hours | litres | kg/m² | kg |
| 10 @ 2mm thickness | 1.5 | 12 per bag | 3.4 | 1050 (42 bags) |

Storage

Bags should be stored dry, as absorption of water shortens the setting time, 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 Durafinish stored correctly has a shelf life of 4 months and bags are printed with the 'use by' date in order to permit use in strict rotation.

Mixing

Mix by adding to clean water in clean mixing equipment. Contamination from previous mixes adversely affects the setting time and the strength. Fresh contamination has more effect than old – so equipment should be washed just after mixing, rather than just before. Suitable for mixing by hand or mechanical whisk of a slow speed, high torque type. A range of suitable mixers and paddles is available in the Gyproc Tools range.

While mechanical mixing speeds the process up, there is no need to continue mixing after dispersing lumps and achieving the right consistency – over-mixing wastes time and energy, can affect setting times, lead to deterioration in workability and create difficulty in achieving a flat finish.

Application

Plastering to board backgrounds:

Plaster is applied with firm pressure, built out to 2mm thickness in two applications and trowelled to a smooth matt finish as the plaster progressively sets. Good site practice should be followed, as outlined in *BS EN 13914 Code of Practice for Internal Plastering*.

Thistle Thin-Coat Angle Bead or Thistle Thin-Coat Mini Mesh Bead is fixed to the plasterboard angle by embedding in 'dabs' of Thistle Durafinish plaster. To hold the bead in correct alignment as the plaster sets, it is recommended that additional mechanical fixings are used (non-rusting nails, screws or staples) as required. Before this plaster sets, any surplus should be wiped from the corner, as scraping it away later may damage the zinc coating. If the bead is fixed to the board 'dry', the adhesion may be reduced because it is difficult to squeeze plaster between the bead and the plasterboard.

Before applying Thistle Durafinish to Gyproc plasterboards or Glasroc F MULTIBOARD, flat joints are reinforced using Thistle ProTape FT50 or FT100, or any gaps exceeding 3mm are pre-filled and joints reinforced using Gyproc Joint Tape.

Thistle ProTape FT50 and FT100 fibre tapes are self-adhesive and are fixed to the board surface before application of plaster. Gyproc Joint Tape is embedded in the first coat over each joint, pressed firmly into the plaster and immediately covered with a further application. Sufficient plaster is left under the tape to ensure good adhesion and to ensure that the joint treatment is free from air bubbles. Plaster is applied to the whole surface after the joint treatment has partially set, but not dried.

For joints which may be subject to more movement (including around door or window apertures, where board edges are not fully supported, or on ceilings below floors which are susceptible to high deflection), Gyproc Joint Tape embedded in the finish provides better resistance to cracking than glass fibre tapes.

Plastering to undercoat plasters:

Apply with firm pressure, build out to 2mm thickness in two applications and trowel to a smooth matt finish as the plaster progressively hardens through setting or by loss of water into the background. Thistle GypPrime should be applied to reduce the background suction.

NB The full thickness of 2mm must be applied for the optimum performance to be achieved.

Decoration

Gypsum-based plasterwork must always be thoroughly dry before decorating, although a coat of permeable paint can be applied in the interim. Plaster surfaces can be decorated with most proprietary paint finishes and will accept the majority of wall covering adhesives. The manufacturers' recommendations in respect of applied decorative treatments should always be followed.

Tiles up to 20kg/m² can be applied directly to Thistle Durafinish, 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/m², 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.

Maintenance

Thistle Durafinish on plasterboard or an undercoat plaster provides a plastering system suitable for high wear areas, with the limitations referred to above. To avoid downgrading the surface and system performance, any repairs should be carried out using Thistle Durafinish.

Minor surface damage and scratches or dents up to 5mm deep can be repaired by applying Thistle Durafinish, while deeper damage may also require attention to the background. Replacement of backgrounds (including boards), where necessary, should be to the original specification.

For best repair results, Thistle Durafinish should be feathered into the surrounding surface as it sets using a damp brush. Sanding once dry may not give a satisfactorily flat surface due to its abrasion resistance.

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Telephone: 0844 800 1991 Fax: 0844 561 8816 Email: bgtechnical.enquiries@bpb.com Training enquiries: 0844 561 8810



EMS 543324 FM 550533

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