



American Clay Earth Plaster Maintenance and Repair Manual

For complete instructions please see our web site www.americanclay.com.

We invite you to copy this manual and put it in your repair kit, along with dried leftover plaster samples.

Record for each room or wall the color of the first and second coat, the type of plaster used for the first and second coat (first coat is always Loma, second coat can be Loma, Porcelina or Marittimo) and the system used for installation (Traditional, Dos Manos Classic or Dos Manos Professional). Listing batch numbers stamped on the plasters and pigments may assist in color matching in the future. Also record if there was any sealer used, and what type.

Room	First Coat Color and Plaster	Second Coat Color and Plaster	System Used	Sealer/Type
Living Room	Tucson Gold Loma	T. Gold Porcelina	Traditional	None
Jane's Bedroom	Powder River Loma	Powder River Marittimo	Dos M. Classic	Yes/AC Pen. Sealer

Earth plasters are far easier to repair than gypsum-based plasters. While it is easy for inexperienced plasterers to touch up American Clay Earth Plasters, larger patches take experience to repair and blend into the wall. It may be faster to recoat the wall.

Note: Walls that are sealed can be harder to repair. A wall has been sealed if water beads on the surface. Use the directions appropriate for sealed walls.

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. (Galleries appreciate 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" (5-8 cm) of the surrounding plaster, and replace drywall. Tape and mud seams with joint compound. (If using hot mud or lightweight joint compound, prime area with a PVA primer 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 Elite has been damaged. If you even suspect that it has been damaged, go to step 4. If the Sanded Primer Elite is intact or it was not exposed, go to step 5.
 4. **Brush on American Clay Sanded Primer Elite** to 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 1"x1" (3x3 cm) chip of the plaster. American Clay will sell you a 5# bag to match the color.)
 7. **Apply a thin coat of Loma** and allow to dry. Reapply as many coats as needed to bring surface to 1/32" or .8 mm 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.

* If the plaster was applied with the Traditional System, rehydrate the plaster with water. If the plaster was applied with the Dos Manos Classic System, rehydrate the first and second coat with water (because of the primer, the first coat does not need Mud Glue to stick to the wall). If the plaster was applied with the Dos Manos Professional System, rehydrate the plaster with a Mud Glue solution (two gallons of water to one package of Mud Glue™ mixed for 2-3 minutes. Remember to add the Mud Glue™ while the mixer is running.)

MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING SEALED WALLS

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 5-14 below
- **Major or deep repairs**—
 1. **If drywall needs repair**, cut back to studs, remove 2"-3" (5-8cm) of the surrounding plaster, and replace drywall. Tape and mud seams with regular joint compound. (If using hot mud, prime area with a PVA primer 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 Elite has been damaged. If you even suspect that it has been damaged, go to step 4. If the Sanded Primer Elite is intact or it was not exposed, go to step 5.
 4. **Brush on American Clay Sanded Primer Elite** to exposed substrate. Let dry.
 5. **Sand through sealer** for 2"-4" (5-10 cm) around the patch.
 6. **Rehydrate leftover finish material with water.** (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 1"x1" (3x3 cm) chip of the plaster. American Clay will sell you a 5# bag to match the color.)
 7. **Apply a thin coat of Loma and let dry.** Reapply as many coats as needed to bring surface to 1/32" or .8 mm 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 to 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' (10x10 cm) 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.

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 affect.