

FARROW & BALL®

HANDCRAFTED PAINT AND WALLPAPER

PRODUCT ADVICE SHEET

Exterior Masonry

All Farrow & Ball paints are water based, making them low-odour, low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds), and quick to dry. They also score the highest possible A+ rating for indoor air quality in accordance with the independently conducted French Indoor Air Quality Decree N° 2011-321 – Arrêté April 2011.

Product Overview:

Developed by our chemists to offer the perfect combination of breathability and water resistance, this classic matt creates the most elegant finish for your masonry. With a durable 2% sheen finish and Class 1 water vapour permeability, Exterior Masonry is resistant to flaking, peeling and colour fade for up to 15 years. Does not require a primer.

Not Suitable For:

Unsuitable for highly alkaline or very porous surfaces.

Available Tin Sizes: 5 Litre

For colour availability, please visit farrow-ball.com. Available to order direct from farrow-ball.com, through our Customer Services team at sales@farrow-ball.com or on +44 (0) 1202 876141, and in showrooms and selected stockists internationally.

Recommended Primer & Undercoats:

For use to patch prime unsound masonry surfaces: Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer

Before You Begin Painting:

To get the best out of Farrow & Ball finishes, it's important to make sure your surface is correctly prepared. Poor preparation is the main cause of most paint problems. Surfaces must be in a sound condition, clean, dry and free from any surface contamination, such as dirt, dust, grease, mould and loose/ friable material. The surface should also be lightly sanded to create a slight texture for better adhesion, and then any resulting dust wiped away.

Some exterior walls have a high pH, particularly those that have been lime rendered or had a silicate-based or mineral-based paint applied. These require a specialist paint finish as Farrow & Ball finishes are only suitable for surfaces with a pH of less than 10. If in doubt, test the pH of your surface by dampening it with water and using litmus paper. If the walls show any signs of mould/algae growth, then clean it with a proprietary algacidal wash following the manufacturer's instructions, rinse thoroughly and allow to dry fully before painting. All loose and friable coatings should be removed back to a sound condition before any further application.

When exterior coatings are applied under unfavourable conditions - such as high humidity, insufficient dew-point separation, or excessive film thickness - common failures like blistering, efflorescence, cracking, and premature delamination can occur. Exterior render coatings should be applied only when air, surface, and material temperatures are between 10°C - 30°C (50°F - 86°F). The surface temperature must be at least 3°C (5°F) above the dew point to prevent condensation during application and curing. Coating exterior surfaces that are too cold, too hot, or exposed to direct sunlight can cause rapid drying, resulting in cracking, lap marks, and uneven sheen. The ideal range for application is 40 - 80% RH. High humidity slows drying and curing and increases the risk of alkali attack or efflorescence, particularly on newer or moisture-retaining render. In coastal or fog-prone areas, coating should be delayed until the surface is fully dry and stable conditions are present.

Lead Advice:

Special precautions should be taken during the preparation of old paint surfaces (especially those from pre-1990), as they may contain harmful lead. For further advice and guidance see coatings.org.uk/paintsafe.

Health & Safety Advice:

Safety data sheet available on request. Contains 1,2-benzisothiazol-3(2H)-one, 2-methylisothiazol-3(2H)-one and reaction mass of 5-chloro-2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one and 2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one (3:1). May produce an allergic reaction. Read label before use. Keep out of reach of children. If medical advice is needed, have product container or label at hand. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Ensure good ventilation during application and drying.

Colour Accuracy:

Check for colour accuracy prior to use as Farrow & Ball will not be liable for decorating costs caused as a result of an incorrect colour being applied. When more than one tin of the same colour is to be used ensure that batch numbers are identical or intermix before use. Stir thoroughly before use. Please note that different application tools (e.g. brush, roller, spray) may give a slight visual difference in the final colour. When colour drenching a room in the same colour, best results can be achieved by using the same finish on all surfaces. Dead Flat, Modern Emulsion, Flat Eggshell and Modern Eggshell are suitable finishes for colour drenching across multiple surfaces.

Cleaning Prior to Painting:

For best results, make sure your surface, tools and product are clean before you begin. For most surfaces we would recommend using a dilute Sugar Soap solution following the manufacturer's instructions. We do not recommend using solvent-based cleaning products or strong alkaline solutions as these can impact adhesion. After cleaning, wipe the surface with a damp cloth and allow to dry. When opening a new tin of paint, don't allow any dust or debris to fall from the lid into the contents. If you're reusing a tin of paint, we recommend straining it. Make sure your tools are clean, including your stirrer, and we recommend dampening your brush or roller then removing excess water before loading with paint.

Painting Old Exterior Render with Exterior Masonry:

Please be aware that unsound surfaces may not successfully accept any additional paint layers - therefore if in doubt we recommend you seek professional advice. Surfaces with serious structural damage, such as cracking or loose cement, must be repaired before any paint is applied. Patch prime any repaired or seriously degraded areas with one coat of Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer, followed by two coats of Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry by brush or roller. Take care not to apply too thickly in hollows and angled sections and allow the recommended drying times between coats. Fungal or algal contaminated surfaces should be decontaminated with a fungicidal wash then left to dry out completely. Do not use Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer as a general primer on sound masonry surfaces.

New Modern Construction Surfaces:

Stir thoroughly before use. Before coating any newly rendered surfaces with any paint system, the render must be permitted to dry out completely and ideally left to weather for approximately 3 months. Once completely dry, brush the surface with a stiff bristled brush to remove any surface dust. Prime any areas that remain powdery with a 10% diluted coat of Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry. Once the appropriate surface preparation has been completed, apply two coats of Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry by brush or roller, taking care not to apply too thickly in any hollows and angled sections. For newly cement rendered surfaces, although Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry is supplied ready for use, water may be added (at a 10% ratio) to assist application on sound bare surfaces. Do not use Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer as a general primer on sound masonry surfaces.

Preparing Concrete Surfaces for Painting:

Leave new concrete uncoated for at least 3 months before painting. Repair and fill any old or unsound concrete surfaces, allowing adequate time for the filler used to cure. Once completely dry, brush the surface with a stiff bristled brush to remove any surface dust. Prime any areas that remain powdery with Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer.

Painting Exterior Brickwork:

Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry may be used on exterior brickwork – with the exception of Fletton bricks – but we recommend taking a few extra precautions before and during application. Make sure all dirt, mould, salts and other visible contaminants are removed with a stiff bristle or synthetic brush or specialist cleaner, ensuring the brickwork is fully dry before applying any coatings. We also recommend checking that all mortar is fully cured before painting. Extra care should be taken when painting solid brick exterior walls, and any walls that aren't damp-proofed, as loss of adhesion may occur and salts may appear. Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry is supplied ready for use, but water may be added at a 10% ratio to assist application on sound bare surfaces. We do not recommend the use of Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer, as this is not intended as a general primer for sound brick surfaces.

Painting Interior Brickwork:

Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry may be used on interior brickwork – with the exception of Fletton bricks – but we recommend taking a few extra precautions before and during application. Make sure all dirt, mould, salts and other visible contaminants are removed with a stiff bristle or synthetic brush or specialist cleaner, ensuring the brickwork is fully dry before applying any coatings. We also recommend checking that all mortar is fully cured before painting. Extra care should be taken when painting solid brick walls, and any walls that aren't damp-proofed, as loss of adhesion may occur and salts may appear. Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry is supplied ready for use, but water may be added at a 10% ratio to assist application on sound bare surfaces. We do not recommend the use of Farrow & Ball Masonry & Plaster Stabilising Primer, as this is not intended as a general primer for sound brick surfaces.

Painting Terracotta:

The following Farrow & Ball finishes may be applied to terracotta: Exterior Masonry, Full Gloss and Exterior Eggshell – 2 coats may be applied directly (allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats).

Painting Over Exterior Wall Fillers:

For best results always use a filler which has the same porosity and density as the surface which is being repaired. Fillers which have a different porosity or density may lead to visible differences in colour or tone. Follow the filler manufacturer's application instructions and drying times. Apply a diluted coat (20 – 25%) of Farrow & Ball Exterior Masonry (and allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Then follow with two coats of your chosen colour to promote adhesion and full colour depth.

Preparation for Spraying:

When spraying Farrow & Ball paints onto any given surface, it is important to remember that the resulting finish will only be as good as the surface you are applying it to. Most surfaces will need to be clean and degreased, prepared by surface filling, sanding and then suitably primed/undercoated. Flattening with finishing papers in between coats as required, to achieve a smooth flat surface before spraying your chosen Farrow & Ball finish. This process may need to be repeated several times to obtain a satisfactory surface, which is suitable for the type of finish that is desired. Make sure your spraying apparatus (including the gun and compressor unit) is appropriate for the size of the area being painted and your chosen finish. If dilution is required, keep this to the minimum possible according to the instructions of your apparatus and our suggested dilution ratios.

Spray Settings:

Airless Spraying – Best results can be achieved with a typical set up of a 517 nozzle tip and a minimum of 120 bar air injection pressure. Note that these are typical settings for most airless spray systems and some adjustment of the air pressure in relation to the nozzle tip will be required depending on the make and model of airless spray apparatus used. We do not recommend HVLP spray application for large areas such as walls.

Masking:

Masking tapes are available in a range of tack levels. Always use a quality masking tape which is appropriate to the decorating project. Some masking tapes incorporate proprietary paint locking technology which can give a superior result. Remove the masking tape while the paint is still slightly wet by pulling gently and slowly at an angle of 45°. If the masking tape is left on too long then trimming along the edge with a sharp blade may be required.

Advice for Repairing Damage and Touching In:

To achieve the best results, we recommend applying a coat of paint over the entire wall or walls, using the same batch of paint you originally carried the work out with. This best practice will avoid any noticeable variation in colour or finish. If your paintwork becomes damaged or marked, you may need to repaint. If you do choose to touch-in to repair damage, the following recommendations will help you achieve the optimum finish.

1. Always aim to use the same batch of paint. If you use a different batch, although we control colour to tight specifications, you may observe slight colour and sheen variations. If you are unable to use the same batch of paint we recommend that you apply a single coat of a different paint batch to an entire wall as any slight variations will be much less noticeable when observing from wall to wall.
2. Always use the same preparation techniques when you make any repairs as you used when you originally painted the wall. It may not always be possible to achieve a perfectly consistent finish – if for example you have used filler which has a different texture and absorbency to the rest of the wall, this may cause a slightly patchy finish.
3. Always use the same application tool and method as when you originally painted this wall. Ensure that the edges of the touched in paint are blended in “feathered” to make the transition between old and new paint areas less noticeable.
4. Over time the colour of the paint, whether on the wall or in the tin, may slightly alter. Therefore the newer the paintwork is, the better the finish you will achieve by touching-in.

Please note that when touching in the darker the colour and higher the sheen the more difficult it will be to achieve a uniform finish compared to lighter coloured, lower sheen paints.

Other Product Applications:

If you wish to use Farrow & Ball products for any applications which are not featured here, please contact Customer Services for advice on +44 (0) 1202 876141 or email customer.services@farrow-ball.com. Please note that calls may be recorded for training purposes.

Storage Advice:

This product is water based and should be protected from frost and extreme temperatures. We recommend using within 6 months of purchase and are unable to accept responsibility for the deterioration of contents or packaging after this date. This product contains preservatives to protect from spoilage under normal conditions. To minimise contamination and provide maximum shelf life we recommend that the product is decanted into a clean paint kettle before use and all tools are thoroughly cleaned before and after each use. Repeated opening and use can increase the risk of microbial contamination; therefore we recommend keeping this to a minimum to maximise the shelf life of the product.

Environmental & Disposal Advice:

Do not flush paint down the drain, including when cleaning painting tools. Dispose of contents/container to comply with local regulations.

Clean Up:

Remove as much product as possible from brushes or rollers before cleaning.

Cleaning:

Wipe gently with a soft damp cloth or sponge. Some cleaning solutions may mark the surface. Test on an inconspicuous area before use. Do not use bleach-based cleaning products. Allow at least 14 days before cleaning to allow the paint film to fully cure.

Technical Information:

Formulation: A water based paint made using a silicone and acrylic binder. Contains a wide spectrum preservative to protect surfaces against algal and fungal attack.

Application Temperature: Do not paint in temperatures below 10°C or in excessive heat above 30°C. Avoid painting in direct sunlight. Avoid applying outdoors if there is a likelihood of rain. For best results apply early in the day, allowing the product time to dry before the evening (when condensation can occur). This product should be applied in accordance with Annex C of BS 6150: Code of practice for painting of buildings.

Coverage Rate (m²/l per coat): Up to 8 depending on the surface being painted.

Drying Time: Dry in 2 hours.

Typical Recoat Time: Recoat after 5 hours

Curing Time: Please note that some darker paint colours will take up to 14 days to achieve full hardness, strength and durability.

Sheen Level: 2%

Recommended Number of Coats: 2*

*Darker/stronger colours may require additional coats. Please note: The drying and Recoat times provided are based on applying paint in normal conditions - drying times may be longer in cooler and/or higher humidity environments. Darker colours may take longer to dry. Allow a minimum of 14 days before applying over solvent based coatings.

Density: 1.2 - 1.4 g/cc

Wet Film Thickness: 80 - 120 µm

Application Humidity: < 80 % RH

Wet Abrasion Class: 2

Substrate Moisture Content: Exterior Render = < 0.5 % : Interior Brick = < 1 %

Substrate pH: Up to 10

Designation according to NF DTU 59.1: D2 - a decorative coating, which allows you to change the colour of the facade of a house and will provide moderate protection.

VOC Content Information:

EU limit value for this product (cat. A/[c]): 40g/l (2010). This product contains max 2 g/l VOC.



Liquid water permeability according to DIN EN 1062-3 (w₂₄ [kg/m²√24h]):

0.06 (Class III, limit <0.1). This is the quantity of water absorbed into a 1m² area through the paint surface over a 24 hour period. The lower the w₂₄ value, the more waterproof the paint film is.

Water-vapour transmission rate (Permeability) according to DIN EN ISO 7783-2 (sd [m]):

0.101 (Class I, Limit <0.14). This is the resistance of the paint film to water vapour expressed as the equivalent thickness of air in metres. The lower the sd value the more breathable the paint film. Paint breathability is class rated, from Class I to Class III. Class I in this instance denotes a high level of breathability.

Contact Us:

For advice on colours, paint finishes or wallpaper our customer services team is on hand to help you, just call +44 (0) 1202 876141, email sales@farrow-ball.com, or write to us at Farrow & Ball, Uddens Estate, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 7NL, UK. Please note that calls may be recorded for training purposes. Imported in EU by Farrow & Ball, Kaiserstraße 25, Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland, +49 (0) 69 2424 6269.

Disclaimer:

The information given in these specification sheets and technical advice - whether verbal, in writing or by way of trials - is for guidance and is given in good faith but without warranty, since skill of application and site conditions are beyond our control. For further information please contact our Customer Services Department. We can accept no liability for the performance of the products arising out of such use, beyond the value of the goods delivered by us. This does not affect your statutory rights.

Issue Date: 11/02/2026