

Best tips

Venetian plaster, also known as polished plaster, is becoming increasingly popular. It has a highly decorative, luxurious appearance, and offers strength and durability. It is surprisingly easy to keep venetian plaster in pristine condition long into the future. Here we offer some expert tips for its upkeep and maintenance.

How to clean and maintain your polished plaster finish?

Before you attempt to clean polished plaster, it is important to check whether or not your wall has been sealed with wax. If it has not, this means it can absorb water, so cleaning and maintenance is more difficult. In these cases, we would advise you to consult a Polished Plaster Specialist before attempting any maintenance yourself. If your plaster has been sealed, you should easily be able to clean it yourself.

Polished plaster is a strong material, but it is also delicate, so cleaning should always be done gently, with sensitivity to the surface.

The quickest and simplest way of removing small areas of surface grime and finger marks is to rub the affected area with a pencil eraser. The eraser will remove all but the most stubborn surface marks without affecting the surface of the plaster in any way. Use a microfibre or other non-abrasive cloth to dust them.

Larger areas will need to be cleaned with warm soapy water. We recommend using a very mild soapy detergent with a damp cotton cloth to wipe down your walls. Always use white cotton to clean; otherwise coloured fabrics can bleed onto the plaster. Clean in gentle circular motions. This should be sufficient to remove the vast majority of dirt. If a stubborn stain persists, try rubbing it gently with a bleach-free commercial cleaning wipe. Under no circumstances use acid-based cleaners, as they may cause permanent damage to the walls.

Sealed polished plaster is water-resistant, but it is not advisable to leave moisture on its surface. Once you have removed all traces of dirt, use another soft, non-abrasive cloth to dry your wall. Drying in gentle circular motions can also help to restore the shine to your plaster, brightening its appearance. It is worth being thorough at this stage, to ensure no watermarks or smudges spoil the look of your wall.

If you are unable to remove any mark using a pencil eraser or warm water, contact a specialist before going to the next level. Polished plaster is a strong and durable surface, but in some circumstances scratches or cracks could occur. It may be necessary to lightly sand the surface in the affected area. Sand the surface lightly with 600 grit sandpaper followed by 1000 grit to bring back the polish. Do not sand heavily in a small area as this may cause a dip and try to avoid sanding too far into the surface as this will expose a greater amount of marble grain and affect the pattern.

Re-apply wax polish and buff up the surface.

If you have any more questions about how to maintain your polished plaster finish, we're happy to help wherever possible. We also do restoration or repairs on existing plaster finishes. If you need anything further, please contact us on contact@claddaghplastering.com or call us on 0211759697. We would love to hear from you!