

User Guide

Best Practice for Running Render Primer and Adhesive Use

Introduction

The Running Render Primer & Adhesive is a complimentary product to the In-Situ Running Render. It is a high-performance durable, traditional material ideally suited for conservation, repair, and new build applications involving external mouldings. This guide provides step-by-step instructions for use of this primer when mixing, applying, and finishing when running external profiles.

This Primer & Adhesive is incredibly fast setting with an open working time of between 90 seconds and 5 minutes. The temperature and weather conditions also play a considerable role in the setting and work time of this product. This setting time can be extended and adjusted with the use of **Tempo retarder** (sold separately).

We have manufactured this primer without any retarder in the product itself to give the most flexibility within the material, in terms of its application, uses and seasonal temperature variations. In our extensive experience of using Running Render and the associated primer there are times when a flash setting of the materials are required, a medium set for larger runs or 20-30 minute working time is needed. All of this is achievable with the addition of Tempo retarder and adjusting it to suit the requirement.

This primer can also be used for fixing mouldings and casts, for patching and jointing, and for bedding stone or other replacement elements.

Materials & Equipment

The following is a short list of materials and equipment we would recommend for your project.

- Running Render Primer and Adhesive, Running Render Muffle coat, and Running Render Top coat.
- Tempo retarder
- Clean water (preferably potable)
- Mixing container and mechanical whisk mixer
- Running moulding tools (rule, profile templates)
- Trowels, hawk, floats
- Brushes and sponges
- Protective equipment (gloves, goggles, dust mask)

Preparing the Substrate

Clean the surface of dirt, dust and grime, treat with a biocidal product if required. Ensure the substrate is in good condition and not showing signs of deterioration or damage; make good any issue areas before starting decorative work like this. All surfaces should be wet to control suction before application of products like these to prevent the product from drying too fast.

Mixing & Application Guidance

Gauging your water

1. Select your desired working time depending on the application required by adjusting the tempo quantity in the water.
2. Always gauge your water not the material itself. We recommend adding 2 cap fulls of Tempo retarder to a full standard bucket of clean water as a starting gauge. (The Tempo bottle cap has an inner measuring cup within it) Test the strength of the gauge by mixing a small amount in a pot/rubber bowl and note the working time. Adjust the Tempo until a comfortable work time is achieved.

Mixing Procedure

1. Our Running Render products are all about small batch mixing. Areas are built up by the application of consecutive coats as the previous begins to set. **Do not attempt to mix large batches all in one go.**
2. Mechanical mixing with a whisk is recommended or bowl and small tool for very small mixes. - Slowly add clean gauged water while mixing until a workable, plastic consistency is achieved. - Avoid over-watering — the slurry should be a thin cream like consistency to use as a primer, but thicker and closer to a mortar/render consistency for use as a bedding adhesive.
3. Ensure there are no unmixed lumps in the material before use, and use immediately when removed from mixing.

Application as a Primer

1. Brush the neat slurry directly onto the prepared substrate.
2. Ensure it covers all pores and irregularities.
3. While still tacky, immediately apply the Muffle Coat.

Application as an Adhesive

When fixing mouldings or repair units:

- Coat both the back of the cast/moulding and the receiving surface with the slurry
- Apply a thicker adhesive coat to the back of the moulding
- Press into place firmly, ensuring full contact
- Align and hold until initial set
- For larger elements, use mechanical support (pins, cramps, temporary props)

Curing & Aftercare

Keep mortar damp for the first 24-48 hours using light misting or damp coverings. Avoid rapid drying, which can cause shrinkage or cracking. Do not apply in freezing conditions or when frost is expected. Do not disturb the material until it's fully set.

Key Notes & Best Practice

- Work in small batches due to rapid set
- Never re-temper (add water to re-soften) once it begins setting
- Always apply the main mortar or fix element onto fresh slurry—not after it has hardened
- Protect adjacent historic fabric from splashes or staining

Safety Notes

- Always wear gloves, goggles, and a dust mask when handling Running Render.
- Wash skin immediately after contact.
- Store materials in a dry place, sealed against moisture.

☒ This method ensures **compatibility with historic masonry**, provides excellent adhesion, and respects the breathable, hydraulic properties of natural cement. For further advice, please contact The Natural Plaster Company technical support team.