

An ecological natural lime based plaster for indoors and outdoors, TadelaktPro™ is a mixture of different hydrated limes and hydraulic limes. Once applied, this material hardens after a few days.

TadelaktPro™ is particularly suitable for the finish of wet areas.

TadelaktPro™ is waterproof but has excellent permeability to water vapor. It is naturally antibacterial and anti-fungal. It is an outstanding finish for bathrooms, showers, steam rooms among other indoor spaces.

## User's Guide

### Application in a Single Coat

When applying TadelaktPro™ from ClayLime in a single coat, the user must have complete control over the setting times and finishing times. This can be difficult when using the product on large surfaces. Consequently, single-coat application method should be used only for small surfaces.

### Application in Two Coats

To provide an easier way to apply the product, ClayLime has developed a multiple coat method that allows you to work at your own pace without stress.

- A large brush to mix and apply TadelaktPro™
- A small paintbrush to retouch the details

### Required Equipment

- A scale to weigh the pigments
- A bucket to mix the product
- A bucket of water to clean the tools
- A flexible metal trowel to press the coating
- A flexible plastic spatula to smooth out the details
- A Scottex type sponge to sculpt the shapes or level the surfaces

## Prepare the Surface

The surface to which you apply the product must be clean and free of dust or cracks. Flexible or unstable surfaces will not work.

### *Surfaces that do not require a primer:*

All hard surfaces that will hold the product well naturally. Exposed concrete, hydraulic lime mortar, stone, brick, terra cotta, and others. Preparation: Moisten absorbent surfaces 30 minutes before applying TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> so that they will not absorb the product too quickly.

When in doubt, always apply a holding primer.

### *Surfaces requiring a holding primer:*

Plaster walls

**Preparation:** Apply an underlayer of holding primer using a roller or brush 24 hours beforehand. The primer will seal the surface. TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> will take longer to dry and you will have a lot more time to work. Throw a handful of sand into a litre of holding primer, mix, and apply using a brush or roller. Allow to dry completely before applying TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>.

## 1. CHOOSE YOUR COLOUR

The pigments are mixed in dry form with the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> powder. Figure out how much TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> powder you will need to cover the entire surface and set that quantity aside. Generally, +/- 2 kg/m<sup>2</sup> is sufficient to cover a flat surface in good condition. Using a kitchen scale (with accuracy to within one gram), weigh a small quantity of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> (for example 100 g), then mix the pigments into it by weight. Wet a small paintbrush and test the color obtained on a sheet of paper. Once you have achieved the desired color, make note of the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> /pigment proportions and use the same ratio for the entire amount of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> you are using.

## 2. PREPARE THE COATING

**IMPORTANT: The coating is prepared in two stages.**

The initial setting time will vary depending on the temperature of the surrounding area and the temperature of the water you used to mix the product.

Be sure to work in a cool space, protected from the wind and sunlight. To make it easier to work when temperatures are higher, it is recommended that you mix the powders with the coldest water possible. If the mixture tends to be too thick, add a bit of water, remix and apply to the wall

immediately. To this end, it is recommended that you begin each project with a small mixture (0.5 to 1 kg) in order to test the setting time on site.

**Step 1:** Pour the powder TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> into a clean container; (start with a small quantity, 1 to 2 kg per mixture). Add the water gradually (be sure the water is cool). Mix mechanically until you obtain a smooth, flowing cream. Allow the mixture to rest for 10 to 15 min.

**Step 2:** As soon as it begins to thicken and harden, mix it again vigorously, once again adding water until you get a smooth, stable mixture. Allow to rest for 15 min. Mix again. Now your TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> coating is ready to be applied.

### **3. APPLY THE TADELAKTPRO<sup>®</sup>**

#### **Step 1: Apply the first coat with a brush**

Using a brush or large paintbrush, apply a thick coat of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> to the entire surface. Allow the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> to set until it no longer comes off onto your finger, and then with the flat of the sponge, level the surface by rubbing gently in circular motions to eliminate any unevenness, holes, joints or cracks. Leave the surface rough and DO NOT smooth it out. Allow this first coat to dry completely. It will be the base coat onto which the next coats are applied.

#### **Step 2: Apply the second coat with a brush**

Wet the surface of the first coat by spraying it lightly with cool water (use a spray bottle). Using the brush, generously apply a second coat of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>, and then make a cursory pass to level the surface with the trowel. Allow the coating to firm up until the surface becomes matte again.

#### **Step 3: Apply the last coat with a brush/trowel**

Touch up the surface by applying the material anywhere that it is not thick enough using a paintbrush dipped in the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>, and immediately smooth out the surface again with the flat of the spatula, without being overly meticulous. Continue to Step 4.

#### **Step 4: Smoothing, the magic step**

Your TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> is now applied. The lime is soft and elastic and the only thing left to do is to gently and gradually press it to transform it into an exceptional finish.

#### ***Smoothing***

The smoothing process is done with patience, in several passes. Do not try to obtain a perfect result in the first smoothing. If air bubbles appear under the surface, allow the coating to rest and resume

your smoothing later. The more the coating hardens, the easier it will be for you to obtain a perfect finish.

Unlike the traditional application method, this is the easiest, most enjoyable step. You will perfect the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> finish by pressing the material using the flat of the spatula and the trowel, exerting more and more pressure on the tool with each pass. With each pass, you will add a bit of water to the surface; you will have to wait until this water has evaporated and the surface becomes matte again before you pass the spatula over it again. Take your time; respect the nature of the material and do not be impatient. The extraordinary softness of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> will appear by itself as you work. The word “tadelakt” comes from the Berber word “tedlek,” which means to massage. But with

TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> you must CARESS the material.

The TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> finish is obtained easily if you follow the rules below:

- Only use the FLAT (and not the edge) of the trowel or the spatula to press the material. • Move the tool in all directions.
- Use only the flat part of the plastic trowel or spatula
- If you must correct a mistake or add material, add the tadelakt using a paintbrush, and then smooth it out.
- As soon as you can see water on the surface of the tadelakt, allow the surface to rest and wait for it to become matte again before continuing. (If you do not wait long enough, you will remove the water from the coating too quickly and “burn” the coating; air bubbles will form under the surface. If this happens, allow the coating to rest for a few minutes, and then continue.)
- Do not try to achieve a perfect result in a single pass, but smooth the entire surface regularly with the tool. The more the tadelakt hardens, the easier it will be to obtain a perfect polish.

As you pass the tool over the surface, it will gradually settle down and become smooth and perfectly soft. During the process, depending on the temperature of the surroundings and of the surface to which you are applying the product, you may see a fine network of tiny cracks appear on the surface. This crackling is a property specific to tadelakt and does not jeopardize the water tightness or durability of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>. You can either allow them to remain or eliminate them in the last step (see Finishing).

When no more water appears on the surface when you pass your spatula over it, the TadelaktPro<sup>®</sup> is complete. Allow it to rest for two hours, and then you can move on to the finishing step.

## **Step 5: Finishing and Waterproofing**

### ***Non-Slip Matte Finish***

To achieve a uniform, matte, non-slip surface, gently rub the surface of the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> making circular motions with a slightly wet sponge to bring the grain of the coating to the surface. Lightly pass over the surface with the flat of a float or a spatula to soften the surface. Allow the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> to dry completely for twelve hours, and then apply the PerfectSoap using a paintbrush in a series of two or three applications, until it is completely water tight.

### ***Smooth, Shiny Finish***

#### **Polishing**

Polishing consists of making the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> surface completely waterproof, soft and smooth like marble. This process is performed after you make the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> waterresistant with the PerfectSoap, using a spatula and a plastic bag.

Spray PerfectSoap over a small surface and spread it out in all directions using the spatula or trowel. Wipe away any drips using a soft rag. Treat the entire surface. Wait for ten minutes and then repeat the procedure. The surface will become waterproof. When the soap is no longer absorbed, you can seal any cracking and perfect the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> finish by making a final pass with the flat of the tool.

For curved surfaces, proceed as follows: Cut out a square of plastic from the plastic bag the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> came in and wrap it around a rag. Stroke the troughs and ridges with this improvised brush pad to perfect the polish of non-flat surfaces. Allow the coating to dry completely (12 to 72 hours).

## 4. MAINTENANCE

**On walls**, TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> does not require any maintenance. In wet areas (showers, bathtubs), it can be cleaned using PerfectSoap with a soft rag. Avoid detergents and decalcifying or acidic products. On the ground, TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> is maintained like marble. For increased protection, you may wax it after a few months with PerfectWax.

## 5. NOTES

### Surface Cracks

Applying ClayLime TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> promotes the appearance of a network of fine surface cracks that are characteristic of lime. This surface cracking is highly prized by experts. The extent of the cracking is proportional to the thickness of the layer and does not compromise the water tightness of the coating. The TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> two-coat application technique, as described above, limits or even eliminates this surface cracking phenomenon.

### Seams on Large Surfaces

Organize your work so that you can complete the whole surface in a single day. If you realize that you cannot finish in one day, cover the edge of the coated surface with a piece of plastic or a wet cloth to prevent it from drying until the next day. Once the project is complete, you will not be able to see the seams where you stopped one day and started the next.

### Opening the Surface to Traffic

TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> is a completely natural product that transforms when it comes in contact with the carbon dioxide in the air. Although it will be fragile for the first few days, TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> will gradually transform over the next few weeks into limestone. After three or four weeks, it will have already

reached 80% hardness and the surface will be practically scratch-proof. Later, it can be maintained like regular marble and can be restored and re-polished mechanically with a marble polisher.

On the ground: Protect passageways by laying cardboard over them for two to three weeks. In the shower: You may begin using the water five days after the surface dries completely. Clean with black soap after each shower for the first two weeks.

You may open the surface to traffic 72 hours after it dries completely.

## 6. USAGE INSTRUCTIONS

### Alternative Finishes

#### Buffing with PerfectWax

Soap-polished tadelakt has a velvety appearance with alternating shiny and matte surfaces. PerfectWax offers additional protection, giving the tadelakt a polished sheen and accentuating its depth.

#### Stone Polishing

Stone polishing is not mandatory with TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>. You may do it in the very last stage before the surface dries completely, to give your finish a more artisan-like appearance. Apply a layer of PerfectSoap in one area using a paintbrush, and then polish it by rubbing the surface using the stone, with small concentric movements. You will achieve a slightly wavy surface, producing a natural, authentic effect. The stone will also allow you to polish tight corners and troughs that are not accessible with the tool.

### Finishing Angles, Corners and Edges

Achieving a perfect finish in the corners and along the edges is essential for enhancing the monolithic appearance of the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>. Perfectino has developed a technique that will enable you to achieve perfect corners and edges, very easily, in the third step. Cut out a strip 20 cm long by 10 cm wide from the powder's plastic packaging, and fold it two or three times on itself. With a small paintbrush, apply a fine coat of TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> along the length of the edge. Take your plastic strip by the two ends; apply the center of the strip to the beginning of the edge, and pull down the two ends firmly on the sides. Then, in an even, continuous motion, leaning on the two sides of the edge, bring the two ends of the strip at the same time to the other end of the edge. You will achieve a perfect finish and curve with a single movement!

Now leave it alone. You can perfect your work by repeating the process later. Do the same thing for the corners.

### **Consumption:**

About 1.5-2kg/m<sup>2</sup>

### **Carbonation:**

In exterior applications, color changes or salt efflorescence may occur as a result of water from rain or in the presence of residual moisture.

Once the application is completed, and after TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup> dries (the surface has lost all its water), the next evening, it is advisable to wet the surface thoroughly with clean fresh water by spraying or using low pressure jet from the bottom to the top (to prevent drips). This aims to accelerate the carbonation of the TadelaktPro<sup>™</sup>. It is recommended to repeat this procedure several times respecting drying time between each wetting.

For an excellent protection against pouting water after carbonation, apply PerfectSoap in 2-3 layers and then PerfectWax in 2-3 layers up to a perfect seal. Make sure that it is waterproof. For surfaces involving water collection, e.g., sinks, shower basins, please contact us.

### **Cleaning and conservation:**

Clean tools with water. Apply and store at temperatures between 5 and 35°

TADELAKTPRO<sup>™</sup> mixture may keep for 5/10 days in a sealed container by adding a thin layer of water. TADELAKTPRO<sup>™</sup> powder will keep for up to a year in its unopened container stored in a dry place and protected from frost. TADELAKTPRO<sup>™</sup> is conditioned in 10 kg bags.

The information contained on this sheet is the result of our knowledge and test results; it may under no circumstances be regarded as a guarantee, nor does it engage our liability for defective application.

### **Recommendations:**

Protect yourself from caustic action of lime. In case of contact with eyes or skin, rinse thoroughly with fresh water and consult a doctor if symptoms persist. Keep out of reach of children.