

Participant Materials Guide

At Volupte Studio, we developed this materials guide based on years of hands-on experimentation with sustainable, recycled, and locally sourced components. Our work in interiors and wall finishes has always centered around minimizing waste, repurposing by-products, and celebrating natural materials. These tools and ingredients were carefully selected not only for their low environmental impact but also for their performance, beauty, and accessibility. Whether you're in a rural workshop or an urban studio, our goal is to make sustainable design tangible, elegant, and achievable for everyone. We hope this list empowers you to create with intention and curiosity—just as we do every day at Volupte.

Tools & Equipment

Tool	Description	Sustainable/Alternative Options
Trowels	For applying and finishing plaster	Reuse or borrow; stainless steel for longevity
Mixing buckets (10–20L)	For mixing plaster and pigments	Reuse construction-grade buckets; avoid new plastic
Measuring scale	Accurate measurements for ratios	Kitchen scale or repurpose postal scale
Drill with mixing paddle	For larger batches of plaster	Manual whisk for small batches (more effort)
Sandpaper (fine & medium)	For smoothing finishes after drying	Sanding blocks made of recycled materials
Plastering spatula/scrapper	Detailing and small surface corrections	Use a repurposed putty knife if needed
Protective gear	Gloves, dust mask, apron	Natural latex gloves, cotton apron

Base Materials

Material	Description	Sustainable/Alternative Options
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Recycled Plaster (Gypsum)	Primary material, sourced from construction waste or off-cuts	Partner with local contractors or gypsum recyclers; check for "scrap" gypsum boards
Sand (fine, washed)	Adds texture and structure	Use river sand if locally sourced and eco-certified
Natural Fibers (hemp, straw, cellulose)	Reinforce plaster, create texture	Look for locally grown or waste product from agriculture
Lime (hydrated or hydraulic)	Optional binder to add breathability	Use sparingly; source from local lime kilns if possible
Clay (optional)	Adds richness and color	Gather local clay (test for purity); avoid synthetic versions
Water	Clean water for mixing	Rainwater or greywater (filtered) for sustainability

🎨 Pigments & Additives

Material	Use	Sustainable/Alternative Options
Natural Pigments (ochre, sienna, charcoal)	Color finishes	Make your own pigments from natural soils or burnt wood
Alum, casein, linseed oil	Binders, durability, workability	Buy in bulk; explore DIY casein (from milk) or local oils
Cellulose glue (optional)	Add stickiness to finish	Use wheatpaste or flour paste as natural adhesive
Essential oils (optional)	Add scent, anti-mold properties	Tea tree, lavender, or citrus oils in small doses

🏡 Surfaces for Application

Material	Use	Sustainable/Alternative Options
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Plywood panels (reused)	For practice boards	Reuse from old furniture or construction sites
Interior wall sections	Final application	Use small test zones at home or workshop walls
Textured backing (burlap, jute)	Optional base for rough finishes	Natural, biodegradable fibers only

☒ Material Substitution Table

If You Can't Find...

Try This Instead

Recycled plaster	Ask local drywall companies for off-cut powder or use powdered gypsum (ensure it's free of additives)
Natural pigments	Burnt wood ash, iron oxide from old tools, crushed brick dust
Lime	Add extra clay or kaolin for binding
Mixing drill	Mix by hand with a whisk or stick (takes more time but works)
Trowel	Repurpose a stainless kitchen spatula for small-scale work

⌚ Sourcing Tips

- **Ask local builders** for plaster off-cuts and materials they would otherwise throw away.
- **Check community centers**, art schools, or ceramic studios for donations or scrap.
- **Use salvage shops**, secondhand stores, or construction waste depots for tools and buckets.
- **Buy in bulk with classmates** to reduce costs and packaging waste.
- **Label everything** and store in airtight containers to prevent spoilage and waste.

✿ Final Note:

This course encourages creativity and resourcefulness. Don't worry if you can't find every material listed—experiment with local, natural, or repurposed alternatives. The goal is to develop sustainable practices that are accessible, elegant, and adapted to your own environment.