

Glossary of Terms – Week 1: Recycled Plaster Basics

Plaster:

A building material used for coating walls and ceilings; made from lime, gypsum, or cement.

Gypsum:

A soft sulfate mineral commonly used to make plaster of Paris; it sets quickly and is widely used in interiors.

Lime Plaster:

Plaster made from lime and sand; known for its flexibility, breathability, and resistance to mold.

Clay Plaster:

A natural, breathable plaster made of clay, sand, and fibers; suitable for eco-friendly interior finishes.

Binder:

A substance that holds materials together in a plaster mix, such as lime, gypsum, or clay.

Hydration:

The process of adding water to plaster powder to activate it for application.

Sieving:

The act of passing recycled plaster through a mesh to remove lumps or debris.

Workability:

How easy a plaster mix is to spread and shape before it sets.

Set Time:

The amount of time plaster takes to harden after mixing with water.

Finish:

The final texture or look of a plastered surface, such as smooth, rough, or patterned.

Admixture:

Additional ingredients added to plaster mixes to modify performance (e.g., casein, cellulose fibers).

Natural Pigments:

Colorants derived from minerals, plants, or clays used to tint plaster sustainably.

Low-carbon Material:

A material that requires little energy to produce and contributes minimally to CO2 emissions.

Circular Design:

A sustainable design philosophy focused on reducing waste and reusing materials in continuous cycles.

Waste Stream:

The flow of discarded materials; in this context, the plaster waste being recovered and reused.