

Volupte Studio's Safe & Natural Pigment Guide

For Use in Recycled Plaster Finishes

🌿 Why Use Natural Pigments?

Natural pigments are safer for you and the environment. They are:

- **Non-toxic** and breathable
- **Locally available** in many regions
- **Compatible with lime, gypsum, clay, and earth plasters**
- Provide **subtle, earthy tones** ideal for timeless interiors

▷ Types of Natural Pigments

Pigment Type	Color Range	Source	Durability (★ out of 5)	Notes
Earth Pigments	Ochres, umbers, sienna	Iron oxide-rich soils	★★★★★	Most stable, long-lasting
Mineral Oxides	Red, yellow, green	Mined iron oxides	★★★★★	Excellent UV and lime resistance
Charcoal	Black, grey	Burnt wood or organic material	★★★	Can fade or powder over time
Chalk / Kaolin	White	Limestone, clay	★★★★	Moderate, stable in interior
Turmeric	Bright yellow	Ground turmeric root	★	Fades quickly in light; decorative only

Spirulina	Light green-blue	Dried algae powder	★	Very low stability, experimental use
Beetroot powder	Soft pink	Dried beetroot	★	Fades with UV; best indoors, sealed
Cacao powder	Brown	Natural cocoa powder	★★	Fades over time; test in mix

☒ Safety Notes

- Always **wear a dust mask** when handling dry pigments (natural or not).
- Use **natural binders or sealers** (like limewash or casein) to improve durability.
- Avoid food-based pigments for exterior or high-light zones.

⌚ How to Use Pigments

1. Wet Mix Method (Most Stable)

- Mix pigment into water first (make a slurry).
- Add the tinted water to your wet plaster.
- Stir well to ensure even tone.

2. Surface Wash Method (Decorative)

- Brush pigment-water mix onto cured plaster.
- Good for lime or clay-based finishes.
- Seal with natural wax or soap for added protection.

📝 Suggested Starting Ratios

Pigment Type	Ratio (Pigment : Plaster by weight)	Effect
Earth pigments	1:20 to 1:10	Subtle to strong tones
Mineral oxides	1:30 to 1:15	Strong tinting strength
Charcoal	1:20	Soft gray to deep gray
Turmeric	1:40 (test first)	Bright, but not lasting

*Test every pigment mix on a **sample board**, allow it to cure and observe over several days.*

Where to Source Them

- **Earth & clay pigments** → Local soil, natural pigment suppliers
- **Mineral oxides** → Natural building or art suppliers
- **Botanical powders** → Herbal, spice, or health food stores
- **DIY charcoal** → From your own wood fires (crushed and sieved)

Recommended Combinations

Finish Type	Pigments Used	Aesthetic	Durability
Warm minimalist	Ochre + chalk	Soft beige, stone look	★★★★★
Rustic modern	Umber + charcoal	Earthy depth, mottled black	★★★★
Pink clay wall	Beetroot + kaolin	Soft pink blush	★

Deep accent wall Mineral red oxide Bold red, high endurance ★★★★★

Indoor statement Cacao + turmeric Earthy gold, bohemian vibe ★★