

BRITISH STANDARD 4049 : 1966

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS
APPLICABLE TO
INTERNAL PLASTERING,
EXTERNAL RENDERING
AND FLOOR SCREEDING**

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION



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BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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THIS BRITISH STANDARD, having been approved by the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Products Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Building Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 19th July, 1966.

The Institution desires to call attention to the fact that this British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract.

In order to keep abreast of progress in the industries concerned, British Standards are subject to periodical review. Suggestions for improvements will be recorded and in due course brought to the notice of the committees charged with the revision of the standards to which they refer.

A complete list of British Standards, numbering over 4000, fully indexed and with a note of the contents of each, will be found in the British Standards Yearbook. The B.S. Yearbook may be consulted in many public libraries and similar institutions.

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards:

- B.S. 12. Portland cement (ordinary and rapid-hardening).
- B.S. 146. Portland blastfurnace cement.
- B.S. 410. Test sieves.
- B.S. 890. Building limes.
- B.S. 915. High alumina cement.
- B.S. 1191. Gypsum building plasters.
- B.S. 1230. Gypsum plasterboard.
- B.S. 6100. Glossary of building and civil engineering terms.
Section 6.1. Binders.

British Standards are revised, when necessary, by the issue either of amendment slips or of revised editions. It is important that users of British Standards should ascertain that they are in possession of the latest amendments or editions.

The following B.S.I. references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference CEB/16 Draft for comment D64/13404



CO-OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Cement, Lime and Gypsum Products Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

- Association of Consulting Engineers
- British Granite and Whinstone Federation
- British Iron and Steel Federation
- British Precast Concrete Federation
- British Railways Board
- British Ready Mixed Concrete Association
- British Slag Federation
- *Cement and Concrete Association
- *Cement Makers' Federation
- Chalk Quarrying Association
- Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
- Greater London Council
- Gypsum Plasterboard Development Association
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Municipal Engineers
- Institution of Structural Engineers
- Institution of Water Engineers
- Limestone Federation
- London Transport Board
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government
- Ministry of Public Building and Works
- *Ministry of Technology—Building Research Station
- Ministry of Transport
- *National Federation of Building Trades Employers
- Reinforced Concrete Association
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- *The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- *Sand and Gravel Association of Great Britain
- Society of Chemical Industry
- *Welwyn Hall Research Association

The Government department and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

- Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors
- National Association of Operative Plasterers
- National Federation of Plastering Contractors
- Plasterers' Craft Guild
- Manufacturers and suppliers of cement, lime, gypsum plaster and plasterboard

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BRITISH STANDARD GLOSSARY OF TERMS

APPLICABLE TO

INTERNAL PLASTERING, EXTERNAL
RENDERING AND FLOOR SCREEDING

FOREWORD

This glossary has been prepared under the authority of the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Products Industry Standards Committee to provide definitions of the terms in common use by all concerned with plastering, rendering and screeding. It is realized that certain of these definitions already appear in a number of British Standard Specifications and Codes of Practice, and it has been considered preferable for all definitions for plastering, rendering and screeding to be put together in one publication, to form one of the series of glossaries which the Institution is preparing to cover the terms used in the building and associated industries.

This glossary should assist the reader of technical literature to understand the meaning of the terms used, and also assist technical writers to use terms relating to plastering, rendering and screeding in their correct modern sense. Alternatives to terms are given in light capitals under the main terms. Where the terms are deprecated, this is indicated. Terms whose meaning in general use is clear and which have no specialized meaning in relation to plastering, rendering and screeding are not as a rule included.

Although the glossary is presented in alphabetical order, it is thought that reference will be facilitated by a certain number of groups of terms, e.g. cement, lime, all of which terms, however, also appear in their alphabetical position in the glossary, with cross reference to the group concerned.

Where a choice was available, nouns rather than verbs have been defined. The glossary has been confined to terms believed to be in current use and obsolete or obsolescent terms have been omitted unless there appeared to be good reason for their perpetuation.

Local terms have been generally excluded. There are, however, fundamental differences between English and Scottish terms, so that many of the latter have been included.

Particular attention is drawn to the Appendix, 'Nomenclature of plastering and rendering coats'. It is hoped that the relatively few recommended terms contained therein will eventually supersede the many alternative terms at present in use, with consequent simplification and elimination of ambiguities.

*Terms and definitions in this glossary that are deleted by Amendment No. 1, are superseded by the terms and definitions given in BS 6100 'Glossary of building and civil engineering terms', Section 6.1 'Binders'. Remaining terms and definitions in BS 4049 are being considered within BSI in connection with the proposed Section 6.6 'Products, application and operations, of BS 6100'.



GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
accelerator	An additive or admixture which, when present in small quantities, increases the rate of setting and/or hardening of a cementitious material in a controllable manner.
acoustic plaster	A plaster designed to provide a surface having enhanced sound absorptive properties.
activator	See under 'mixer'.
additive	A material, other than aggregate, cementitious material or water, added in small quantities to the binder to produce some desired modification to the properties of the mix or of the hardened product.
admixture	A material, other than aggregate, cementitious material or water, added in small quantities to the mix to produce some desired modifications to the properties of the mix or of the hardened product.
adhesion SPECIFIC ADHESION	The bond between two coats or to a background secured other than by localized mechanical keys.
aggregate	An inert filler, such as sand (or lightweight aggregate of similar maximum size), added to cementitious materials.
air-entraining agent	An admixture which causes a controlled quantity of air, in the form of minute discrete bubbles, to be incorporated during mixing.
air holes*	One of a series of small vents made in the closed plaster case to allow air to escape when pouring the flexible moulding compound.
air line†	The hose that carries the compressed air to the nozzle outlet of the spray gun for atomizing the plaster in mechanical plastering (i.e. the smaller of the two hoses).
alternate bay construction	A method of laying floor screeds in which alternate bays are laid and allowed to harden before the remaining intermediate bays are laid.
alum*	Potassium aluminium sulphate used in aqueous solution to seal and harden the surface of gelatine moulds for casting fibrous plaster.
angle bead	See under 'bead'.
* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.	
† Denotes a term applicable to mechanical plastering.	

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Term
angle trowel

Definition
 See under 'trowel'.



anhydrous gypsum plaster

See under 'gypsum plaster'.

applications

The separate operations carried out over the whole area to be plastered, which together constitute a coat. A finishing coat, for instance, may be applied in three separate operations, often referred to as trowel, float and trowel respectively, from the particular tool used in each case. (See also Appendix.)

armature*

A framework of wood or metal round which the clay is moulded in the process of forming large clay models.

arris

An external angle.

artificial marble*

An imitation marble, usually coloured, made with Keene's plaster.

ashlar marking

The marking of a rendering to simulate a wall constructed of masonry blocks.

back and front mould*

A mould produced in parts from a model.

background
 BACKING

The material or combination of materials to which the first coat of plaster or rendering is applied.

backing

See 'background' and 'backing coat'.

backing coat
 BACKING

A coat of plaster other than the finishing coat.

baikie (Scot.)

A metal box for holding wet dash.

bandage

See 'scrim'.

banker

A platform on which plastering material is mixed on site to supply the plasterers.

base

The prepared surface on which the floor screed is laid.

batten-out, to

To fix strips of timber to a background to receive lathing or boards.

bay

The area plastered, rendered or screeded in one operation.

* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.

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Term	Definition
bead	
<i>angle bead</i>	A form of metal or other trim for use at external angles.
<i>casing bead</i>	A form of metal or other trim for use at openings or edges of plaster work.
<i>screed bead</i>	A form of metal or other trim used to provide a partition between different types of plaster.
<i>staff bead</i>	A moulded external angle normally run in Keene's plaster.
beam case*	A fibrous plaster casing to beams.
bed*	A recess or seating, into which ornament or sections of moulding are planted with a plastic medium.
bedding*	The act of bedding or planting of ornament or sections of moulding with a plastic medium.
bell cast BELL MOUTH	The shaping of the lower edge of an external rendering to shed rain.
bell mouth	See 'bell cast'.
best hand-picked lime	See under 'lime'.
	
bird's beak stop	The feature formed using a zinc templet where a bull-nosed angle has to be stopped and a knife-edged or pencil round is continued.
blabbing	See 'blistering'.
blebbing	See 'blistering'.
blistering BLABBING BLEBBING	The development of local swellings on a finished plaster surface.
bleeding	The separation of water from an unhardened mix.
bloom	See 'lime bloom'.
blowing	See 'popping'.
blue lia lime	See under 'lime'.
* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.	

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Term	Definition
board finish plaster	See definition of 'hemihydrate gypsum plaster' under 'gypsum plaster'.
boiled oil*	See definition of 'releasing agent'.
boiling tub	A receptacle used for the first stage of preparing putty from magnesian quicklime.
bond	The interface strength resulting from adhesion or mechanical key or both.
bonding agent	A material normally applied to a smooth surface to improve adhesion.
bonding plaster	See definition of 'pre-mixed lightweight gypsum plaster' under 'gypsum plaster'.
bowl*	A hand bowl for gauging purposes.
box	See 'gauge box'.
brace*	A support used in the construction of fibrous plaster.
bracketing	The provision of a series of brackets (either of wood or metal) in cornices and around beams, to which lathing can be applied; also called cradling when used around beams.
browning plaster	See definitions of 'hemihydrate gypsum plaster' and 'pre-mixed lightweight gypsum plaster' under 'gypsum plaster'.
bruising*	Method of fracturing wood lath when used in fibrous plaster casts of curved shapes.
bulking	The difference in volume of a given mass of sand or other fine material in moist and dry conditions; usually expressed as a percentage of the volume in dry condition.
 burnt wood	Charcoal; used for marking purposes.
busk*	A thin piece of flexible steel, about 2 in (50 mm) wide and 8 in (200 mm) long. Used for cleaning up fibrous plaster.
butter coat	The soft final coat to which the aggregate is applied in pebble, spar or shingle dashing.

CARBIDE LIME

* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.

Term	Definition
calcination	The process of heating a solid to produce a material capable of being used as a plaster or of forming the basis of a plaster. Thus limestone or chalk is calcined to quicklime, and gypsum is calcined to hemihydrate or anhydrous calcium sulphate.
calcium carbonate	The main constituent of limestone and chalk.
calcium hydroxide	The main constituent of slaked lime and hydrated lime.
calcium oxide	The main constituent of quicklime.
 canvas	See definition of 'scrim'.
 carton pierre*	A mixture of paper-pulp, whiting and size used for casting from reverse moulds.
case moulding	A process whereby a plaster case is made over the entire model and the flexible moulding compound, e.g. gelatine, PVC, is poured into the void between the model and case to produce a flexible reverse mould.
casing bead	See under 'bead'.
cast	The finished product from the mould.
cast, to	To reproduce the model from the mould.
cat's face	See 'gaul'.
cement	A finely ground powder which, in the presence of an appropriate quantity of water, hardens and adheres to suitable aggregates, thus binding them into hard agglomerations known as concrete or mortar. This is normally understood to be a material complying with B.S. 12‡, B.S. 146§ or B.S. 915 .
coloured Portland cement	White or ordinary Portland cement to which a colouring pigment has been added during manufacture.
extra rapid-hardening Portland cement	A Portland cement, usually consisting of a rapid-hardening Portland cement, with which has been ground an additive that produces accelerated hardening (and usually accelerated setting).

* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.

‡ B.S. 12, 'Portland cement (ordinary and rapid hardening)'.

§ B.S. 146, 'Portland blastfurnace cement'.

|| B.S. 915, 'High alumina cement'.

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Term	Definition
<i>high alumina cement</i>	A rapid-hardening hydraulic cement, normally understood to be a material complying with B.S. 915†, made by melting a mixture of limestone or chalk and materials rich in alumina and grinding the resultant clinker.
<i>hydrophobic cement</i>	Portland cement which has been ground with a water-repellent material, so that each particle of cement is protected from hydration and deterioration during transport and storage by a film of this material of molecular thickness. The film is broken down by friction with the aggregate during mixing; the additive may impart some air-entraining properties to the mix.
<i>masonry cement</i>	A hydraulic cement, made from ordinary Portland cement and other materials, which will produce a mortar of high plasticity with a strength suitable for masonry and brickwork.
<i>ordinary Portland cement</i>	A hydraulic cement, normally understood to be a cement complying with B.S. 12§, made by heating to a high temperature a mixture of calcareous and argillaceous materials and grinding the resultant clinker with gypsum to a fine powder.
<i>Portland blastfurnace cement</i>	A hydraulic cement, normally understood to be a cement complying with B.S. 146 , made by grinding with gypsum, granulated blastfurnace slag and Portland cement clinker, separately or together, to a fine powder.
<i>quick-setting Portland cement</i>	A Portland cement which differs from ordinary Portland cement in that its setting time is substantially less.
<i>rapid-hardening Portland cement</i>	A Portland cement normally understood to be a cement complying with B.S. 12§, but which differs from ordinary Portland cement essentially in fineness and in that after setting it hardens more rapidly at early ages.
<i>sulphate-resisting Portland-cement</i>	A Portland cement, normally understood to be a cement complying with B.S. 12§, which has a substantially higher resistance to attack by sulphates than ordinary Portland cement.
<i>water repellent cement</i>	A Portland cement having a water repellent agent added during the process of manufacture, with the intention of resisting the entry of water into the concrete or rendering.
<i>white Portland cement</i>	Portland cement, normally understood to be a cement complying with B.S. 12§, made from selected iron-free raw materials.

† B.S. 915, 'High alumina cement'.

§ B.S. 12, 'Portland cement (ordinary and rapid-hardening)'.

|| B.S. 146, 'Portland blastfurnace cement'.

Term	Definition
 channel bar	Fixing bars made of non-corrosive metal in the shape of a channel of various sizes, used as a base for solid and fibrous plaster.
close in TIGHTEN IN	The operation of consolidating the surface of a final coat with a finishing trowel.
coarse stuff	A wet mixture of lime and sand for use in undercoats; it may also contain hair.
coats	See Appendix.
cockling*	Buckling of firstings in fibrous plaster.
cocks comb	See 'drag'.
 collars*	Circular screeds used in the formation of columns.
comb	See definition of 'scratcher'.
compo	A cement/lime/sand mortar.
composition*	A stiff paste made of resin, whiting, linseed oil and glue, and used for the reproduction of ornament from a reverse mould.
core*	An infilling of coarse material as a base for the finished moulding.
cottle*	A clay fence.
cove	A concave moulding at, or for fitting to, an internal angle.
cradling	See definition of 'bracketing'.
crazing	The development of hair cracks on a surface, usually forming an irregular pattern.
cross-grained float	See under 'float'.
curing	The process adopted to ensure hardening by preventing excessive evaporation or extremes of temperature.
dado	The lower part of the plastering of a wall (above the skirting) where the plaster treatment is varied from that of the upper portion, often to give a finish more resistant to impact and abrasion.

* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.

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Term	Definition
darby	A wooden or light alloy tool, consisting of a flat blade about 3 ft 6 in (1.1 m) long with two supporting handles. Used for straightening and floating.
dashed finish	A rough textured finish (usually external rendering) of dry or wet dash.
dry dash SPAR-DASH	A finish in which suitably sized aggregate of natural or manufactured materials is thrown on to a freshly applied final coat of mortar and left exposed.
wet dash HARLING (SCOT.) ROUGH-CAST	A finish produced when the final coat, containing a proportion of fairly coarse aggregate, is thrown on as a wet mix and is left in the rough condition. The texture desired is regulated by the size of the coarse aggregate.
devil	See under 'float' (' nail float ').
dot	1. A small patch of plaster, fixed at intervals on a background, plumbed or levelled, and used in fixing screeds. 2. A short piece of wood lath bedded in plaster. 3. (Sometimes) a nail used for the same purpose.
drag	1. (Also called ' cocks comb '). A thin steel plate which may be of various sizes and forms but normally about 6 in (150 mm) long and 4 in (100 mm) wide, with an undercut toothed edge and used for levelling plaster surfaces. 2. (Scot.) See ' larry '.
draught*	A slope given to a fillet angle in a plaster reverse mould so that the cast can be released.
dropping ball test	See under ' tests '.
drum*	A structure formed in fibrous plaster for the reproduction of curved surfaces, e.g. domes, groins, barrel ceilings.
dry dash	See under ' dashed finish '.
dry lining	The technique of surfacing walls with plasterboard instead of wet plastering.
drying shrinkage	Shrinkage caused by the evaporation of water. If extensive, it often results in cracking and crazing.
dubbing out	The process of filling in hollow places on a solid background before the main body of plaster or rendering is applied. May also be employed where projections or extra thicknesses are required, e.g. for very small breaks or panels.

* Denotes a term applicable to fibrous plastering.