



Plastering & Rendering

Plasterboard / Drywall

Drywall, made from calcium sulphate dihydrate, can be with or without additives. It is commonly pressed between a facer and a backer. There are a few approaches to working with drywall. We can provide a total replacement, which means installing all-new sheetrock for a completely new wall. Alternatively, we can repair only the areas that need attention or patch smaller cracks or openings. For a full replacement, the old wall covering is removed to the frame of the wall. If necessary, we'll rewire, update plumbing, and install outlets, switches, and insulation. Once the interior of the wall is complete, we install new sheetrock onto the frame, creating a new outer wall. We then join the seams between the sheets with drywall 'mud' and tape, allowing it to dry. After it dries, we add another layer of mud, which also dries before being sanded to a smooth finish. Once sanded, it's ready for painting or other coverings. For repairs and patches, only the damaged area is removed, and a new piece of sheetrock is added. We then marry the new piece to the original using drywall 'mud' and tape. Patching smaller areas like around light switches or doorknob damage can save money compared to replacing entire sheets or walls.

Rendering & Pre-Coloured Rendering

Rendering involves smoothing a mixture of wet cement and sand onto a wall with a trowel. After cleaning the wall with a brush or broom, the cement is applied in a thin coat (around 8-20mm thick) from the bottom up. After 15-20 minutes, the wall is splashed with water, and a scratch tool is lightly run over the wall. After an hour or two, a second coat of rendering is applied, and it's lightly gone over both vertically and horizontally to ensure it's flat. Pre-Coloured rendering follows the same process, but the cement mixture already has the desired colour, so no painting is required.

Coving

Coving is the process of forming a concave surface between the wall and ceiling using moulding, often glued into place. It should not be confused with Cornice, as coving has a more uniform profile. For example, if it extends 4" across the ceiling, it will also extend 4" down the wall. Coving typically has a simpler design, often in the shape of a 'C'. In contrast, Cornice is more ornate and can have varying sizes and designs, with the potential to be 8" across the ceiling and only 3" down the wall. Cornices often include intricate corner mouldings and come in a wide range of sizes and materials.

Refurbishments

Refurbishing is taking what you already have and recreating it into something new. Either by sanding it down and repainting or finishing it with a varnish. If there is furniture you want to use but it needs an update, we can do that for you. We can refurbish whole homes or just one room, or whatever your need is. Please see our Domestic Refurbishments page for more information on refurbishing.

Plastering

Plastering is similar to rendering but uses a plaster mix instead of cement and sand. A layer of finishing plaster is spread onto the wall and allowed to dry for a few minutes. A second layer of plaster is then applied, which is the final layer, ensuring the surface is smooth. At London Elite Trades, we provide both residential and commercial plastering services. Our team will offer a professional initial assessment, follow through with the project, and provide a final report upon completion. We look forward to working with you.



London Elite Trades limited

T: 020 3172 4720

E: info@londonelitetrades.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE

4th Floor, Silverstream House,

45 Fitzroy Street,

Fitzrovia, London,

W1T 6EB

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