

# THIN REED MAT

Natural plaster underlay for clay and lime plasters



A loose reed mat is a base mat for plastering, made from natural reed. The reed stalks are sewn together in parallel using thin galvanized wire. In the finished mat, the reeds are not placed tightly side by side; instead, there is a gap equal to the thickness of one reed between each stalk. This structure ensures optimal adhesion between the plaster, the mat, and the substrate.

## Available dimensions:

Thickness: 0.6 – 1.6 cm

Length: 1.60 m

Roll length: 6.25 m

Coverage per roll: 10 m<sup>2</sup>

Weight: 5 kg

The loose reed mat is suitable as a plaster base material for both interior (walls, ceilings) and exterior (walls) applications. It can be used on flat or uneven solid masonry walls, hewn log walls, and timber frame walls with boarding. Reed mats can also be used to form curved surfaces. Reed mats have been used in construction for centuries and are a health- and environmentally friendly material. Loose reed mats are especially suitable as a base for clay and lime plasters in both renovation projects and new constructions.

## Physical properties of thin reed mat

Density: 190 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (2.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

## Installation

Reed mat panels must be placed tightly side by side with a slight overlap. If necessary, gently tap the edges tighter using a piece of wood and a hammer. The reed mat must rest firmly against the substrate. The rigidity and strength of the substrate must be appropriate and in accordance with its structural function in the building. The reed mats must form a unified, monolithic, and rigid whole together with the substrate.

## Cutting

Reed mats can be cut with a hand saw, pruning shears, a utility knife, or a circular saw. The wire must be cut with wire cutters. When cutting lengthwise, leave at least 2 cm between the cut edge and the wire stitching to prevent the wire from slipping and the bindings from loosening. When cutting crosswise, the wire stitching must be cut at the required location and, if necessary, re-tied together afterward.

## Fixing

Fixing is done at 15 cm intervals along the wire stitching that holds the mat together. Approximately 12–20 fasteners are required per square meter.

Reed mats can be fixed to the substrate using:

1. Nails – bend the nail head back over the wire stitching; minimum length 4 cm.
2. Screws – use wide washers (minimum diameter 2 cm); minimum length 4 cm.
3. Long staples – applied with an electric or pneumatic staple gun (staple length at least 25 mm).

For cut mats, if necessary, the wire stitching near the cut edge can be tied and woven between and under the fasteners.

## Safety

When cutting and installing reed mats, there is a risk of injury from protruding wire ends.

## Finishing

Reed mats provide very effective and secure bonding for plaster base coats. In most cases, one base coat is sufficient.

For best results, joints between mats should overlap.

Before plastering, the reed mats and substrate may be moistened, but this is not mandatory.

The product description outlines the uses of the material and recommendations for work. The material has been tested by the manufacturer and guarantees the quality of the product, but cannot guarantee its correct use and therefore does not release the user from liability. Specific conditions and surfaces must be taken into account for each object.

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