



Bag that
WALL

Sweeping a wall with cement brings new life to old surroundings

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Home improvement
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'bagging' cement is so named because of the traditional method of using a hessian cloth (or bag) to 'paint' a thin layer of cement over a facebrick wall or surface, while keeping the form of the bricks visible for visual impact and texture.

DIFFICULTY RATING

BUILDERS WAREHOUSE SHOPPING LIST

- Lasher wheelbarrow
- Lasher shovel
- Cement 50kg
- Building sand 2 x 40kg
- Water bucket 25L
- Plaster Key 5L
- Builders Pride white wash brush
- Builders Pride 2 x heavy duty drop sheets
- Builders Pride paintbrush
- Fired Earth Granular paint 5L
- Valencia table
- Valencia chair x 2



Step 1 Clean your surface facebrick of any dust, dirt and mould, and patch up any holes or nasty imperfections. Coat the walls with plaster key – this will ensure the cement mixture bonds properly with the wall and won't crack or chip over time.

*Top Tip
Working with cement is a really rewarding but equally messy process, so be sure to wear last season's clothes when you get stuck into it.*

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Step 2 While the plaster key dries, mix the cement, sand and water in the wheelbarrow with the shovel. Make sure you get the ratio right: two parts cement to one part building sand, with water added until you have the consistency of a thick soup. If you prefer not to have to paint the walls afterwards in the colour of your choice, add oxide powder to this mixture to add a touch of colour.

Step 3 Lay down the drop sheets and apply the mixture to the wall. We opted to use a white-wash brush. Wet the brush with water and dip it into the mixture. 'Paint' it onto the wall in a circular motion, progressing outwards and downwards. If you choose to use the traditional hessian bag, wet it with water and fold it into a pad of about 150mm². Add a dollop of mixture to the pad and use the same circular method of application. Wet the cloth or brush intermittently as required. Allow the cement to dry. Note that it takes longer to dry than paint, and at first will appear much darker than the required grey shade.

Top Tip

Add water slowly to your cement mix so that the cement powder has time to soak the water up – too quickly and the cement will stay runny!

Step 4 For a textured finish, you can try various layers of the mixture in different strokes. An easier alternative is the application of Fired Earth Granular paint in Khaki shell colour, for an amazing natural textured look & feel.

Step 5 Your room is now ready to be furnished in a way that brings out the beauty of the new rustic-looking walls. Have fun!



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Here's your chance to win all the products for this great concrete bagging DIY that will help transform walls that aren't up to scratch into presentation perfect displays. Thanks to Builders Warehouse, one lucky reader will win all the tools and the entire shopping list needed for this great DIY project.

WIN THE COMPLETE SHOPPING LIST AND ALL THE TOOLS

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Competition closes 25 May 2009.

