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## ROUNDTOWER – IRELAND'S NEW NATURAL HYDRAULIC LIME

As a newcomer, the recent launch of Roundtower Natural Hydraulic Lime has generated a great deal of interest in Ireland and across the world.

Containing no additives, this natural product is not only suitable for building restoration and conservation, but also in new construction and is available in 3 strengths: NHL2, NHL3.5 and NHL5.

### ***But what are the advantages of using this product in historic buildings or new construction?***

- ***Movement*** - All historic buildings and new constructions move. Hydraulic lime mortars and renders gain initial strength quickly but then set gradually allowing for a speedy construction which has great flexural capabilities to allow for any settlement.
- ***Breathability*** - All historic buildings need to breathe. Moisture will always take the path of least resistance through a wall. The porous nature of lime allows moisture to travel through the wall and evaporate from the face of the pointing mortar. Cement is very dense and forces moisture to travel through the substrate which often results in damage to the brick and stone facing.
- ***Protection*** - Lime renders and plasters offer excellent protection internally and externally without compromising the breathability of the wall. Smooth topcoats can be easily achieved and finished with a range of natural, porous paints which offer a healthy environment and harmonious aesthetic.
- ***No blending*** - No need for pozzolans, cement, plasticizers, water retainers, waterproofer etc.
- ***Good workability*** - Free-lime content gives excellent workability
- ***Self-healing properties*** - Free-lime content also gives the mortar self-healing properties.
- ***Reworking*** - Our hydraulic limes can be re-worked within 24 hours.
- ***Economy*** - Low bulk density means good economy as sold by weight but used by volume.
- ***Elasticity*** - No expansion joints, minimal shrinkage and cracking.
- ***Permeability*** - Condensation dispersion, reduces rot and promotes a healthy home.
- ***A better environment*** - The life cycle of lime shows that it is a lower impact material than cement.

### ***Surely cement will do a better job?***

- Cement mortars and renders will not allow your building to breathe.
- The exceptionally high compressive strength of cement is not necessary in most building situations.
- Lack of flexural ability often leads to cracking of walls and render thus letting moisture penetrate to become trapped.
- When introduced to historic brick or stonework, cement can cause unsightly salt staining and decay.
- Lime is a sympathetic material - cement alterations are irreversible.
- It is difficult for cement to reproduce the beautiful soft aesthetic of lime.

### ***Why should I buy Roundtower Natural Hydraulic Lime?***

- ***Quality*** - We continuously monitor the manufacture of our lime products to ensure consistent performance.
- ***Tried and tested!*** - Our range of hydraulic limes have been used successfully by our customers in all building environments.
- ***Experience*** - We offer first class technical support.

**For further information contact  
Lochplace: 021 4776677  
Email: [mail@lochplace.com](mailto:mail@lochplace.com)**

## Name change - Ecotec becomes NBT

For many years Natural Building Technology have manufactured and marketed their unique paint systems under the brand name 'Ecotec'. However, this will not be the case in the future.

As part of a wide-ranging overhaul, all NBT products will all be available under that title.

Further improvements have also been made – it is now easier than ever to select a combination of breathable boards, insulation, plaster and paint with NBT's 'New Build Systems'. Here, common construction scenarios have been explored and solved using natural materials.

For historic buildings, NBT products offer a more sympathetic alternative to the many modern insulations, paints and renders and their associated problems of non-breathability.

*Lochplace exclusively supplies NBT's extensive range to Ireland.*

## At Lochplace

Lochplace Building Conservation was formed in the UK in 1996 and in 1998 started it's first project in Ireland, Cor Castle, (shown below).



Things have come a long way since those early days. Through the hard work and innovation of each member of the staff we have built a company that is now considered the best building conservation company in the country.

Recent projects have included: Glebe house, Skibbereen, St. Finbarrs Cathedral, The Main Guard, Clonmel, Coolcullitha House, Innishannon, Carriganass Castle, Kealkill and, of course, Cor Castle.

As part of our growth, the Lochplace Newsletter has been created to bring you news from all parts of the company.

## Traditional Cast Iron Rainwater Systems

The Hargreaves foundry has been in the cast iron business for over a century and this has provided a legacy of knowledge, experience and skills.

Their range of traditional rainwater systems provides all the benefits of a tried and tested material: strength and durability with an aesthetic appeal to enhance the appearance of any historic building.



Cast iron is particularly well suited for all drainage systems, and no other product offers such great longevity with low maintenance. Hargreaves believe that properly installed and maintained, these systems can last over 100 years.

All gutters are supplied in standard 1829mm (6ft) lengths and the range of fittings includes outlets, stop ends, angles, union clips and fascia brackets. Rainwater pipes are available in round, rectangular and square shapes all 1829mm (6ft) long, together with a range of fittings including bends, branches, offsets, access pipes and shoes. The complete range is supplied in a grey zinc phosphate primer coat suitable for undercoat and gloss finishes of your choice.

Alongside their standardised range Hargreaves can also manufacture special patterns of gutters, pipes and rainwater heads.

**For further details on the full Hargreaves range contact Lochplace: 021 4776677  
Email: [mail@lochplace.com](mailto:mail@lochplace.com)**

## Grand opening for The Forge

Situated on the main road through Innishannon, finding The Forge could not be easier.

For over 200 years this plot of land has sustained a working forge and quarry, the remains of both are obvious to all visitors. After a long period of redundancy, the site is once again bristling with activity.

Three terraced cottages, which have lined the main road for centuries, have been given a new lease of life. Carefully conserved and restored, they are now at the heart of Lochplace Building Conservation, providing much needed warehousing and office facilities.

The old quarry provides ample room for mixing, storage and car parking.

This unique site is now almost complete, with the final coats of lime wash being added as I write. To mark this occasion a grand opening is being organised for the coming months. This will take the form of an open day, allowing customers to tour our new facilities and see for yourselves just what is possible with lime in conservation and new building projects! Also available will be practical demonstrations and refreshments.

***We will contact you shortly with your own personal invitation.***

## Features

### Lime Putty

For over a thousand years, right up to recent times, Lime putty was used as a binder in almost all mortars and plasters in Ireland. It continues to be used today, and is particularly suitable for the repair of old buildings. Lochplace Building Conservation has invested time and resources to provide the very best lime putty.

The raw material, high-calcium limestone ( $\text{CaCO}_3$  or Calcium Carbonate), is quarried in County Carlow and burned in a vertical twin-shaft re-generative maerz kiln. This type of kiln, fuelled by natural gas sourced from the Kinsale and Scottish natural gas fields, allows our Limestone to burn slowly and at a relatively low temperature, 975°C.

This slow, soft burn allows for the pores of the Limestone to remain open for longer, releasing its carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) completely and giving a very high quality Lime Putty.

For lime putty, the quicklime is slaked with an excess of water to form a milk of lime. This is a process undertaken only by the experienced professional as water reacts violently with quicklime, giving off much heat almost instantly. Too much water added will drown the lime and too little will render it useless for building conservation. The milk of lime is guided through a very fine, 1.5mm; sieve to eliminate impurities including any inert materials, any un-slaked particles of quicklime and any residues of the burning process.

Lochplace maintains the highest level of quality control to ensure that all the impurities are removed giving a very fat lime.

Once slaked and sieved, the material is stored in large vats, known as arks, for a minimum of three months. This allows the milk of lime to de-water and turn to Lime Putty (Calcium Hydroxide or  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ). A minimum of three months storage in an ark will allow the Lime Putty to mature to the consistency of a soft cheese and, more importantly, to allow for any remaining quicklime particles to fully slake. This process guarantees a high grade Lime Putty suitable for mixing with sand and other aggregates giving a superior building material.

### Your Letters

In future editions of this newsletter we would like to offer our readers the opportunity to ask questions, make points and share experiences. These could be philosophical or practical.

For example, you may wish to contribute a discussion concerning the merits of lime wash, examples of good (and not so good) practice on site/at home, or perhaps illustrate the potential impact of new government planning legislation?

We would be most interested to hear your thoughts.

Write to: The Newsletter, Lochplace Building Conservation,  
The Forge, Innishannon.  
Email to: [mail@lochplace.com](mailto:mail@lochplace.com)

### Next Issue



**Lazur  
finish  
silicate  
masonry  
paint**

**Scagliola  
– a  
revival**



### Training

**Recently held courses** – On the 26th of March 180 of Ireland's leading architects attended a Lochplace Lime Day at Rathfarnham Castle. Positive responses are still being received.

This event was requested by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and will be repeated in future as the conservation training module for all of the association's members.

**Future training dates** – The next Lochplace Lime Day will be held on **9<sup>th</sup> May** in Innishannon. This is an excellent training opportunity for professionals already involved with lime works, or those wishing to find out more about lime, to gain practical experience from one of Ireland's most respected conservation companies.

We still have a few places left so if you wish to attend please call as soon as possible.

We particularly recommend this course for anybody involved with historic buildings.

The cost for the whole day is **120 Euro**. This includes all equipment, materials, lunch and refreshments. **There is no VAT to pay!**

*Lochplace can offer bespoke training events, from small group practical sessions to large corporate programmes. Please contact us for further details.*

Our website has lots more  
useful information:

**[www.lochplace.com](http://www.lochplace.com)**

**LOCHPLACE**  
BUILDING CONSERVATION

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