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STOOPEN & meeûs

CRUSTAL - MANUAL



Last revised: 12 04 2018

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1. DESCRIPTION OF CRUSTAL

CRUSTAL is a high-grade, decorative mineral product used to create walls with structure and character. Crustal not only looks authentic, but also feels realistic and brings the harmony of nature indoors.

CRUSTAL offers a perfect solution to combine a sleek, modern style with organic elements. It is highly structured and thus creates an authentic look with the attractive features of a mineral finish. It therefore adds character to both rural and modern buildings as well as contributing to a more natural environment - including in low-energy and passive homes.

CRUSTAL can be applied smoothly or used to create rougher, unique structures without any difficulty.

CRUSTAL is a sustainable, environmentally friendly chalk product that perfectly suits the new trend for structured, mineral walls. So you can bring nature into modern buildings in a sophisticated and aesthetically pleasing manner. The traditional application ensures endless possibilities for contemporary finishes. Owing to its robustness and scratch resistance, CRUSTAL is also an ideal finish for walls in busy areas such as retail spaces, stairwells, etc.

CRUSTAL does usually not require any extra preparation of the substrate and in most cases, a single layer is sufficient.

CRUSTAL is sold unpigmented and can be coloured to create CRUSTAL Mono by adding a maximum of 7.5% pigment. Once dry, CRUSTAL Accent can be created by means of simple processing with pigments, which are then fixed.

CRUSTAL can be finished with a protective layer if preferred.

We always advise doing a test beforehand: a colour sample system is available from our dealers (See website www.stoopen-meeus.com).

Our YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/stoopenmeeus>) shows a wide variety of completed projects and a video of the application process. This will give you inspiration for your future projects.

2. CRUSTAL SUBSTRATES

CRUSTAL can be applied indoors on various substrates, including plaster, tiles, firmly attached layers of old paint, MDF, etc., provided that the substrate is sufficiently stable, clean and free of dust and grease.

CRUSTAL is not suitable for use on floors, damp areas or metal, plastic or solid wood surfaces.

3. PREPARING THE SUBSTRATE

3.1. TECHNICAL PREPARATION OF THE SUBSTRATE

As CRUSTAL is applied in a layer 2-3 mm thick and is usually structured, the substrate does not usually have to be treated with filler or sanded down beforehand. However, protruding parts do have to be removed.

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CRUSTAL can be applied to sheet material in dry construction systems (plasterboard, water-resistant MDF or Multiplex, etc.) which is firmly anchored. All joints should preferably be provided with fibreglass reinforcement beforehand to prevent cracking.

3.2. PREPARING SUBSTRATE WITH STUCPRIMER

The fast-drying StucPrimer, drying time +/- 1 hour, is applied to the substrate before using CRUSTAL to ensure optimal adhesion and processability.

4. USING CRUSTAL

4.1. PREPARING CRUSTAL

Add the pigment to the water (+/- 0.25 l mixing water per kg CRUSTAL) and mix mechanically. Add half of the basic powder. Mix thoroughly for a few minutes, then add the remaining CRUSTAL powder and mix until smooth.

Once mixed, the CRUSTAL will thicken slightly and then remain useable for months. If the CRUSTAL is too stiff, it can be mixed again and if necessary, a little more water can be added. By means of small differences in the quantity of mixing water used, the user can adjust the open time of the product and the possibilities for creating structure. Adding extra water to the CRUSTAL usually has little if any effect on the colour.

4.2. APPLYING CRUSTAL MONO

CRUSTAL is applied using a stainless steel trowel.

The thickness of the layer of CRUSTAL determines the open time on the wall for processing and the possibilities of creating structure. CRUSTAL usually has a covering capacity of +/- 1.5 kg/m².

CRUSTAL can be applied in a single layer for most structures. As structure is created in the layer afterwards, CRUSTAL does not have to be applied evenly and smoothly. An adequate covering, in which spatula lines, etc. can still be seen, is usually sufficient, which means that this product can be applied very quickly.

The drying time is 2-5 hours, depending on the conditions. The accent can be added once the layer has dried completely. Slow drying allows more time to work the CRUSTAL further.

4.2.1. REGULAR TECHNIQUE

For a Regular technique, a screed is first applied, followed immediately by a second layer that is not entirely filling. A spatula is used for both layers.

4.2.2. GROOVE TECHNIQUE

Depending on the quantity of mixing water used, the thickness of the layer and the conditions, after 15-30 minutes a vertical brush structure is created in the Crustal layer using a Crustal Brush. Once it has been absorbed, this structure can be softened with a paint brush or lightly polished with a spatula.

4.2.3. GROSS TECHNIQUE

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Depending on the quantity of mixing water used, the thickness of the layer and the conditions, after 15-30 minutes a vertical and horizontal brush structure is created in the Crustal layer using a Crustal Brush. Once it has been absorbed, this structure can be softened with a paint brush or lightly polished with a spatula.

4.2.2. TIMBER TECHNIQUE

Depending on the quantity of water used, the layer thickness and the conditions, after 15-30 minutes a 'wavy' vertical brush structure is created in the Crustal layer using a Crustal Brush. Once it has been absorbed, this structure can be softened with a paint brush or partly polished down again with a spatula.

4.2.2. FOSSIL TECHNIQUE

Depending on the quantity of mixing water used, the thickness of the layer and the conditions, after 15-30 minutes a structure is created in the Crustal layer using a structure roller or other tool. Once it has been absorbed, this structure can be softened with a paint brush or partly polished down again with a spatula.

The tool used and the subsequently brushing and trowelling determine the possible structures. These include Fossil (irregular, rough, deeper lying parts), Earth (smaller coral structure), Croc (crocodile skin structure), etc.

4.2.3. OTHER

Many other tools are also available to create structure in CRUSTAL.

5. APPLYING CRUSTAL ACCENT

Once CRUSTAL Mono is completely dry, CRUSTAL Accent can be applied.

5.1. PREPARING ACCENT

Once dry, the CRUSTAL is dampened again with water to which 0.5% CrustalDispers (a few drops/ litre of water) has been added. This can be done using a roller or brush, or the water can be sprayed on.

This ensures even dampening and penetration. In this way, the pigment will not be absorbed too quickly in a later stage and can therefore be dispersed more evenly.

5.2. APPLYING ACCENT

Before Accent is applied, the colour combination must be chosen. Generally speaking, a darker Accent on a lighter Mono is easier than the other way around. Nuances can easily be added to a light Mono by adding the same Mono pigment to the Accent. It is, of course, possible to apply various Accent colours in successive stages in order to create different colour nuances.

In this solution of 0.5% CrustalDispers in water, 1-5% of pigment is then mixed, depending on the desired intensity of the nuances and the application technique. The solution is brushed, sprayed, sponged, etc. onto the damp Crustal. This can then be further treated by brushing, dabbing, wiping, etc.

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Generally speaking, the colour of the Accent becomes more intense after further brushing, because the pigment is dispersed more and more. It is sometimes easier to apply the Accent increasingly intensively in several stages rather than creating a sharp Accent in a single stage.

Once dry, the final result can be seen. As it has not yet been fixed, additional Accents can be applied or overly intense Accents can be somewhat softened.

5.3. FIXING ACCENT

Once dry, the final result can be fixed by rolling on a thin, even layer of CrustalFix. This does not alter the final appearance. CrustalFix does not form a film and therefore does not provide protection against damp or stains.

Never roll CrustalFix onto large surfaces while brushing the edges. This creates differences in intensity. Brushing lends the Accent extra intensity.

Very light Accents brushed using a Cross or Groove technique often do not have to be fixed, because the Accent pigment adheres sufficiently in the grooves.

6. FINISHING CRUSTAL WITH A PROTECTIVE LAYER

CRUSTAL is a mineral breathable product that is reasonably waterproof. In pressured conditions, it may be sensible to apply a finishing layer to the CRUSTAL in order to reduce damp absorption or the risk of stains.

The finishing layer can be applied 24 hours after the CRUSTAL has dried. As CRUSTAL is usually applied more roughly, it is not always possible to achieve a perfectly sealed surface with one finishing layer. The roughness also makes cleaning a little more difficult.

5.1. STUCVERNISPU

StucVernisPU is the most effective finishing layer for CRUSTAL. It provides protection against damp and most stains after one or two layers, depending on the structure.

With the 2K version, StucVernisPU deepens the colour slightly and adds a little gloss, depending on the colours chosen.

StucVernisPU used as 1K (without hardener) provides less protection against damp and stains but deepens less and creates less gloss, depending on the colours.

5.2. UNIWALLPROTECT

7. MAINTENANCE AND AFTERTREATMENT

In terms of appearance, its capacity to resist pressure and maintenance, CRUSTAL can be compared with natural materials such as natural stone, wood, cork and mineral plasters, etc.

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6.1. CRUSTAL UNTREATED

When untreated, CRUSTAL absorbs damp and is cleaned by dry brushing or vacuuming.

6.2. CRUSTAL WITH PROTECTIVE LAYER

When finished with a protective layer, depending on the structure, the protection chosen and the number of layers, CRUSTAL is virtually completely protected against damp and stains. Consequently, it can be cleaned with water using a sponge, brush, etc. in combination with standard cleaning products.

8. NOTE

The information provided in this manual constitutes a general product description. On the basis of our experience, a few tips are given about the processing of our product. However, every actual situation in which the product is used is different. We therefore invite our customers to always carry out representative tests, taking into account the nature and condition of the substrates, before going ahead with processing.

It is up to the customers to check our website, www.stoopen-meeus.com, to see whether the current manual and technical data sheets have been replaced (updated) by more recent versions.

Stoopen & Meeûs takes responsibility for the quality of its products but not for the processing of these products.

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