

A Premixed Gesso for Traditional Water Gilding

A revolutionary pre-mixed powdered gesso – just mix with water, allow to saturate, stir and apply with a brush. Koldgesso is a *traditional gesso* made from a blend of refined natural protein glue and whiting with less than 1% non-toxic additives that enhance application and *flow out* properties. Unlike traditional gesso, Koldgesso can be mixed with room temperature tap water and used without being heated.

**Available in 1 kilo jars and 10 & 25 kilo bags for the professional gilder.
Mix two parts of Koldgesso to one part water, by weight.**

Mix 25 kilo bag with 12.5 liters (3.3 gallons) of water.

Mix 10 kilo bag with 5 liters (5.3 quarts) of water.

Mix 1 kilo jar with 500ml (1.06 pints) of water.

MIXING

Place a measured amount of water in a suitable container and slowly add Koldgesso. Stir the mix gently, as the dry powder is *sprinkled* into the mix. Koldgesso must be added slowly to water to ensure full dispersion and to avoid forming clumps. Koldgesso will dissolve faster in warm tap water. Once the batch is completely mixed, let stand for thirty minutes to dissolve the protein glue and fully saturate the mix. Stir before using and let stand until trapped air bubbles dissipate. Use a mechanical mixer for large batches. The mixture will be viscous during stirring, and it should take only a few minutes to fully combine dry powder and liquid. After the mix is completely combined and any clumps have been dispersed, 5 to 10% of water may be added. Properly mixed Koldgesso should be the consistency of high quality oil paint.

Mix only as much Koldgesso as may be used in one day. Once mixed with water, Koldgesso is susceptible to spoilage similar to traditional gesso. Refrigeration will extend the shelf life of mixed material, and Koldgesso should be slowly warmed to room temperature before using. Dry powder Koldgesso has an extended shelf life.

APPLICATION

Koldgesso can be applied on most porous surfaces, such as bare wood, plaster and paper products without sizing of the surface. Use a wide, soft, bristle brush. Keep the brush well loaded with Koldgesso and apply moderate pressure when brushing. The same application technique used to apply a high gloss oil paint works well when applying Koldgesso.

Dampen the surface before applying the first Koldgesso layer. This prevents the surface from drawing moisture from the first layer before it properly bonds to the surface and will ensure good adhesion. As with any traditional gesso application, allow the first coat to dry before applying the second coat. Three or more coats may be required, and the surface should be dry and free of imperfections, before applying additional coats. When applied correctly, there will be few visible brush strokes, and no sanding should be necessary between coats.

Final surface preparation should be done with 320 grit sandpaper. As Koldgesso is water soluble, wet smoothing should be done with a 60/40 alcohol/water solution using a soft cotton cloth. Always test all materials and procedures.