

# GOLD LEAF CHEAT SHEET

## WHAT IS GOLD LEAF?

Gold Leaf is extremely fine sheets of gold that have been compressed to make them much thinner than paper but with the equivalent strength of a cobweb. This process is known as "goldbeating".

## WHAT IS GLIDING?

Gold leaf gilding is the decoration of surfaces through the application of gold leaf sheets. Gilding is present in fine art applications such as illuminated manuscripts and sculptures, as well as in architectural instances including furniture, mirrors, glass decoration and even religious and secular settings.



## GOLD LEAF TYPES

### PLAIN GOLD LEAF

- Also known as loose gold
- Sold in a book format with protective paper that can be folded back to expose the gold leaf.
- A Gilder's tip will help pick up and move a single sheet without disturbing the remaining leaves.
- The use of a soft gilder's brush or mop to gently rub over the gilding will aide with adhesion. Using a soft brush rather than paint brushes containing bristles or synthetic fibres will reduce the risk of scratches.
- Plain gold leaf provides a richer colour and finish than transfer gold leaf, and is suitable for indoor applications, such as mirrors and glass, using the water gilding technique.

## METHODS OF GLIDING

### WATER GILDING

Water gilding provides the most brilliant surface shine. It is most frequently used on frames, glass and other glass objects.

Tools required include:

- Gelatine capsules
- Gilder's mop
- Gilder's tip

### TRANSFER GOLD LEAF

- Also known as patent gold
- Sold in books with each sheet attached to tissue paper, which makes it easier to move and to apply to the surface.
- The gold leaf is pressed onto the prepared surface and then the backing tissue is removed.
- The use of a soft gilder's brush or mop to gently rub over the gilding will aide with adhesion.
- Transfer gold leaf is suitable for outdoor work on flat surfaces and is not suitable for water gilding

### OIL OR MATTE GILDING

Oil gilding uses gold size (varnish) to adhere the gold to the surface. While the finish is not as luminous, it allows gilding across a wider range of surfaces and in exterior applications, such as architectural applications on signs and buildings.

Tools required include:

- Gold size varnish (e.g. Viponds)
- Gilder's tip
- Gilder's mop