

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

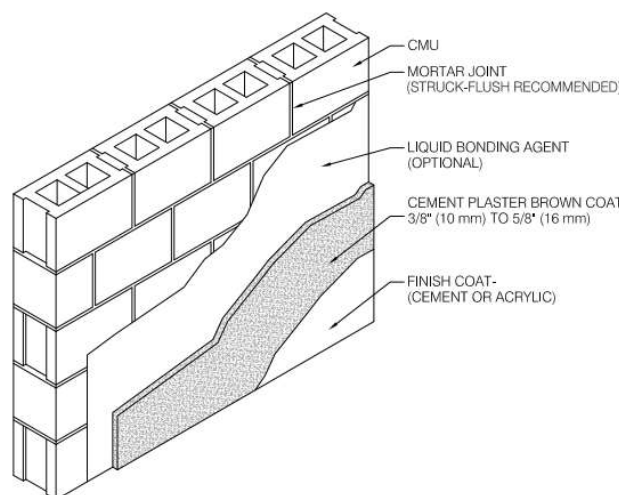
Portland Cement Plaster (Stucco) can be directly applied to masonry substrates. Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) are an excellent cement plaster base. Cement plaster adds decoration, water and impact resistance. Successful stucco installations on masonry rely on the ability to bond (suction) or a mechanical key. New CMU allows for suction and keying of cement plaster. Questionable bonds, such as painted CMU, should use a bonding agent or lath. All but new uncoated CMU or very absorptive masonry surfaces should employ random test patches to insure a secure bond prior to proceeding. Do not apply cement plaster over 5/8 inch thick to masonry without a lath. Masonry must be sound and stable prior to plastering.

## OPTIONS:

**Finish Coat:** A skim coat of cement finish may be applied directly to CMU with struck flush joints. Joints will likely ghost through the skim coat, particularly when wet.

**3/8 to 1/2 inch Cement Brown Coat:** This single basecoat of cement plaster will hide mortar joints and provide an excellent surface for acrylic or a cement finish coat. Lath is not required on new CMU or absorptive masonry.

**3/4 to 7/8 inch Cement Plaster:** This assembly is used to straighten uneven surfaces and requires a diamond mesh lath. Attachment of lath should be at grout joints spaced not to exceed one per square foot and each fastener having a minimum 50 pound pull-out value.



**TRIM ACCESSORIES:** Trim accessories establish the thickness of cement plaster. Casing beads should be of the “expanded” flange type. Expansion & control joints in masonry walls must be honored. Stucco control joints can be used and spaced further than with traditional framed walls. Control joints for cement plaster on masonry are not intended for stress relief as they are more for cold-joint control. Control joints are intended to provide aesthetic detailing and stop points for plaster application. Weep Screeds are not needed for cement plaster of masonry substrates.

**MOISTURE MANAGEMENT:** Stucco over a CMU wall is intended to be a “Barrier” moisture management system. Independent reports from the Florida Lath & Plaster Bureau and the NCMA Research Labs confirm cement plaster over CMU walls can provide extreme water resistance with no need for sheet good water-resistance barriers. The SMA generally recommends against any bond breaker between the plaster and the masonry substrate. Trowel applied coatings made for and by stucco manufacturers may be used if additional moisture protection is desired.

**CONTINUOUS INSULATION:** For continuous insulation or CI stucco over masonry, the SMA recommends an Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS) of foam, lamina and an acrylic finish.

*The SMA is an industry wide not-for-profit trade association dedicated to the promotion and education of the stucco industry. Due to circumstances beyond our control and unlimited variables, the SMA can provide no warranty, express or implied. This is a guide paper and not intended for a particular application or project. Users shall verify local code compliance and determine suitability.*