

PAINTING STUCCO

Stucco may be painted when desired by a building owner. Caveats include material options, substrates and the environment: All should be considered prior to painting a stucco wall/ceiling. Unsound, blistered, or defective stucco/paint must be removed and replaced prior to paint application.

NEW STUCCO: Fresh cement is alkaline. Cement should be dry, and the Ph level should be allowed to neutralize (below 8) prior to painting. This generally occurs in about 2 weeks.

PAINTS: Paints for stucco are generally recommended to be vapor permeable for framed walls. A perm rating of 7 or higher is recommended for stucco on framing. Elastomeric coatings are flexible paint coatings used to hide hairline cracks in stucco. Not all elastomeric applications are successful. In selecting a product, consider the environment and regional success. Elastomeric coatings used as a low-cost solution to solve water issues due to poor flashing, generally perform poorly as the coating loses elasticity. Prior to applying an elastomeric coating over stucco, consult the coating manufacturer for history in that region, review written testimonials and obtain warranties.

CEMENT FINISH COAT: Integrally colored cement finish coat stucco is permeable, proven economical and abuse resistant. Refreshing a colored cement finish can be done with a fog coating. Refer to SMA technical paper on "Fog Coating" for more information. Re-coating cement stucco or painting with an acrylic vapor permeable paint designed for stucco is an acceptable and proven practice. If the stucco has been painted, re-painting or an acrylic finish should be considered the first option. Cement finish may require a bonding agent.

ACRYLIC FINISH COAT: Acrylic finish coats offers a wider variety of colors, may be painted or can accept a new acrylic finish. Follow manufacturers recommendations. Fog coating is not an option. A special skim coat can be applied to existing surfaces to even out existing stucco if required. Verify product compatibility with stucco manufacturer.

CONCLUSION: A variety of quality products properly applied can last several years over stucco. Ensure existing stucco is sound prior to painting. Dark colors can increase the occurrence of efflorescence. Refer to the SMA technical paper on "Efflorescence" for more information. Most stucco manufacturers produce a variety of coatings made specifically for covering stucco and are listed on the SMA website. www.stucomfgassoc.com

Owners should use licensed contractors, verify conditions and all materials used. The SMA is an industry wide not-for-profit trade association dedicated to the promotion and education of the stucco industry. Due to variables, the SMA can provide no warranty, express or implied for information contained herein. This is only a guide paper and not intended for a specific project.