

Painting stucco is an appropriate option when a color change is desired. Selecting a vapor-permeable product that is made specifically for cement-based stucco is recommended. Vapor-permeable paints can help incidental water escape as a vapor through the stucco.

Elastomeric coatings are another option but should be used after giving careful consideration and performance review of the product. Using elastomeric to seal water out of stucco is not required as properly applied cement plaster is highly water resistant. Elastomeric coatings can help hide cracks in stucco. Considerations before applying an elastomeric coating should include:

- Long-Term Vapor Drive
- Impacts on the Muting of Stucco Texture
- Long-term maintenance of the elastomeric coating.

Fog coat is a cementitious paint explicitly made for integrally cement-based stucco finish coatings. Fog or brush coats cannot be used over acrylic finish coats or painted stucco. Smooth stucco generally requires special fog coating material and procedures. Refer to your stucco finish coat manufacturer for more details.

New Stucco: Painting new cement stucco should be done when the pH level has dropped to acceptable levels, as noted by the paint manufacturer. Most paint manufacturers recommend a primer before painting; some primers may be alkaline resistant and required before painting. Use the approved primer product by the paint manufacturer to prevent paint issues related to the high alkalinity of fresh cement.

Re-Paint Stucco: Re-painting stucco is a common practice. The old paint should be soundly bonded to the stucco and compatible with the new product. Follow paint the manufacturers' recommendations. Texture muting can be a concern as each layer of paint will slightly mute or change the original stucco texture.

Dark colors can have an impact on stucco walls related to efflorescence. Efflorescence is a salt-like mineral powder that can appear on cement, masonry, and stucco. Hairline cracks can absorb rain as the water runs down the wall and sit in the crack for long periods. Minerals in the cement, sand or water (plaster mix) can then leech into the water. When the weather warms, particularly on a sunny day following the rain. The wall warms and the water that carries these minerals to the stucco surface is drawn out. Darker colored walls inherently highlight the whitish bloom of efflorescence and can also exacerbate the process through a higher surface temperature.

Efflorescence powder is typically cleaned off but may reappear a few times until the minerals are flushed out. Refer to the stucco manufacturer for recommended cleaning of efflorescence and potential products to prevent issues.

The SMA provides this information as general guidance on painting cement stucco finish coats. Each situation or product may alter procedures. The SMA can give no warranty, express or implied, for following general recommendations.