

Selecting Stucco Materials

To assure consistent color on a project, the variables that determine stucco color (materials, materials preparation, installation, and cleaning) must be controlled. One factor in reducing material variability is to specify factory preblended Spec Mix® Stucco.

As with natural material, some variation in appearance is a normal design feature of stucco, whether colored or not. Stucco lightens as it cures; allow up to 28 days for process to occur. Minor variations in appearance of colored stucco, which are similar to natural variations in color and appearance of un-pigmented stucco work, are acceptable.

Excerpt from ASTM C926-98a “*Standard Specification of Application of Portland Cement Based Plaster*”, Appendix XI.1.4.1: The uniformity of color cannot be guaranteed by the materials manufacturer of the component materials or by the application contractor. Color uniformity is affected by the uniformity of proportioning, thoroughness of mixing, cleanliness of equipment, application technique, and curing conditions and procedure, which are generally under the control of the applicator. Color control is affected to even a greater degree by variations in thickness and differences in the suction of the base coat from one area or location to another, the type of finish selected, the migration of color pigments with moisture, and with job site climatic and environmental conditions. These

factors are rarely under the control of the applicator.

Excerpt from ASTM C926-98a, Appendix XI.3.3: Integrally colored plaster can be discolored or altered in shade if subjected to moisture, either from uncured base coats or external sources, such as rain, too soon after application.

White Finish Coat Stucco

Always use clean, potable water in mixing. Spec Mix® White Finish Coat Stucco is factory preblended using the highest quality raw materials including white portland cement, lime, and silica sand. White cements for stucco should meet the same ASTM specifications as their grey counterparts. Portland cement should meet the requirements of ASTM C 150 for Type I portland cement. Silica sand should meet all appropriate ASTM specifications.

Silica sand is a natural mined product that varies in shade and color. The raw material supplier makes no warranty as to color and there is no color specification for silica sand. Further, there may be color/shade variations from one load of silica sand to the next. A job site mock-up panel is an industry acceptable method for comparing color and texture when using white Preblended Finish Coat Stucco, but due to the inconsistency of the silica sand raw material, it is impossible to assure color/shade match from bag to bag.

Buff or brown sands will impart an undertone of color to the stucco. This sand color may become more



pronounced over time as sand particles are exposed on the surface of the stucco due to the erosion of the white stucco paste. Also, when cleaning white stucco be sure not to remove the white paste.

Colored Finish Coat Stucco

Stucco color is so sensitive to pigment content that proportioning is best accomplished by using factory preblended Spec Mix® Colored Finish Coat Stucco.

Integrally colored stucco may be obtained through the use of pigments. The color of stucco will depend not only on the pigment, but also on the cementitious materials, sand, water-cement ratio, and finishing techniques of the installer. Always use clean, potable water in mixing.

Color uniformity is dependent on batching uniformity and the use of consistent techniques in the application, finishing, and curing of the finish coat. Color variations in finish coat plaster can usually be traced to one or more causes, including the following:

- Failure to maintain uniform working

consistency between batches.

- Cold joints in the brown coat.
- Over floating the brown coat.
- Non-uniform pre-dampening of the brown coat prior to applying the finish coat.

Tips for successful colored finish coat stucco project:

- Submit color channel kit for color selection.
- Submittals are for general indication of color and may vary somewhat from stucco finished in field.
- Maintain consistent water to cement ratio for stucco throughout project.
- Do not re-temper or add additional water to colored stucco

Sample Panel

On jobs with critical appearance tolerances, specify a sample panel to demonstrate that proposed materials and workmanship produce acceptable stucco appearance.

Specifier/Owner: To confirm the suitability of a desired color and texture, be sure to ask your plasterer to provide a sample panel for evaluation prior to starting work.

ALWAYS CONSTRUCT A SAMPLE PANEL - NO EXCEPTIONS.

Plasterer: On the job site, mix a batch of Spec Mix® Colored Finish Coat Stucco to assure the product - with your water addition - is a suitable match to the sample panel.

IF YOU DO NOT CONSTRUCT A SAMPLE PANEL FOR APPROVAL BY YOUR CUSTOMER AND DO NOT FIELD TEST THE COLORED FINISH COAT STUCCO FOR SPECIFIED COLOR, YOU ASSUME FULL LIABILITY FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT.

Helpful Items

- Provide full-scale mock-up or sample panel on every project (residential or commercial) for pre-approval by the project owner. This should be a component of every stucco applicators job bid.
- At location on project selected by specifier or owner, demonstrate each condition required on project using materials, workmanship, finish and cleaning techniques to be used throughout project.
- Approved sample panel establishes minimum standard for work and desired color.
- Approved sample panel shall not be demolished or removed from site until work has been completed and approved. Sample panel may remain as part of work.



Warranty

Seller warrants that its product will conform to and perform in accordance with the product specifications. The foregoing warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, those including merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Because of the difficulty in ascertaining and measuring damages hereunder, it is agreed that, seller's liability to the buyer at no point for any particular project shall exceed the total purchase price of said product.

Limitations

Spec Mix® Preblended Stucco should be installed in accordance with the provisions of the local building code and applicable ASTM Standards. Good workmanship coupled with proper detailing and design assures durable, watertight construction.