

Painting & Painted Stucco Finishes

Technical Bulletin

TB038

Category: Stucco

Keywords: Stucco, Painted Stucco, Paint

Stucco and other portland cement based materials are highly alkaline when first mixed and applied. If stucco is to be painted, it is absolutely essential that the stucco be allowed to reach a pH of 9.5 or less, that the primer or paint is alkali-resistant and that painting be delayed until the stucco is fully cured, this normally occurs 28 days after application.

Acrylic materials are subject to deterioration and fading caused by the alkalinity of stucco and other portland cement based materials. When newly applied, Portland cement based products have extremely high pH levels. These levels, harmful to acrylics, will normally drop during the first month following installation. To avoid possible problems, follow strict Portland cement curing procedures before the acrylic coating or finish application.

Be sure to check the paint manufacture's literature and follow their directions. An alkaline-resistant primer should be used over alkaline surfaces to prevent paint degradation. Most acrylic and elastomeric coatings are already alkaline-resistant. But most other paints are not resistant to a highly alkaline condition.

Painters, before applying any paint should ascertain the alkalinity of the surfaces. This can be very simply accomplished by using a pH tester readily available at paint and lab supply stores. PH 7 is neutral, below 7 is acidic- above 7 is alkaline. When painting, do not dilute paint with water as this affects adherence to stucco, and can result in spotty de-lamination.

Painted applied to stucco finish that is blistering, flaking and peeling and that have either a soft underlying stucco finish or finish coming off with the paint are a result of the paint application. This type of stucco finish condition is most often associated with improperly prepared and/or premature paint applications, which stop the curing process of stucco finishes. The result of this can be a softer than normal finish as described.

This type of condition can result from premature paint applications. This can occur for a number of reasons, any one or combination of the following are the most common.

1. The stucco finish contained moisture and or was less than fully cured.
2. Premature paint application, pH levels too high or above the level considered compatible.
3. Improperly prepared surfaces, including inadequate or no primer application.

Thank you for your interest in Parex USA, Inc. products and for the opportunity to present this information. Please contact the Parex USA Technical Department at your convenience if you have any questions.

PAREXUSA
www.parexusa.com

Corporate Office

Parex USA, Inc.
4125 E. La Palma Ave., Suite 250
Anaheim, CA 92807
(866) 516-0061
Tech Support: (800) 226-2424

Facilities

French Camp, CA
North Hollywood, CA
Riverside, CA
San Diego, CA
Colorado Springs, CO

Haines City, FL
Duluth, GA
Redan, GA
Albuquerque, NM
Allentown, PA
San Antonio, TX



PAREXUSA
SUSTAINABILITY