

Technical Bulletin

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Topic: Finish Drying and Color Variations

Master Wall Superior Finishes are formulated as a final color and texture coat for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS), Cemplaster Fiberstucco and Traditional Stucco. The products are manufactured and colored for excellent pail-to-pail consistency. When properly boxed and applied the color is consistent and the texture is crisp.

Color Variations due to Drying

Different drying rates will affect the color. Generally, a noticeable difference occurs from one of the following reasons:

- **Cold Joints in the field**
 - Usually as a result of the finish drying and setting up.
 - Sometimes caused by poor design in an overly long building. Applicators need starting and stopping points for the finish.
 - Cold joints are usually accompanied by some texture variations if it occurs in the field of the wall.

- **Scaffold Lines on the wall**
 - Caused by a different drying rate because of the scaffold shadows.
 - Often aggravated by applying the finish to a hot wall.



Finishes dry differently in the shadows of the scaffolding

Disclaimer

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The two samples of #180 Beige Spray texture were both applied and textured at the same time. The sample on the left dried at low temperature out if direct sunlight while the right sample dried at high temperature in direct sunlight.

- ***Inconsistent Wall Temperatures***
 - Applying finish to an overly hot or overly cold wall will affect the drying conditions. A very hot wall may be difficult to texture and a cold wall may require additional “open time” before the finish can be textured.
- ***Inconsistent Application Temperatures***
 - When temperatures vary excessively day to day a color variation can be noticed.
- ***Inconsistent Supplemental Water***
 - Different amounts of water per pail will make the overall color inconsistent.

Recommendations

To minimize the affect of cold joints and inconsistent drying, we suggest the following techniques:

- ***Sample Approval***
 - Always refer to the approved sample’s texture and color for comparison.
 - The approved sample should be field applied under the same climate conditions. Expect shop-fabricated samples to vary, as drying and texturing conditions will be different.
- ***Cold Joints in the field***
 - Always work from corner to corner or aesthetic joint to aesthetic joint.
 - Inform designers that color consistency on large, flat wall areas are difficult without starting and stopping points.
 - Always maintain a wet edge on your finish.

- ***Scaffold Lines on the wall***
 - Plan your work to avoid working in direct sunlight. Provide some temporary protection if needed.
 - Avoid finish application to very hot walls.

- ***Inconsistent Wall Temperatures***
 - Time your work when the wall temperatures are most consistent. Typically after the dew burns off in the morning and before the day's high temperature is reached.
 - As texture effects color, plan your texture operations to take advantage of the time when the finish textures easily but doesn't burn or smear.

- ***Inconsistent Application Temperatures***
 - If possible, apply finishes to an elevation under consistent temperatures. While the actual color variation between the two samples is minimal, when viewed side by side there is a slight difference.
 - Expect a color variation in phased construction during different seasons and climate conditions.

- ***Inconsistent Supplemental Water***
 - Always add the same amount of water to each pail and mix thoroughly.
 - Up to 24 ounces of clean, potable water may be added to each pail for workability.