



Coating Applications

Above Grade: Exterior walls must be finished with a weather-resistant exterior wall envelope that complies with Section 1403 of the IBC, which complies with a water-resistive barrier as provided in ICC-ES [ESR-1471](#). All wall coverings must be applied or attached to the satisfaction of the code official. Negative wind pressure capacity of the exterior finish material must be the same as that recognized in the code for generic materials.

Below Grade: Wall surfaces must be damp-proofed and when required by the local building department, waterproofed in accordance with Section 1806 of the IBC, or Appendix 18 of the UBC. Damp-proofing should be to code official's satisfaction.

Coating Tips

Coatings can be applied in one, two or three layers, depending upon the type of covering. If like stucco, which can be applied in a two coat system, the base coat being the leveling coat with the second being your finish coat. This method uses the base coat, which starts at about 1/4" or as necessary for a level coat, and the final coat is 1/8" or as needed for a uniform finish.

If using a three coat system, the first layer is normally 1/8" to 3/8" thick and is referred to as the "scratch" coat or layer because once it has been applied, the surface is 'scratched' to provide a grip surface for the second layer.

The second layer (if used) is normally about 1/8" to 3/8" thick sometimes referred to as a "floating" or "brown" coat.

The third or final layer is a thin covering about 1/8" thick which may be colored and/or textured to give the final appearance.

Ensure that the surface of the first coat is free of loose debris and dust. Dampen the surface before applying any mortar; this will help prevent the coating from pulling moisture out of the mortar too rapidly, which could cause cracking, loss of bond and generally poor quality stucco work.

Allow the first coat to harden for 24 to 36 hours. Do not let the layer dry out. If necessary, keep it damp by misting it with water; do not spray it with a pressure hose as this will dislodge the mortar. After the stucco has been completed, keep the surface damp over several days; lightly mist the coating occasionally if necessary.

Complete the job by sealing around doors and window frames; these are the areas especially susceptible to the ingress of water.

Leave the mortar to dry out for at least six weeks before applying cement paint or color wash if require.

