



Soffits – Portland Cement Plaster

Generally where soffits may be partially exposed to weather or a fire rating is required; the application of ½” or ¾” Portland cement plaster (stucco) may be applied. If the soffit has been constructed according to NBC standards and the exterior sheathing properly applied, there are two methods of application that we prefer:

1. A layer of 60 min. or double 30 min. building paper should be stapled to the sheathing. Plaster stops should be applied to the perimeter; a ribbed expanded metal lath may be nailed or screwed to the framing within the plaster stop. A mixture of Type 10 Portland cement, plaster sand and lime or masonry cement may be applied to approximately 3/8” and mechanically scratched. This “scratch coat” should be left for 24 hours to allow sufficient set so that when the second coat (brown coat) is applied slumping will not occur. Once the brown coat has been allowed to dry for a minimum of 14 days a Premix cement coat or acrylic stucco may be applied.
2. The second method requires attaching a paperbacked welded wire mesh product to the substrate within the plaster stop. A mixture of Type 10 Portland cement, plaster sand and lime or masonry cement may be applied to approximately 3/8” and mechanically scratched. This “scratch coat” should be left for 24 hours to allow sufficient set so that when the second coat (brown coat) is applied slumping will not occur. Once the brown coat has been allowed to dry for a minimum of 14 days a Premix cement coat or acrylic stucco may be applied.

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