



COMPARISON OF CEMENTITIOUS AND ACRYLIC FINISHES

Feature	Cementitious	Acrylic
Application Thickness	1/8 inch (3 mm) Helps to compensate for wall irregularities.	1/16 inch (1.5 mm) Does not easily hide wall irregularities.
Ease of Application	More labor intensive than acrylic stucco finish. Usually requires mortar mixer.	Less labor intensive than cement stucco finish. No jobsite plaster mixer required.
Application Temperature Range	40°F (4.4°C) to 120°F (49°C).	40°F (4.4°C) to 120°F (49°C).
Ease of Clean-Up	Less difficult than acrylic stucco finish.	More difficult than cementitious finish, since it can stain surrounding surfaces. Solvents may be required to remove dried finish from surrounding materials.
Vapor Permeability	Highly vapor permeable.	Vapor permeable, greater than 10. Perm rating will vary by the texture of the acrylic stucco finish.
Initial Color Consistency on Wall	Surface color may vary, due to substrate conditions, slightly creating a mottled look (can be made more consistent with Allegro II or Fog Coat).	Excellent initial color consistency on wall, more color uniformity than cementitious finish.
Assortment of Colors	Good range of colors, but limited in comparison to acrylic stucco finish. Custom and darker colors are more difficult to match with cementitious finishes.	Unlimited colors are possible. Colors are easily matched in acrylic finishes.
Finish Appearance	Good depth of color and texture. Mottling may appear, due to job and application conditions.	Very uniform.
Range of Textures	Numerous textures may be achieved depending on applicators skill. (Smooth hard trowel to heavy Spanish).	Range of textures are available depending on the skill of the applicator and aggregate gradation in acrylic finish. Heavy Spanish type of texture not easily achieved.
Color Permanency/Uniformity	More color permanency than acrylic finish. Colors typically darken with age. Good uniformity, but not as good as with an acrylic finish.	Colors are very uniform, but may fade over time. Some darker colors may fade faster than others.
Fire Resistance	Contributing to 1/8 inch (3 mm) to required 7/8 thickness of portland cement plaster for fire resistance.	Adds no resistance, rating achieved through increased 7/8" base coat.
Material Costs	Lower initial material costs than acrylic finish.	Higher initial material costs than cementitious finish
Hairline Cracking	Hairline cracking transferring from base coat is not uncommon.	Good crack resistance, transferred base coat cracks very low or much less than cementitious finish.
Color Matching	Good color matching.	Excellent color matching.
Regular Maintenance	Little maintenance required. Can be routinely washed.	Little maintenance required. Can be routinely washed.
Repair Maintenance	Less expensive to replace or upgrade. Lower refurbish/ repair/material costs than acrylic finish.	More expensive to replace or upgrade. Higher refurbishing/ repair costs in comparison to cementitious finish.
Crack Resistance Underlayment	Finish is rigid because of the cementitious chemistry. Cementitious stucco finish is applied over a cementitious base coat.	Finish is flexible due to the acrylic chemistry. Acrylic Finish is applied over a cementitious base coat or as the topcoat of EIFS.
Life Cycle	Jobs have performed for over 50 years without repair or recoating.	Jobs have performed for over 30 years without repair or recoating.

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