



Potable Water for mixing Portland Cement Stucco

When mixing Portland Cement Stucco it is important that the water be potable, i.e. fit for human consumption. Potable water is treated to specific standards so as to remove harmful chemicals, sediment and other particulates. Recycled, reclaimed, grey water or water from natural waterways is not approved for mixing cement stucco.

MIXING:

Clean water is an important factor as it relates to the properties of the hardened mixture of the cement stucco. Setting and strength development during the hydration process are probably two of the most important factors of these properties. The mixing of the cement stucco with clean potable allows the best conditions for setting and strength development of the stucco cladding.

Another important property of stucco during the mixing and application periods is air entrainment. Air entrainment occurs during the mixing stage and contributes to the workability and overall durability of the cladding. Non-potable water may contain contaminants that could kill the air content or increase it excessively which could compromise the integrity of the stucco cladding.

Some of the more common contaminants found in non-potable water include chlorides, acids, alkalis, sanitary waste, sugar, silts, oils and algae. Reclaimed wash waters, such as those recycled from concrete mixers, can contain admixtures not intended for use in the stucco cladding. Chlorides found in non-potable water, could attack the embedded steel products such as lath, trims and fasteners thus compromising the integrity of the stucco cladding.

STANDARD:

ASTM C 926, 4.5 Water – Water used in mixing, application and finishing plaster shall be clean, fresh, suitable for domestic water consumption, and free of such amounts of mineral or organic substances as would affect the set, the plaster or any metal in the system.

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