

# Stucco Maintenance Guide

PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL

## Care and Maintenance for Omega Products' ColorTek Finishes

The following information is provided to assist in maintaining Omega Product's ColorTek exterior portland cement-based finishes.

### Cleaning

Dirt, soil, atmosphere deposited dusts, and roof run-off stains should be removed to maintain the appearance of the stucco. Most stains caused by the above-mentioned items can be removed, if addressed in a timely manner, by following the steps listed below:

1. Saturate the wall prior to cleaning. Begin at the bottom of the wall and work to the top. This will help prevent dirt residue from staining lower portions of the wall during cleaning.

2. Begin cleaning the wall. Direct a pressure stream of water against the wall to loosen the dirt. Start at the top and wash the dirt down the wall. Caked-on dirt may require brushing. Do not use excessive pressure or abrasive methods of cleaning. It is typical for some stucco particles to be dislodged during the cleaning process.

3. Flush remaining dirt off the wall with a follow-up rinse.

For improved results, the use of Omega Product's Stucco Cleaner is recommended. Omega Product's Stucco Cleaner is designed to dissolve dirt and typical stains from stucco walls and similar products. It is a concentrated, water-based detergent that will penetrate the surface to help remove stains without damaging the finish. Please refer to the Stucco Cleaner data sheet for additional information.

If a stain cannot be removed by using the above steps, other methods such as refinishing, fog coating, or brush coating may be used to restore the original color. Try to obtain the stucco color number information for future maintenance.

See Omega Product's Technical Bulletin on Efflorescence for additional information on removing efflorescence stains from stucco.

### General Preventive Maintenance

There are a few preventative maintenance steps that may be followed to assist in the upkeep of ColorTek stucco finish.

- Proper maintenance of gutters and downspouts is the best way to prevent staining and efflorescence on the exterior walls. Be sure to keep the gutter clean and free of debris.
- Install hardscape at perimeter of the wall to help prevent dirt from splashing and staining the finish. Line the first few feet of planters with rock, gravel, bark, etc. or install concrete walkways. Note: When installing hardscape (i.e. brick, cement, planters, pavers, rough landscaping) or landscape, maintain proper clearances from the weep screed per code requirements.
- Direct all sprinkler and irrigation systems away from all exterior stucco walls.

*Continued on next page*



www.omega-products.com



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## Preventive Maintenance (cont.)

- After window cleaning, completely rinse off cleaning solutions to prevent staining.
- Regularly clean accessories such as windowsills, light fixtures, vents, etc. to prevent accumulated dirt or rust from staining the stucco surface.

## General Notes on Stucco

Cracking will occur on most projects finished with exterior cement based plaster. Cracking is typical in cement based plaster systems and in most cases is not considered a defect. Most cracks are caused by building settlement and shrinkage, which is typical and expected in cement plaster systems. It is important to note that these cracks do not jeopardize the water resistant properties of your stucco system. The weather resistive barrier is located beneath the cement coating. This is the component that protects your project from moisture intrusion.

Three-coat stucco systems are designed with protection against water penetration (i.e. around windows, doors, cracks, etc.). Any moisture that reaches the weather-resistant barrier will drain out of the wall at the weep screed. This is why it is extremely important to keep finish grades, such as planters and concrete walkways, below the weep line.

For additional information, please contact Omega Products International or visit us at [www.omega-products.com](http://www.omega-products.com).

### Disclaimer

Omega Products International, Inc. [Manufacturer] MAKES NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO THE PRODUCT(S) SOLD HEREIN. The recommendations, suggestions, statements and technical data are based on the best knowledge available to Manufacturer and are given for informational purposes ONLY and without any responsibility for their use. It is expressly understood and agreed, as a condi-

tion of the use of this product, that the buyer's sole and exclusive remedy for any claimed defective product against Manufacturer shall be the replacement of products actually proven to be defective. Handling and use of the products are beyond the control of Manufacturer; therefore, no warranty is made, expressed or implied, as to the results obtained from the use of the product or against any claims for infringement of patents resulting from use of the

product. Under no circumstance shall Manufacturer be liable for incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use or the improper application of the product. Before applying the product, the user shall determine the suitability of the product for his/her independent use, assuming all risks and liability whatsoever in connection therewith. This writing constitutes a complete and exclusive statement of the understanding between Manufacturer and Buyer.

### Technical Assistance

Technical assistance and information is available by calling Omega Products International, Inc. at (800)600-6634 or FAX (951) 520-2594 or by e-mail at "info@omega-products.com".