

FACT SHEET

LEVELS OF FINISH FOR TEXTURED FIBRE CEMENT - EXTERNAL WALLS

Information

Recognising the absence of a uniform specification for levels of finish for textured fibre cement sheet external walls, the Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation Inc, in conjunction with CSR Gyprock Fibre Cement and James Hardie Industries, have prepared a specification based on three clearly defined levels of finish. It is hoped that this specification will assist the installers of cement sheet walls, their customers and those involved in coating the walls once they have been put in place.

Joint Cracking

A surface should be presented as "ready to accept the texture system". It is important, therefore, that applicators ensure the stability of all joints by following the installation recommendations of the board manufacturers and by using appropriate joint reinforcing components and adhesive compounds sufficient to eliminate cracking under normal building settlement conditions.

Accordingly, as recommended in "Good Texture Coated Fibre Cement Practice", published by the Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ):

- All texture coating systems require maintenance. Regular re-coating will be required to ensure that external moisture is excluded from the building interior, to meet the performance requirements of BRANZ.
- Recoating (painting over the texture) must be done at intervals recommended by the coating manufacturer – approximately every 7-10 years for acrylic systems.

- Each year, the condition of sealants at control joints and of cladding, especially around openings and corners, should be thoroughly checked.
- Coated surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned by washing down with a low pressure wash (at least) yearly (six monthly within 500 metres of the coast), including windows and joinery. Obtain specific cleaning requirements from the coating manufacturer.
- Joint stopping compounds and texture coating systems should be sourced from the one manufacturer, as they are usually part of a single stopping/texture coating system. Components from different manufacturers must not be used.
- All parts of the texture coating system must be installed or applied by experienced tradespeople, preferably accredited by the coating system manufacturer.

Disclaimer

This Fact Sheet is intended to help applicators and others involved in the installation and finishing of textured fibre cement sheet external walls. It is not intended to be a sole source of reference or a substitute for regulations and standards which may relate to this work. Applicability to individual circumstances or risks must be considered in the light of those circumstances. The APMF cannot accept liability in respect of any consequences arising as a result of using the information and advice offered.