



LaHabra

September 1, 2007

Technical Memo: LaHabra Santa Barbara Mission Finish (SBMF)

LaHabra Santa Barbara Mission Finish (SBMF) is a smooth or semi-smooth finish for use over portland cement plaster "brown coat" or LaHabra Wall surfaces. LaHabra SBFM is a blend of cement, hydrated lime, aggregates and proprietary ingredients. SBFM is designed to be trowel applied to create a smooth, uniform finish that is regular and even in color.

Santa Barbara Mission Finish can also be used to produce a finish with variegated or mottled color. This popular look, often called Mediterranean or Tuscan, is a result of special finishing techniques employed by the applicator. Variegation or mottling in a colored portland cement finish occurs when the applicator trowels the finish repeatedly and adds water to the surface of the finish during the process. This water troweling technique produces an old world patina that is increasingly popular.

This technique brings much of the binder (sometimes called "paste" or "fat") in the product to the surface, separating it from the aggregate. This repeated troweling also builds up heat from the friction and burns or burnishes the finish, leaving light and dark areas on the surface.

Check cracking, sometimes referred to as eggshell- or spider-cracking, is also a common result of this technique. This cracking does not impact the performance of the finish and should be considered a normal element of the desired aesthetic.

It should be noted that water troweling also leaves the surface of the finish very dense; this prevents the stucco from being refinished without extensive surface preparation because of the lack of a mechanical key.

LaHabra, through our ISO 9001:2000 compliant quality assurance program, ensures that every bag of finish is manufactured to exacting specifications. Our raw materials and finished products are tested to ensure that they consistently exceed requirements. However, the raw materials that are used in the composition of LaHabra SBFM sometimes contain small pieces of lime, pigment or cement that can contribute to color streaks or spots when the material is heavily troweled. These particles are naturally occurring in the component materials and can not be eliminated during the manufacturing process.

The applicator has the option during the application process to remove material that may be undesirable or to repair the finish after installation if the property owner so requests.

LaHabra may from time to time determine that a color issue is the result of a manufacturing error and provide material for color correction. In such instances, LaHabra will only be responsible for providing material to correct the surface to the original, uniform color using LaHabra Allegro Cement Coating or paint. LaHabra will not assume the responsibility of duplicating or matching finish to resemble a variegated or mottled look.

For information and assistance when using SBFM please contact the LaHabra Technical Department at 1-877-LHSTUCCO.

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