

# Expo Care and Maintenance of Stucco



## **Instructions:**

Minimal care will keep a portland cement plaster (stucco) building attractive for many years. The simple act of washing, as with metal, wood and masonry buildings, will keep the surface clean and the color bright.

Washing plaster wall surfaces:

1. Pre-wet the wall, saturating it. Start at the bottom and work to the top.
2. Use a garden hose to 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.
3. Mild cleaners may be used to remove stains. Choose water-soluble cleaners that will not attack portland cement, lime or oxide pigment colors.
4. Flush remaining dirt off the wall with a follow-up rinse.

Pre-wetting will overcome absorption and prevent dirty wash water from being absorbed to dull the finish. A jet nozzle on a garden hose will clean effectively. Do not hold the nozzle too close to the surface, because the high-pressure stream may erode some finishes.

Be sure to keep irrigation systems directed away from your stucco wall. Over time, sprinkler systems could stain your stucco wall and might cause mildew (a fungus), or efflorescence (a whitish powdery "bloom") to form.

Chipped corners and small spalls can be patched. Premixed mortar can do the job. It will require only the addition of water, mixing to a doughy consistency, then troweling into the area to be patched and finishing to match the texture of the surrounding surface. The patch area should be dampened before patching.

In the event uncleanable staining is encountered, a bright new color may be achieved by refinishing, fog coating or brush coating.