Stockton PRODUCTS™

External Corner Reinforcement in Cement Plaster

External corner reinforcement shall be installed to reinforce all exterior plaster corners and help minimize future damage. The corner reinforcement may be expanded flange corner bead, welded wire corner, PVC corners or strip lath.

Welded Wire Corner:

Corrosion-resistant welded wire external corner reinforcement (commonly referred to as CornerAid®) with their large openings and a wire nose are the preferred external reinforcement for cement stucco applications.Welded wire allows the plaster to encase and fill the entire corner with plaster. This provides a strong and solid corner.

Welded wire corners come in straight pieces of 10 feet in length; square or bullnose shapes are available. Welded wire is also available as an "ArchAid®." This reinforcement allows for the welded wire to be curved to a smooth radius. The flanges of welded wire corners are nominally 2 3/8 inches wide. A short flange is also available and is specifically designed for returns with limited room. Most welded wire corners are also available with a plastic nose bead. Plastic nose beads are recommended for cement plaster with an acrylic finish coat and a wire nose for cement finish coats. Cement finish tends to flake off of the plastic nose. Acrylic finish coats can hold moisture longer and have been known to cause rust when used in damp coastal locations.

Soft Round Corners:

Occasionally a designer wants a corner more rounded than what a bullnose aid can provide. In some cases corner framing may even be altered to accommodate a softer radius. In these instances, the installer may use strip lath as corner reinforcement. Strip lath comes 6 inches wide by 10 feet in length and is made from expanded metal lath.

Expanded Flange Corner Bead:

Corner beads, originally developed to reinforce gypsum plaster, eventually found usage in portland cement plaster (stucco) because they were readily available and are easily installed. Although corner beads are helpful in establishing grounds and defining plaster corners, they have several downsides when used in exterior portland cement plaster (stucco). The solid corner is metal and while cement sticks to metal, it will not uniformly bond; causing the stucco to flake off and/or separate. In addition, water can accumulate in the hollow core of the corner, which may lead to premature deterioration and rusting.

Installation:

Install longest possible lengths continuously. Corners should be set plumb and level with string lines as a guide. The corner reinforcement is also to be used as a ground or guide for the plasterer when applying the base coat (brown coat). The finish coat typically covers the outer nose.

Attachment shall be as required to hold the accessory in place prior to and during the application of the plaster. Attachment is not intended for long-term service life, it is for the plasterer to have a solid secure ground as a guide. Once the plaster has encased the corner and set, the corner should not move.

This technical document is to serve as a guideline and is not intended for any specific construction project. TSIB makes no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied.

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