

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 25 GYPSUM BOARD, GYPSUM PANEL PRODUCTS AND PLASTER

SECTION 2512 EXTERIOR PLASTER

2512.1 General.

Plastering with *cement plaster* shall be not less than three coats where applied over metal lath or wire fabric lath or *gypsum board* backing as specified in [Section 2510.5](#) and shall be not less than two coats where applied over masonry or concrete. If the plaster surface is to be completely covered by *veneer* or other facing material, or is completely concealed by another wall, plaster application need only be two coats, provided that the total thickness is as set forth in [ASTM C926](#).

2512.1.1 On-grade floor slab.

On wood frame or steel stud construction with an on-grade concrete floor slab system, exterior plaster shall be applied in such a manner as to cover, but not to extend below, the lath and paper. The application of lath, paper and flashing or drip screeds shall comply with [ASTM C1063](#).

2512.1.2 Weep screeds.

A minimum 0.019-inch (0.48 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet gage), corrosion-resistant weep screed with a minimum vertical attachment flange of 3¹/₂ inches (89 mm) shall be provided at or below the foundation plate line on exterior stud walls in accordance with [ASTM C926](#). The weep screed shall be placed not less than 4 inches (102 mm) above the earth or 2 inches (51 mm) above paved areas and be of a type that will allow trapped water to drain to the exterior of the building. The *water-resistive barrier* shall lap the attachment flange. The exterior lath shall cover and terminate on the attachment flange of the weep screed.

2512.2 Plasticity agents.

Only *approved* plasticity agents and *approved* amounts thereof shall be added to Portland cement or blended cements. Where plastic cement or masonry cement is used, additional lime or plasticizers shall not be added. Hydrated lime or the equivalent amount of lime putty used as a plasticizer is permitted to be added to *cement plaster* or cement and lime plaster in an amount not to exceed that set forth in [ASTM C926](#).

2512.3 Limitations.

Gypsum plaster shall not be used on exterior surfaces.

2512.4 Cement plaster.

Plaster coats shall be protected from freezing for a period of not less than 24 hours after set has occurred. Plaster shall be applied when the ambient temperature is higher than 40°F (4°C), unless provisions are made to keep *cement plaster* work above 40°F (4°C) during application and 48 hours thereafter.

2512.5 Second-coat application.

The second coat shall be brought out to proper thickness, rodded and floated sufficiently rough to provide adequate bond for the finish coat. The second coat shall not have variations greater than ¹/₄ inch (6.4 mm) in any direction under a 5-foot (1524 mm) straight edge.

2512.6 Curing and interval.

First and second coats of *cement plaster* shall be applied and moist cured as set forth in [ASTM C926](#) and [Table 2512.6](#).

TABLE 2512.6
CEMENT PLASTERS

COAT	MINIMUM PERIOD MOIST CURING	MINIMUM INTERVAL BETWEEN COATS
First	48 hours ^a	48 hours ^b
Second	48 hours	7 days ^c
Finish	—	Note c

a. The first two coats shall be as required for the first coats of exterior plaster, except that the moist-curing time period between the first and second coats shall be not less than 24 hours. Moist curing shall not be required where job and weather conditions are favorable to the retention of moisture in the cement plaster for the required time period.

b. Twenty-four-hour minimum interval between coats of interior cement plaster. For

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alternative method of application, see [Section 2512.8](#).

- c. Finish coat plaster is permitted to be applied to interior cement plaster base coats after a 48-hour period.

2512.7 Application to solid backings.

Where applied over gypsum backing as specified in [Section 2510.5](#) or directly to unit masonry surfaces, the second coat is permitted to be applied as soon as the first coat has attained sufficient hardness.

2512.8 Alternate method of application.

The second coat is permitted to be applied as soon as the first coat has attained sufficient rigidity to receive the second coat.

2512.8.1 Admixtures.

Where using this method of application, calcium aluminate cement up to 15 percent of the weight of the Portland cement is permitted to be added to the mix.

2512.8.2 Curing.

Curing of the first coat is permitted to be omitted and the second coat shall be cured as set forth in [ASTM C926](#) and [Table 2512.6](#).

2512.9 Finish coats.

Cement plaster finish coats shall be applied over base coats that have been in place for the time periods set forth in [ASTM C926](#). The third or finish coat shall be applied with sufficient material and pressure to bond and to cover the brown coat and shall be of sufficient thickness to conceal the brown coat.