

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 7 FIRE AND SMOKE PROTECTION FEATURES

SECTION 719 FIRE-RESISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PLASTER

719.1 Thickness of plaster.

The minimum thickness of *gypsum plaster* or *Portland cement plaster* used in a fire-resistance-rated system shall be determined by the prescribed fire tests. The plaster thickness shall be measured from the face of the lath where applied to gypsum lath or metal lath.

719.2 Plaster equivalents.

For *fire-resistance* purposes, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) of unsanded *gypsum plaster* shall be deemed equivalent to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (19.1 mm) of one-to-three gypsum sand plaster or 1 inch (25 mm) of Portland cement sand plaster.

719.3 Noncombustible furring.

In buildings of Types I and II construction, plaster shall be applied directly on concrete or masonry or on *approved* noncombustible plastering base and furring.

719.4 Double reinforcement.

Plaster protection more than 1 inch (25 mm) in thickness shall be reinforced with an additional layer of *approved* lath embedded not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (19.1 mm) from the outer surface and fixed securely in place.

Exception: Solid plaster partitions or where otherwise determined by fire tests.

719.5 Plaster alternatives for concrete.

In reinforced concrete construction, *gypsum plaster* or *Portland cement plaster* is permitted to be substituted for $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) of the required poured concrete protection, except that a minimum thickness of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (9.5 mm) of poured concrete shall be provided in reinforced concrete floors and 1 inch (25 mm) in reinforced concrete columns in addition to the plaster finish. The concrete base shall be prepared in accordance with [Section 2510.7](#).