



BASEX FAQ

- Q. *Can the mesh be self adhesive and adhered directly to the wall?*
- A. **No, the mesh works only if it is embedded in the Basex material. If it is put between the Basex and the brown coat it actually acts as a “bond breaker.”**
- Q. *Does the mesh have to be completely covered by the Basex?*
- A. **Yes, it is possible in some colors to have the mesh pattern telegraph through to the finished color coat if it is not completely embedded in the base coat.**
- Q. *Is the process done in two coats?*
- A. **Not necessarily, if the brown coat is left a little rougher it is possible to spread enough Basex to thoroughly embed the mesh in one coat.**
- Q. *Can the mesh be applied vertically as well as horizontally?*
- A. **It is common to embed the mesh horizontally as this is how the scaffold is set and continuous mesh. Like re-bar, the least amount of breaks the better. If there is an area that works best embed vertically.**
- Q. *Should the mesh be overlapped as it is applied down the wall?*
- A. **Yes, 2 inch overlap is common.**
- Q. *Should the mesh be continuous around corners?*
- A. **Even though continuous around corners would be most beneficial for strength, it is not recommended as the corner on smooth stucco should be very straight. It would be difficult in some cases to keep the corner clean and straight with mesh on it. Cut the mesh back from the corner about an inch.**
- Q. *What about penetrations in the wall? How close does the mesh go to the windows and doors?*
- A. **Leave about an inch back from the opening. Just be sure to spread the Basex as close as possible to the milcor or reveal so as not to leave a dissimilar substrate around the opening.**
- Q. *What about recessed windows, doors, or alcoves?*
- A. **Some small recesses are better left unmeshed. However, larger returns should be meshed and always spread with Basex to achieve uniformity of color.**
- Q. *Do I have to use a bonding agent?*
- A. **Yes, since Basex has a high ratio of polymer for flexural strength, a bonding agent must be used to ensure bond. Acrylex (acrylic admixture) should be used in the mix at one gallon per three sacks of Santa Barbara Finish. Superhold (EVA Bonder) can be applied directly over the Basex on the wall. In hot, dry, or windy conditions, it would be best to use Superhold to have longer “open” time and therefore time to work the wall. In cooler temperatures it is best to use Acrylex in the mix. This process allows for more material to be applied while still ensuring a good bond.**
- Q. *Can I do part of the house with Basex and the rest with just normal scratch and brown coats?*
- A. **Yes, however keep in mind the substrates are different and therefore the material can dry differently and appear to be different colors. Typically the mottling will be less where there is Basex as the finish material stays moist longer because suction is reduced.**
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- Q. Would there ever be a reason to use Basex under coarse texture like 20/30 or 16/20 stucco?*
- A. Anytime cracking is either expected or the tolerance for cracking is low, Basex and mesh is recommended. While coarser textures tend to disguise any cracking, and conditions are present, that typically lead to movement, then by all means base and mesh is warranted.**
- Q. I need to patch some existing stucco. Is Basex good for that application to level out the wall? Will Basex also work as a brown coat?*
- A. Basex can be used to patch a wall. However, keep in mind that appearance can change with differing substrates. Basex should not be used instead of the brown coat. It is used as an extra coating.**
- Q. I used Basex but still have cracks. What's going on?*
- A. Typically when cracks are present after using Basex it is shrinkage type cracks, not structural cracks caused by movement. Shrinkage cracks are caused by not working the material at the proper time. That is, the material is still wet and then dries out after the applicators have left. Since there is less suction with Basex than a typical brown coat, it is important to watch the wall more closely and tool the material one last time before final drying.**
- When major structural forces are present in a building, they can overcome the added flexural strength of the Basex system and cause cracking in the finish coat.**
- Basex cannot be expected to eliminate 100 percent of cracking, but using Basex and mesh will reduce cracking approximately 90 percent on a typical building.**
- Q. Can I apply Basex directly over a painted surface?*
- A. No Superhold should be applied to a painted surface that is sound and clean. Bond the Basex to the wall then proceed with the system as described above.**
- Q. Do I have to use Merlex mesh? What weight?*
- A. To qualify for the full Merlex warranty, all products should be supplied by Merlex. Basex Mesh is 4.5% oz. alkali-resistant fiberglass mesh.**
- Q. I use foam coating product and mesh under smooth Santa Barbara Finish and get good results. Why should I use Basex instead of a foam coating product?*
- A. While foam coating materials have long been used to embed mesh and reduce cracking, Basex is designed specifically for reducing cracking in smooth-troweled plaster systems on walls. Basex contains extra polymer and added ingredients for flexural strength. Even though a foam coating helps, it is not the proper product for the job. In addition, there would be no warranty for this process.**
- Q. Can Basex be used as a base for acrylic finishes?*
- A. Yes, the material is very similar to other manufacturers' synthetic base coats. So structurally and functionally it will work. However the acrylic product manufacturer's warranty may be voided if Basex were substituted for their proprietary material.**
- Q. Can Basex be used over CMU block walls?*
- A. Yes, it would be ideal for killing suction differences and leveling a block wall and could eliminate the need for a brown coat.**
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