



# Masonry Insulating System

## MASONRY INSULATING SYSTEM SPECIFICATION



### Project details

Project Name:

Project Address:

Specification Prepared For:

Specifier's Name:

Phone:

Date:

Licensed Specialized Plastering Contractor:

License Number:

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### Introduction

This specification is for the application of Specialized Construction Products fibreglass mesh reinforced, concrete formwork insulating and finishing system. The Coarse Mesh coat which is the basis of the plaster system which is applied over a layer of prebonded Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), is a preblended, cement-based plaster that can be easily applied as a single levelling/flanking coat 3-4 mm thick over properly prepared polystyrene backgrounds to produce a high quality even and true surface prior to a selected finishing plaster being applied.

The specially developed plaster mix contains a blended mix of aggregates, cement, proprietary ingredients and a unique fibre reinforcement which not only relieves curing stresses but also provides an excellent surface key for a variety of conventional plaster finishes.



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## Pre-Plastering Requirements

The masonry substrate must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and recommended installation procedures. The manufacturers required curing time must be allowed after placement of the blocks to ensure all of the pointing has completely cured and the walls have stabilised. The finished appearance of the wall is highly dependant on the standard of the wall construction.

All loose or damaged material must be removed by waterblasting, sandblasting or mechanical wire brushing and repaired prior to being primed. All surface imperfections such as blowholes, cracks and spalling must all be patched and levelled to required tolerances and smoothness with Specialized plaster materials before the EPS substrate is applied.

Decks, balconies and parapets must have adequate falls and rigidity to prevent water ponding on the finished surface. A minimum fall of 2 : 80 is highly recommended.

This system must not be used in situations where water may pond. A minimum slope of 10° is required on all sills and copings. It is also not suitable for vehicular traffic or for use below ground.

Particular attention to detail and workmanship must be given to the weatherproofing details relating to flashing and sealing building penetrations or junctions with other building materials. This system is not designed as a waterproofing element for junctions between dissimilar materials. Its job is to provide a means of thermal insulation and an aesthetically pleasing finish to the exterior envelope of masonry dwellings. All junctions between masonry substrates, poured concrete surfaces and dissimilar materials must be correctly flashed with appropriate metal or PVC flashings and sealed with MS Silaflex or another approved equivalent. The MS sealant must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and must be left to properly cure prior to plastering.

Construction Joints must be provided according to the block manufacturers

design criteria. All construction joints must be in place and must be waterproof prior to the commencement of plastering.

All meterboxes should have an aluminium or lead flashing fixed over the head and must allow water to drain to the outside of the building should water egress from above.

## Waterproofing

All surfaces to receive an application of Specialized Construction Products Tankit Waterproofing Membrane must be clean and free of debris, dirt and dust, efflorescence, grease, oils, curing agents, cleaning solutions, mould and algae or any other contaminants that may affect adhesion. Painted or glossy surfaces must be specially treated prior to the application of any plaster material, please refer to Specialized Construction Products for specialist advice before you proceed. All cracks that may be the subject to ongoing movement must be correctly repaired and reinforced.

Tilt slab and other precast concrete items should be chemically cleaned with a water blaster and left to dry to ensure any mould release agents are removed before the primer is applied. Failing to correctly prepare the substrate, may affect the adhesion of the Tankit and hence the subsequent ability of the Tankit to provide a waterproof barrier.

Where Tankit is being applied over an existing acrylic coating, it is crucial that the previous system is well adhered to the substrate. The existing coating must be well cleaned and checked for adhesion prior to the tankit being used.

Do not wet down masonry surfaces before priming and do not apply Tankit to surfaces that are wet from rain or overnight dew.

## Surface Preparation Of The Masonry

All nibs, protrusions and excess mortar on the surface of the blocks or irregularities in the slab must be ground off prior to plastering.

All surfaces to receive an application of EPS must be clean and free of debris,

dirt and dust, efflorescence, grease, oils, curing agents, cleaning solutions, mould and algae or any other contaminants that may affect adhesion. Painted or glossy surfaces must be specially treated prior to the application of the EPS material, please refer to Specialized Construction Products for specialist advice before you proceed. All cracks that may be the subject to ongoing movement must be correctly repaired and reinforced.

Some smooth, dense concrete surfaces must be slush coated before application of the EPS substrate to ensure a suitable bond is created, please refer to Specialized Construction Products for specialist advice before you proceed. Tilt slab and other precast concrete items should be chemically cleaned with a water blaster to ensure any mould release agents are removed before the plaster is applied. All very porous surfaces should be sealed with an appropriate paint sealer prior to the application of the EPS. Failing to correctly prepare the masonry substrate, may affect the adhesion of the EPS.

## Safety Precautions

Avoid contact with eyes and prolonged contact with skin. Wash thoroughly after handling all wet or dry plaster materials. In case of eye contact, flush immediately with running water for at least 15 minutes. Consult a physician immediately. Do not take internally. The potential irritant nature of the plaster dust (in dry powder form or from subsequent cutting of the hardened product) is recognised. Paper dust masks or a respirator must be worn at all times when the product is being mixed. Be sure to provide adequate ventilation when working in enclosed areas. The wet compound is alkaline and prolonged skin contact should be avoided. People with sensitive skin must wear rubber gloves when handling the product. Materials Safety Data Sheets are available on request.

## EPS Application

To bond the EPS to the masonry substrate mix up Specialized Construction Products fine base coat plaster with the addition of 1 litre of

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Specialized Construction Products resin per bag. Cut the polystyrene to size and check the fit. Note: When bonding sheets they are very hard to handle, so don't fix sheets bigger than 1.2 x 1.2m. Apply the fine base coat plaster to the back of the sheet with a grooved trowel around the perimeter and in vertical strips every 400mm. Masonry anchors should be used to ensure the sheets stay in place while the bonding plaster sets. Bed each sheet/shape back against the wall, keeping a check that the sheets/shapes are flat by using a straight edge across their face. To ensure no thermal bridges are formed keep all the edges closely butted and clear of adhesive plaster.

## Plaster Application

Any EPS that has been directly adhered to the concrete or masonry substrate must be rasped and free of all bond-inhibiting materials, including but not limited to dust, oxidation and dirt.

Around the base of the building ensure all lines are straight and level. Trim and adjust where necessary. Use a two metre straight edge and check the flatness of the polystyrene surfaces. Use a one metre long sanding block to sand off any large irregularities and make the polystyrene surfaces level and the corners and edges straight. When sanding is complete, sweep the walls clean of polystyrene swarf.

Only once the polystyrene is entirely flat should any additional PVC beading be fixed to the substrate (i.e. PVC corners and base U-channels). All exposed polystyrene corners and bottom edges must be protected by gluing on the appropriate PVC section. The beads are glued on with Sika Nailbond PB Adhesive. Apply glue to all contact surfaces.

Once all the PVC beads are fitted, they must be primed with a mixture of undiluted resin and dry fine base coat plaster.

The instructions for mixing the base coat plaster are clearly spelt out on the bag. Note: During summer, you can add one litre of resin per bag to help the plaster cure better in hot weather.

It is important that each mix stands for approximately 10 minutes, and is then re-

stirred and the final consistency adjusted. This allows the thickening agents in the plaster to take effect and stops the brew becoming too thick too quickly. Do not use plaster that has been mixed for more than one hour. The plaster will continue to stiffen slightly over the hour.

Thickness is critical - a minimum thickness of 3mm must be achieved with this first coat. Do not force the mesh hard down onto the surface of the polystyrene. The mesh pattern should be "grinning" through, but the mesh itself completely covered with plaster. Apply a 100 to 200mm band of plaster around the corner and imbed the overhanging corner mesh. Once imbedded scrape away the plaster at the edge of the mesh to ensure there is no plaster ridge there when you join on later. Repeat the process. Mesh must overlap the adjacent drop and plaster coat by at least 30mm. The mesh and plaster coat must cover all polystyrene surfaces including the polystyrene edges around all window reveals and sills.

At the corners of all openings, apply a second layer of mesh 100 x 200mm (butterfly) imbedded on the diagonal. This greatly reduces the chance of any subsequent cracking at these high stress points.

## Finishing Plasters Options

### FLOAT FINISH

A polymer modified cement based plaster which is polished flat to achieve a fine granular finish.

### SPANISH FINISH

A polymer-modified, cement based plaster used to achieve an undulating adobe style finish. This product can be applied in various thicknesses and using a number of different techniques. Before finish coating begins ensure the style of finish that is desired has been correctly communicated and understood by the plasterer. A trial sample is highly recommended.

### TEXTURE

A polymer-modified, cement based

plaster which can be sprayed through a sagola gun to achieve a finely spiked texture finish.

### FINE BASE COAT

A polymer-modified, cement based plaster which can be sprayed through a hopper gun or a sagola gun to achieve a heavy stucco plaster finish.

### PAINT PLASTERSHIELD

A 100% acrylic-based paint that has been specially formulated for use over cement based plasters. All plastered surfaces must be coated with a minimum of 2 coats of Plastershield tinted to the selected colour and applied by brush and roller at a spread rate of approximately 6m<sup>2</sup>. Other paint systems are not covered by this specification sheet and Specialized Construction Products Ltd will not warrant the use or suitability of alternative paint systems over the surface of its plaster finishes.

Paint colour required:

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Manufacturer:

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## Curing

The curing time of plaster system that has been applied to the EPS will vary due to ambient temperature, relative humidity, surface temperature, surface porosity, application methods, and/or the thickness of the material. All freshly applied material must be protected from inclement weather for a minimum of 24 hours after application. It is the responsibility of the plaster applicator to determine if the product is cured and/or dry prior to applying any additional coats that may be required or exposing the applied product to rain, snow, dew, and/or any other inclement weather condition that may have a detrimental affect. Although the plaster products that are used for this system contain cement and it will not fully cure for 28 days, if the base coat has had a finish applied over its surface, and as long as it is lightly hosed down with fresh

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water 12 hours prior to painting, it can be painted after the finish coats have cured for a minimum of 3- 4 days.

## Limitations

**DO NOT** apply any plaster materials when the ambient or surface temperature is below 4°C or above 30°C or will be in that range for the 24-hour period after application. When hot, dry, or windy conditions exist, moist curing and protection must be provided. Material that is allowed to freeze or material that dries too quickly may suffer irreparable damage.

**DO NOT** add any other materials to the plasters used in this system or deviate from the mixing or application procedures outlined in any of Specialized Construction Product's technical data sheets without written approval from Specialized Constructions Products Ltd.

**DO NOT** apply any plaster material unless the substrate has been properly cleaned and prepared. See Surface Preparation above.

**DO NOT** add any more water than prescribed by the technical data sheet for this product.

**DO NOT** wet the wall prior to the application of this material.

**DO NOT** reactivate any plaster with more water once it has begun to set.

**DO NOT** mix more plaster than you can use in 45 minutes

**NOTE: Failure to follow the manufacturers written specifications could result in the following but not limited to spalling, cracking, peeling, chipping, delamination, discoloration, wash off, and overall system failure.**

On-site application is beyond the control of Specialized Construction Products Ltd. Therefore it cannot guarantee workmanship, supervision, aesthetic quality or the correct preparation and application of its products or the substrates to which its products may be applied.

## Cleaning

Cleaning may be accomplished with water immediately after use. Clean the whisk and the bucket between mixes and discard the cleaning water.

## Plaster Storage

In bagged form this product must be stored in a dry area, off the floor on a timber pallet or timber dunnage and it must be protected from the weather and from mechanical damage. Rotate the stock to ensure that the oldest material is used first. Plaster stock that is older than six months should be discarded.

## Maintenance

The wall cladding system should be regularly cleaned, at least annually, by washing with clean water to remove dirt and to maintain the finish appearance. Grime may be removed with warm water and detergent.

Plastered wall should be recoated with either Plastershield or another approved paint system at 5 to 8 yearly intervals or sooner if required to maintain watertightness. Regular checks, at least annually, must be made of the system to ensure that the weather resistant coating is maintained watertight, and that the sealant, flashings, and other joints continue to perform their function and do not allow water to penetrate. Failure to correctly maintain the system may void any long-term warranties offered with the cladding must be repaired immediately using Specialized Construction Products materials.

## Warranty

The recommendations, suggestions, statements and technical data provided by Specialized Construction Products Ltd are based on the best current knowledge available and are given for information purposes only without any responsibility for their use. It is expressly understood and agreed that the buyer's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the replacement of defective products, and under no circumstance, shall Specialized Construction Products Ltd be liable for incidental or consequential damages. Specialized Construction Products Ltd neither assumes, nor authorizes, any others to assume for it any liability with respect to furnishing of the product. Handling and use of the products are beyond the control of Specialized Construction Products Ltd; therefore, no warranty is made, expressed or implied, as to the results or on site quality that can be obtained from the use of the product.

### System Guarantee Period

15 years from date of practical completion.

### Workmanship Guarantee Period

5 years from date of practical completion.

## Technical Assistance

Assistance and information is available by calling Specialized Construction Products Ltd on **(09) 414 4499** or **0800 800 79** or by e-mail at **info@specialized.co.nz**.