

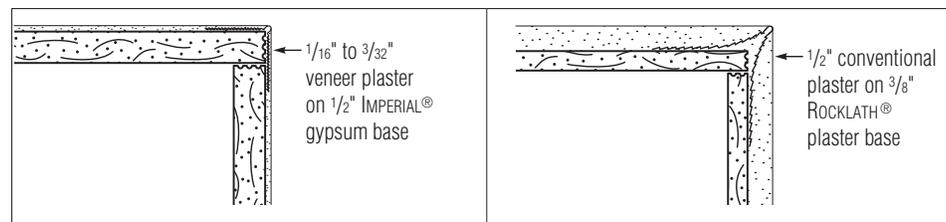
Product and Systems Technology

How to Use Trims and Beads Properly in Plastering

PM20

Quality plastering requires the use of high-quality accessories that are compatible with plaster products. The accessories must permit the plaster to easily encapsulate them while not interfering with the bonding of plaster to the substrate.

The ideal accessory product has a mesh surface that not only keys with the plaster, but also allows the plaster to flow through the accessory and form a good bond to the substrate. Further, the accessory material must be rigid enough to add to the total strength of the completed assembly. A successful plaster application forms a rigid assembly where the plaster, the trim and the substrate are bonded together to form a strong, reinforced assembly.



Illustrations show expanded mesh flanges fully encapsulated in conventional and veneer plaster assemblies.

Types of Trims and Beads

Trims and beads may be used for many functions. They establish proper plaster thickness (grounds), reinforce corners, reinforce angles of metal lath, span openings, form plaster stops, trim around doors and windows, create junctions with other materials, and create an expansion or control joint. Beads and trims made of metal, vinyl and combinations of paper and metal are on the market.

Accessories designed for use with drywall systems are not necessarily best with plaster systems. For one thing, joint compounds used in drywall systems contain adhesive binders that help the compound bond to the trim material, whereas plasters do not contain adhesive-type binders. Also, joint compounds are not applied in the same way that plaster products are applied. For instance, paper-faced bead and trim products work fine with joint compounds, but the greater amount of troweling that takes place in plastering causes the paper to fuzz up and show through finished applications. Also, the joint compound is a thin covering that doesn't have to fill the area between the trim and the substrate to work. In trim applications in plaster systems, the plaster needs to bond with the substrate to provide proper strength.

Mini-mesh trims are designed to be used with veneer plaster assemblies because veneer plaster is thin and doesn't easily cover thicker metal accessories. Using trims designed for drywall or for conventional plaster assemblies in a veneer plaster assembly are likely to result in show-through, poor bond, spalling or a lack of bond to the substrate.

Vinyl products usually have a solid surface and don't permit the plaster to get under them and bond to the substrate or to the top and bottom surfaces of the trim. Furthermore, vinyl trims are usually too flexible to contribute to the strength of the completed assembly. Because of this lack of bond with vinyl components, it is necessary to treat the flanges of vinyl components with a plaster bonder, such as USG™ plaster bonder, to make the plaster adhere to the vinyl surface.

Metal trims and beads have the strength to reinforce the overall assembly of plaster, substrate and trim. However, to work properly, metal components must have mesh-type flanges to allow the plaster to get behind the trim and bond to the substrate. In an ideal plaster assembly, the metal trim is completely encapsulated in plaster. Solid metal accessories also need an application of plaster bonder to make the plaster adhere to the metal surface.

One limitation to metal components is that not all trim profiles are available in metal. For instance, in many areas of the country bullnose corners are frequently available only in vinyl, paper-faced or metal profiles. See PM13, "Recommended Installation of Bullnose Corners with Veneer Plaster Systems," for more information about bullnose corners.

Control and expansion joints have special performance purposes. They are used to prevent cracking in large expanses of walls and ceilings, between surfaces of dissimilar construction and where “L,” “U,” or “T” shaped ceilings are joined. It is important to fasten control joints through the substrate to the framing to make them work properly. See PM17, “Preventing Cracks in Veneer and Conventional Plaster Systems,” for more information about control joints.

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