

“3 Coat” VS “1 Coat” Stucco

3 COAT STUCCO

1 COAT STUCCO



Lath



- Uses two-ply paper
- 17-gauge metal lath, which is thicker and provides greater strength and durability
- Less insulating value from the lath

- Uses two-ply paper
- 1" foam board (in most cases)
- 20-gauge wire
- Offers integrated insulation but thinner wire for less reinforcement.



Base Coats



- Applied in two base coats
- A scratch coat and a brown coat
- Combine to create a thick, durable 7/8" base, offering superior impact resistance

- Applied in a single base coat
- Applied approximately 3/8" thick
- Quicker to apply but less impact-resistant compared to the 3-coat system



Finish Coats



- Compatible with any type of finish, providing a more solid and stable foundation (base coats) that supports a wide range of options.

- Can use any finish, but acrylic finishes are often preferred due to their flexibility, which works well with the thinner base coat that is used.



Overall Thickness of System



- Approximately 1" thick, combining the scratch, brown, and finish coats for a strong, durable system.
- 7/8" base coat with a 1/16" to 1/8" finish coat.

- Around 1 1/2" thick, with a foam layer that adds insulation and contributes to the overall thickness.
- 1" foam, 3/8" base coat with a 1/16" to 1/8" finish coat.



Advantages



- Superior durability and impact resistance due to thicker base coats.
- Greater flexibility in handling structural movement.
- Compatible with a wide variety of finishes and textures.

- Faster installation due to fewer layers having to be installed.
- Foam board adds insulation and efficiency.
- Lower labor costs compared to 3-coat systems.



Disadvantages



- Longer installation time due to multiple layers and curing times.
- Higher labor costs and more material-intensive for base coats.
- Requires skilled application of base coat materials.

- Thinner base coat provides less impact resistance compared to 3-coat systems.
- Heavier reliance on foam board, which can be less durable over time.
- May be less suited for high-traffic or high-impact areas.