

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT

EXTERIOR PLASTER - SMOOTH STONE





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EXTERIOR PLASTER - SMOOTH STONE

1. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Smooth Stone is a mid-sheen finish with visible marble grain and subtle tonal variation across the surface. The Smooth Stone polished finish is like traditional Marmorino, which was used extensively in northern Italy during the Renaissance period and beyond as an internal and external wall finish and as a background for the ornate frescoes which dominated much of the decoration of that time.

Armourcoat Smooth Stone is created using our lime and marble PPX mix.

This is used in combination with our PPX basecoat which is used to level the surface and provide a flat stable base for the topcoat.

We will generally incorporate a reinforcing mesh into the basecoat to reduce the risk of movement cracks.

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster is a natural hydraulic lime finish which has been enhanced with hydrophobic polymer technology. The two-layer topcoat finish incorporates crushed marble, hydraulic lime and cement to achieve stunning surface finishes. It can be applied as part of the Armourcoat Exterior Plaster external wall insulation system (EWI) or over Brick, Blockwork, Concrete and Cement board.

The Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI System provides a layer of insulation using mineral wool boards.

These are suitable for new builds and renovation projects producing stunning decorative stone like surface finishes using Armourcoat PPX Topcoat.

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster offers a durable weatherproof coating for building exteriors or areas prone to moisture.

Properties

- · A polymer-modified limestone external render suitable for new build and renovation projects
- · Offers a durable weatherproof vapour permeable decorative layer
- · Available in a stunning range of light natural stone colours and finishes
- · Armourcoat PPX topcoat contains 25% recycled material
- Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI System added layer of insulation
- Suitable for most substrates including brickwork, blockwork, masonry or stone backgrounds, cement board, EPS foam insulation board and Mineral Wool
- Part of ETAG approved EWI (External Wall Insulation) system to offer outstanding thermal insulation and fire safety to the exterior of the building
- · EWI system increases energy efficiency and reduces building maintenance
- EWI system tested to ETAG-004 by Lucideon independent material testing
- Achieves A2-s1, d0 fire classification as outlined in EN13501
- · LBC Red List Compliant



1.1. EXPECTATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Lime based plasters have been used in exterior situations for many centuries. The products themselves are more suitable for use in Mediterranean type climates but have been used with success in many climates across the world.

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster is made out of natural mineral materials and will age naturally. If your requirement is for a surface with monotone and uniform colour that will not change over time, then you should use a synthetic polymer finish. If, however you seek the soft tonal variations and natural mineral quality of walls such as those seen in Venice and Rome, and you can accept and appreciate the charm of walls that reflect the age of the building, then Armourcoat Exterior Plaster is a suitable product.

The durability and longevity of these exterior plasters depends on many factors including environment, building details, the level of exposure and the standard of workmanship.

Careful attention needs to be paid to the building design and details in line with these guiding principals:

- · Only apply to vertical surfaces
- · Only finish down to the damp course and never to the ground
- · Only use in light colours
- · Ensure there is a suitable protective overhang at the top of the wall
- Avoid situations where water will constantly run down the face of the plaster

1.2. SURFACES

Only apply to vertical surfaces. These products are in no way suitable for finishing horizontal or inclined surfaces as they will not shed water adequately.

1.3. COLOUR

The only pigments that are suitable in an exterior situation are Iron Oxide pigments which are inert and totally resistant to ultraviolet light.

Darker colours absorb thermal energy from the sun more quickly which causes the walls to heat up and expand. constant rapid thermal expansion and contraction may eventually lead to micro or road map cracking in the surface.

All lime plasters can be prone to efflorescence which can disfigure the appearance of a wall and this is more likely to occur and more noticeable on darker colours.

We therefore have an upper limit of pigment addition of about 1%.

1.4. OVERHANGS AND SOFFITS

It is important that the roof has an overhang, which protects the walls from straight falling rain. In very wet climates elements such as sills and eaves should project well beyond the face of the wall and be provided with ample drip grooves to ensure that water is thrown clear of the wall face.

Semi-external and protected areas such as under soffits will age differently to directly exposed areas and streaking will occur if water is allowed to run down localised areas of the surface. If water permeates through from behind the plaster, it can lead to darkening and staining of the finish.

If maintenance is to be kept to a minimum it is essential that adequate drainage from all gutters, down pipes and waste pipes is available to ensure that there is no accumulation of water on or adjacent to the building.



2. TEST DATA

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster has been subjected to a range of Fire and Exterior performance testing.

2.1. EUROPEAN FIRE TEST RESULTS

Independent tests were carried out in the UK for classification of reaction to fire performance in accordance with EN13501-1:2018.

REACTION TO FIRE CLASSIFICATION

A2 - s1, d0*

*Both Armourcoat PPX and Armourcoat PPX EWI

2.2. HYGROTHERMAL TESTING

Hygrothermal testing was done in accordance with the method given in ETAG 004:2013 Guideline for Technical Approval of External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems with Rendering.

System tested with Rockwool External Wall DD Slab (100mm) with Armourcoat PPX Basecoat, Armourcoat PPX Topcoat and Sealer 56.

TEST	ETAG 004 CLAUSE	REQUIREMENT	PASS/FAIL
Hygrothermal Performance - Wall	5.1.3.2.1	No cracking, blistering, peeling or delamination	Pass
Bond Strength - Wall	5.1.4.1.1	>=0.08 N/mm2 or cohesive failure of insulation	Pass
Hard Body Impact Resistance - Wall	5.1.3.3; ISO 7892:1998	Category I, II or III	Category II
Bond Strength Control - Small Samples	5.1.4.1.1	>=0.08 N/mm2 or cohesive failure of insulation	Pass
Capillary Test - Small Samples Basecoat only	5.1.3.1	<0.5 Kg/m2 after 24 Hours	Pass
Capillary Test - Small Samples Full system including Sealer 56	5.1.3.1	<0.5 Kg/m2 after 24 Hours	Pass



System Two tested Armourcoat PPX Basecoat, Armourcoat PPX Topcoat and Matt Sealer 56.

TEST	ETAG 004 CLAUSE	REQUIREMENT	PASS/FAIL
Hygrothermal Performance - Wall	5.1.3.2.1	No cracking, blistering, peeling or delamination	Pass
Bond Strength - Wall	5.1.4.1.1	>=0.08 N/mm2 or cohesive failure of Insulation	Pass
Hard Body Impact Resistance - Wall	5.1.3.3; ISO	Category I, II or III	Category II

2.3. LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE (LBC)

Living Building Challenge (LBC) Red List Approved is a status indicating that a product is in compliance with the requirements of the LBC Challenge. Armourcoat Exterior Plaster has met this challenge and contains no materials that appear on the LBC Red List - March 2022.

3. SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

The specification is for guidance only. It describes good working practice. It does not claim to be the right or only method of using render board to provide a solid substrate and is made without responsibility for the execution of the work. Build quality is the responsibility of the installer/builder.

Armourcoat recommend the use of either Siniat Bluclad cement fibre board, Fermacell H2O Power Panel Board or Euroform Rendaboard. If other makes or types of render board are to be used, please contact Armourcoat first.

Architects, when specifying Armourcoat Exterior Plaster, shall give special attention in their design to wall line or flatness, avoidance of cracks and external corners. Recommendations on these matters are contained in this specification.

This substrate is to be used in situations where Armourcoat Exterior Plaster is likely to be splashed intermittently with water or exposed to external weathering but not fully submerged.

The following construction relates to non-loadbearing constructions up to 4 m in height. For additional heights in excess of 4 m please contact the board manufacturer (see suppliers list - section 3.7.4).

3.1. BRICK, BLOCK AND CONCRETE

For substrates such as masonry, dense concrete blocks, lightweight aerated concrete blocks, in situ concrete and thin joint autoclave block systems, PPX Basecoat can be applied to a minimum of 6mm and a maximum of 12mm thickness in preparation for the application of PPX Topcoat. If tolerances exceed +/- 3mm in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal plane a scratch coat of Armourcoat PPX should be used.



3.2. CEMENT BOARD

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster can be applied directly onto cement board.

Install the cement board with suitable fixings in line with the manufacturer's recommendations.

When working around windows or door openings, it important not to join two boards at the corner as this is a natural stress point. Cut the corner section out of a single board and fix this around the opening.

Some systems include the application of a mesh at the joints prior to the application of the mesh render system. We consider this to be good practice for avoidance of hairline cracks at panel joins and so for systems that do not have this requirement as part of their installation procedure we do recommend the application of a secondary mesh over the joints that is 150mm in width or the application of a second layer of boards with staggered joints.

3.3. EWI SUBSTRATES

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster can also be applied over mineral wool board and when specified this makes up part of the Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI system.

The application of Armourcoat K40 Primer is recommended onto most substrates to even out the suction between the brick or blocks and the mortar joints or on high suction backgrounds to reduce the absorbency of the substrate.

3.3.1. System Components

The Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI System provides outstanding thermal insulation tested to stringent ETAG (European Technical Approval Guidelines) standards.

Insulation layer - The Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI System uses Rockwool External Wall DD Slab board. The board is fixed by adhesive (Armourcoat PPX Basecoat) or mechanical fixings (Armourcoat CN8 fixings) or a combination of both.

Mesh layer - Armourcoat's premium alkali resistant mesh cloth is incorporated into the basecoat. This provides both reinforcement, impact and crack resistance together with improved tensile strength.

Base layer - Armourcoat PPX Basecoat render is then applied at a thickness of 6-8mm with a maximum thickness of 10-12mm in one coat. The high-performance material provides the perfect base for Armourcoat PPX topcoat and creates a high performance durable coating.

Top layer - Armourcoat PPX Topcoat creates the distinctive Armourcoat honed and textured stone like finish.

Protective sealer layer - We have two main options for a protective layer to the surface.

Armourcoat Sealer 56 is used to provide enhanced protection from staining together with UV, abrasion and water resistance.

Armoursil impregnator reduced the water uptake and absorbency of the finish without reducing the water vapour permeability.



3.3.2. EWI Refurbishment of Existing Buildings

EWI systems are the preferred choice providing a cost-effective method of renovation of traditional buildings requiring thermal performance improvements. There are an estimated 7 million buildings in the UK built from single skin solid walls and a smaller number of non-traditional construction methods including precast concrete and steel frames. In these buildings the structural wall is cold and damp with an increased risk of mould and condensation. Even in buildings designed with cavity wall insulation the unprotected outer leaf construction is at risk of cold bridging and weather damage. Most existing buildings do not meet the standards set by modern Building Regulations with increasing costs of heating and maintenance a central issue for both commercial redevelopment and domestic refurbishment.

Architects and designers can transform the external façade of existing building through the specification of Armourcoat Exterior Plaster and in combination with the Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI System to upgrade thermal performance, fire safety and appearance. The wide range of colours and finishes based on Armourcoat's highly regarded Exterior Plaster surfaces can create original and highly aesthetic façades including application of banding and stencil techniques.

The Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI System provides instant savings in energy costs through improved thermal performance whilst protecting and enhancing the appearance of the exterior of the building.

3.3.3. EWI New Build and Substrate Systems for New Builds

EWI systems provide the specifier with modern design options to create original and innovative building façades for new build projects. Meeting and often exceeding Building Regulation requirements for thermal performance, EWI systems even achieve standards for demanding projects including sustainable low energy buildings such as Passivehouse designs.

Suitable for all types of substrates including brick, block, masonry, timber or lightweight metal frame the Armourcoat Exterior Plaster EWI system works to compliment or contrast with other building materials including stone, glass and timber. Armourcoat Exterior Plaster can create stunning stone like finishes in a wide range of colour and finishes which can incorporate detail elements such as branding, logos and stencil designs.

Steel frame construction

An external skin of cement particle board (CPB) is applied to the steel framework to provide insulation within the frame and external face. This enables a fast-track panellised system for rapid construction.

Timber frame construction

An external skin of oriented strand board (OSB) or sterling board is applied to the timber framework. Detailing will include emphasis on possible increased structural movement.

Masonry construction

A traditional method where the internal load bearing wall (including concrete blocks, aerated blocks, thin joint systems and single skin brick construction) with stainless steel ties to an outer wall of either brick or block.

SIPS (structural insulated panel systems) construction

An alternative to traditional construction methods SIPS incorporates high performance insulation with CPB/OSB fixed to both sides.



Modular construction

Another modern method using pre-finished 'Volumetric' pods typically complete with external finishes and services ready for onsite assembly.

ICF (insulating concrete form) construction

EPS formwork system with concrete core offering enhanced thermal and acoustic properties along with design flexibility

3.4. BUILD QUALITY

The walls shall be firmly constructed in metal stud partition which shall be vertically plumb and built to a true horizontal line without undulations, bumps, hollows or dives and within strict tolerances of plus or minus 1mm in 600mm and plus or minus 3mm in 1.8 metres. In the construction of the stud partition walls the vertical supports and cross supports shall be positioned to support all board joints. Timber supports may be specified in limited circumstances but to minimise the risk of cracking shall be in seasoned timber to a moisture content not exceeding that recommended in BS5268 Part 2 1984. If in doubt of the seasoned quality of the timber, specify metal studding.

The walls when boarded out shall have no discernible movement when subjected to intermittent pressures (rocking) or impact.

3.5. FIXING

The manufacturers installation recommendations for both Siniat Blueclad, H2O Power Panel and Euroform Rendaboard is for a single layer of board fixed to a suitable solid stud-work construction. The system is then reinforced with a thin bed mesh render system such as the PPX Basecoat reinforced with R160 mesh or the heavy duty R330 Panzer mesh.

This approach is entirely permissible, but it should be noted that a double layer construction will ultimately be more durable and inherently more resistant to hairline cracks in the event of impact, thermal movement or slight building movement.

It is ultimately the decision of the specifier or the client to select single- or double-layer construction.

3.5.1. Single Layer Construction

Boards shall be fixed vertically for straight walls.

Boards shall be fixed **horizontally** for **curved** and circular walls and the radius shall not be less than 4 m.

Fixings through render board are to be made using No. 6 or 8 stainless steel screws with selfembedding heads e.g. bugle heads, which must be screwed flush with the board surface (see suppliers list - section 11).

Drill pilot holes through the board before fixing to the studs. Fixings must not be positioned with centres closer than 12mm to edge of board or closer than 35mm to a corner. Fixing centres must not be more than 300mm apart.

All edges must be continuously supported over full length of each edge on 50mm minimum width studs.

The line of the boards shall be finished true with no discernible undulations, bumps, hollows or dives and within tolerances previously specified in 2.



3.5.2. Double Layer Construction

For all double layer construction, the board joints are to be staggered between layers both on horizontal and vertical joints.

Use 10mm **Bluclad** board or 12mm **Rendaboard** for first layer. Ensure that wall is detailed to prevent ingress of moisture through edges.

Bluclad is to be fixed such that the textured face is exposed for coating by Armourcoat and Rendaboard is to be fixed such that the non-glossy face is exposed for coating by Armourcoat.

Fixings through plasterboard are to be made using standard drywall screws with heads countersunk 1mm without breaking the surface of the board.

Both Bluclad boards and plasterboards shall be fixed to maintain tolerances and avoid the formation of bellies between supports. Place the first board in position and fix the first vertical edge. Press the board flat against the next vertical support and fix to it. Continue to work progressively across the wall. **DO NOT** fix both vertical edges before fixing to the intermediate supports.

3.5.3. Fixing Details Summary for Double Layered Systems

	1ST LAYER INTERIOR	2ND LAYER INTERIOR	1ST LAYER EXTERIOR	2ND LAYER EXTERIOR
Board Type	12.5mm plasterboard	10 mm Bluclad or 12 mm Rendaboard	10mm Bluclad or 12mm Rendaboard	10mm Bluclad or 12mm Rendaboard
Treatment	None	Apply 4-6mm of PPX basecoat to surface. Whilst wet embed the R160 Mesh and apply a further 1-2mm of PPX basecoat	None	Apply 4-6mm of PPX basecoat to surface. Whilst wet embed the R160 Mesh and apply a further 1-2mm of PPX basecoat
Screw length Use No. 6 or No. 8	Drywall 25mm into metal stud 38mm into timber stud	Stainless steel self- embedding head.	Drywall 25mm into metal stud 38mm into timber stud. Bluclad/Rendaboard - same as 2nd layer fixing requirements	Stainless steel self-embedding head. 38mm into metal stud 50mm into timber stud
Width of stud to fix into	50mm minimum	50mm minimum	50mm minimum	50mm minimum
Maximum Support Spacing	Flat wall 600mm Curved wall 300mm	Flat wall 600 mm	Flat wall 600mm Curved wall 300mm	Flat wall 600mm Curved wall 300mm
Fixing Centres	300mm maximum	300 mm maximum	300mm maximum	300mm maximum
Board Joint Gaps	None	None	None	None



3.6. BEADING

3.6.1. Internal Corners

Ensure that internal corners are reinforced with the R160 or R330 mesh.

3.6.2. External Corners

Unlike normal skim coat plastering where the apex of the corner bead sits flush with the finish, Armourcoat Exterior Plaster looks better if the finish is applied continuously around the corner. Wemico 3797 or Wemico 3752 for splayed angles.

For corners where corner damage can be anticipated, consider wood or metal end posts or cappings.

3.6.3. Feature Beads

Plastering beads are available from British Gypsum Ltd (Tel 0800 225225), SAS (Tel 0118 9290900), QIC Trims (Tel 01280 818950) or Wemico (Tel 01562 820123). For detailing drawings please refer to the end of this document.

3.6.4. Supplier List

Bluclad Cement Fibre Board:

Siniat UK Tel: +44 (0) 1275 377773

www.siniat.co.uk

Fermacell H2O Power Panel Boards:

James Hardie Europe GmbH

Export Department

Bennigsen-Platz 1

40474 Düsseldorf

Germany

Email: fermacell-exportcenter@jameshardie.com

Contact for Export, UAE, Middle East and international inquiries:

James Hardie Europe GmbH

Export Department

Bennigsen-Platz 1

40474 Düsseldorf

Germany

Email: fermacell-exportcenter@jameshardie.com

www.fermacell.com/en/products/powerpanel/powerpanel-h2o



Euroform Rendaboard:

Euroform UK Tel: +44 (0) 1925 860999

www.euroform.co.uk

Stainless Steel Self Embedding Head Screws:

I.T.W.Buildex Tel: +44 (0) 1293 523372

Arthur Fischer Tel: +44 (0) 1491 827900

Angle Beads:

Wemico +44 (0) 1562 820123

SAS Tel: +44 (0) 1189 290900

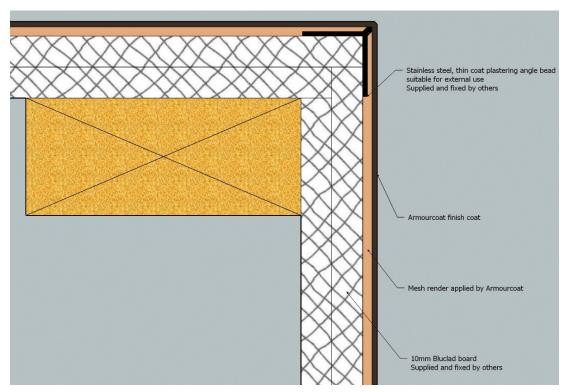
British Gypsum Tel: +44 (0) 800 225225

QIC Trims Tel: +44 (0) 1280 818950

3.7. DIAGRAMS

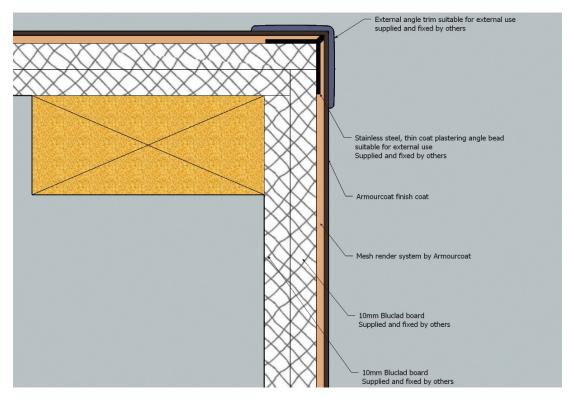
The specification is for guidance only. It describes good working practice. It does not claim to be the right or only method to provide a solid substrate and is made without responsibility for the execution of the work. Build quality is the responsibility of the installer/builder.

3.7.1. 90 degree corner detail for Armourcoat finishes on render board substrates

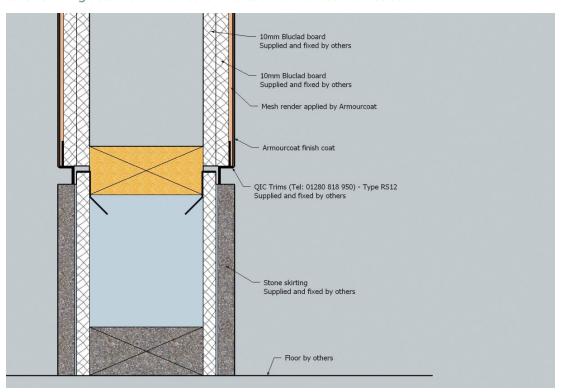




3.7.2. 90 degree corner with protective angle detail for Armourcoat finishes on render board substrates

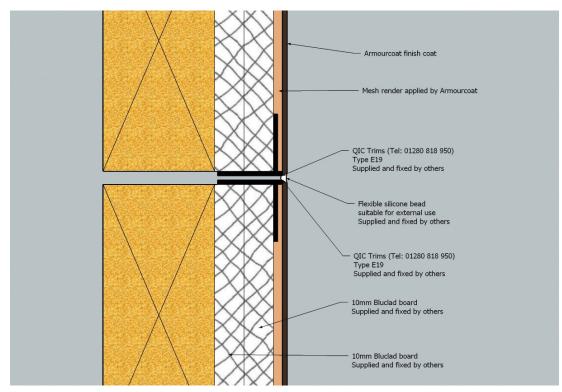


3.7.3. Skirting detail for Armourcoat finishes on render board substrates

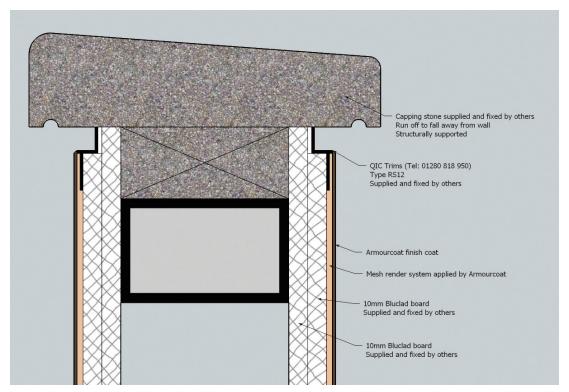




3.7.4. Expansion joint detail for Armourcoat finishes on render board substrates

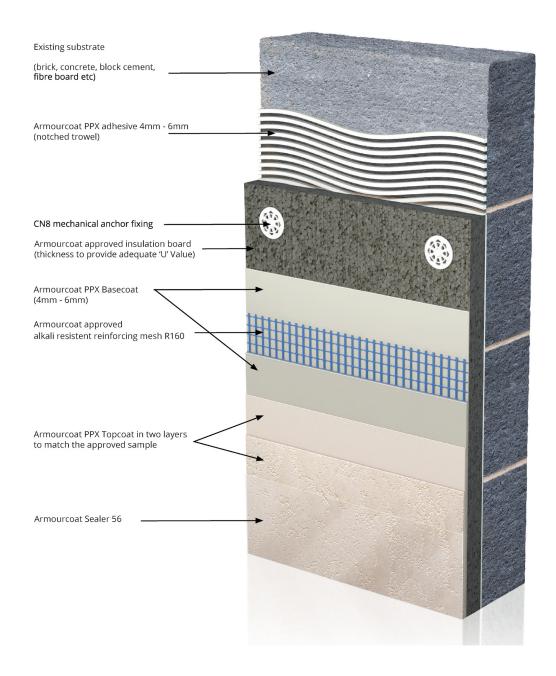


3.7.5. Capping stone detail for Armourcoat finishes on render board substrates



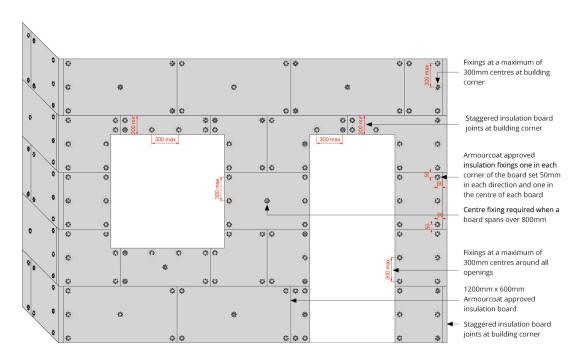


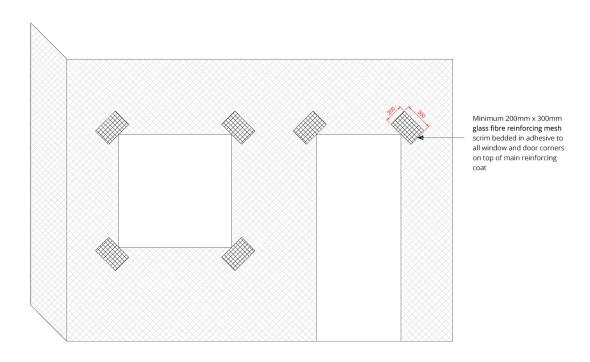
3.7.6. EWI System Diagrams Substrate build-up





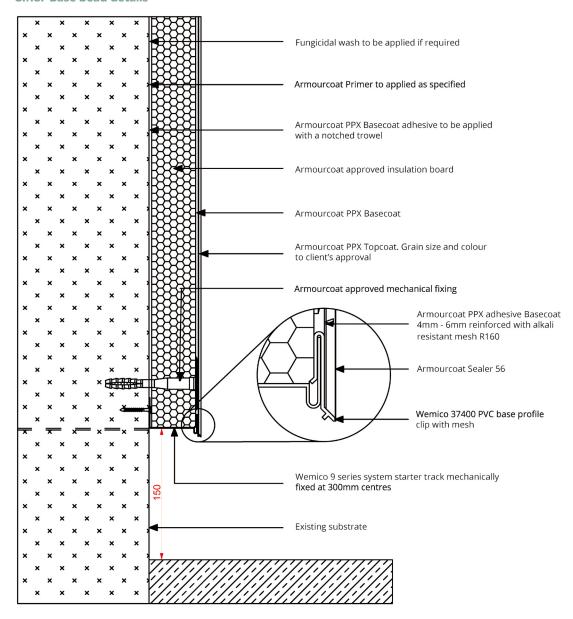
3.7.7. Fixing Arrangement







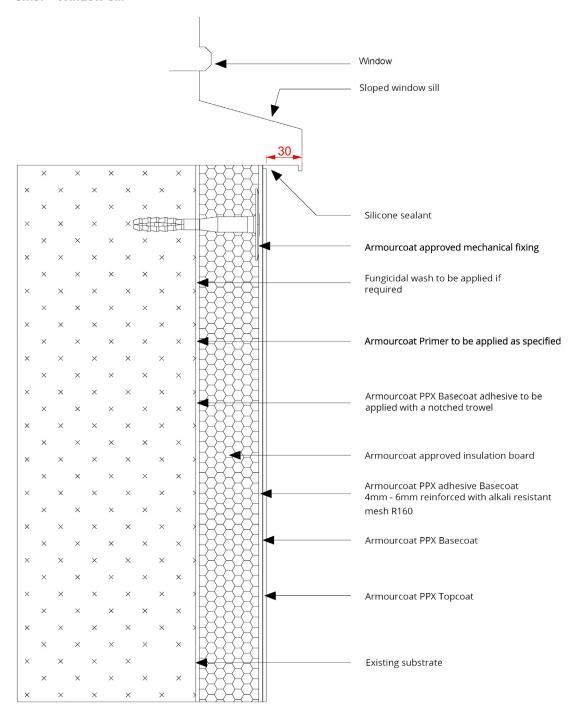
3.7.8. Base bead details



Ground level may vary. Base bead to be kept at least 150mm above ground level. NB: Damp proof course must not be bridged

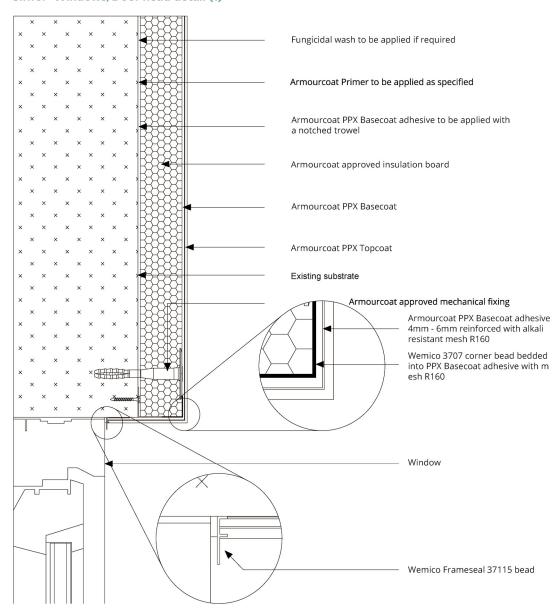


3.7.9. Window Sill



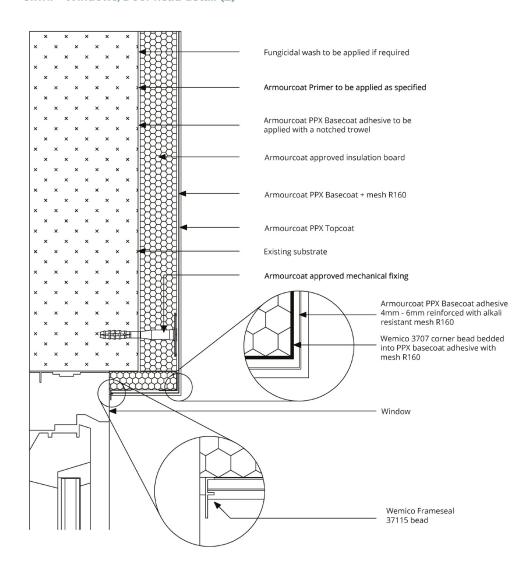


3.7.10. Windows/Door head detail (1)



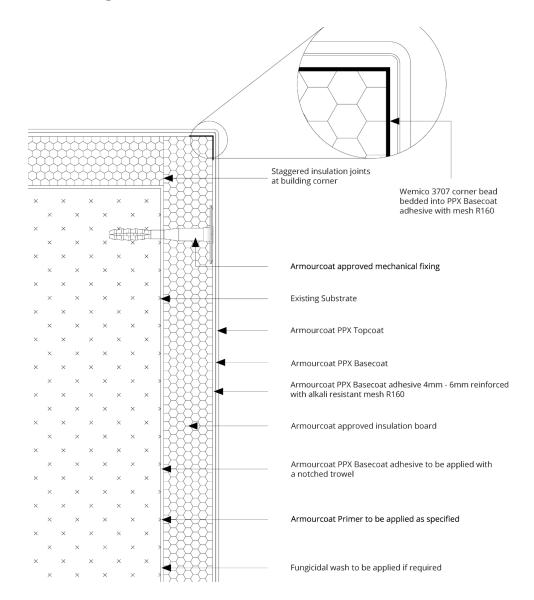


3.7.11. Windows/Door head detail (2)



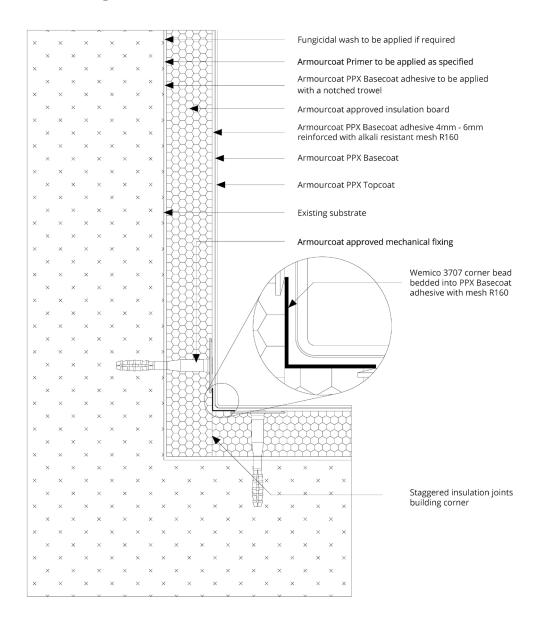


3.7.12. Building external corner



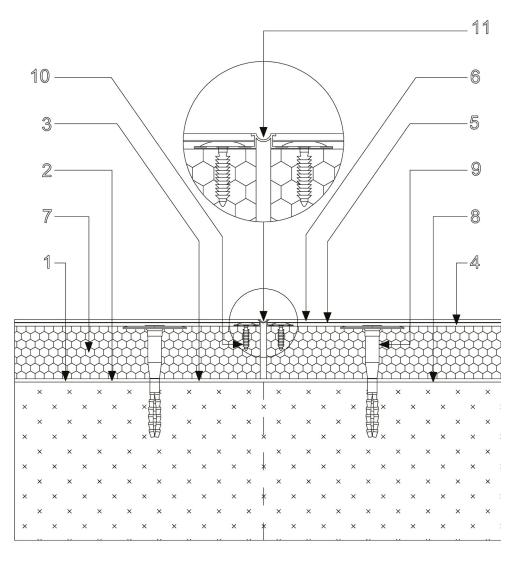


3.7.13. Building internal corner





3.7.14. Movement joint

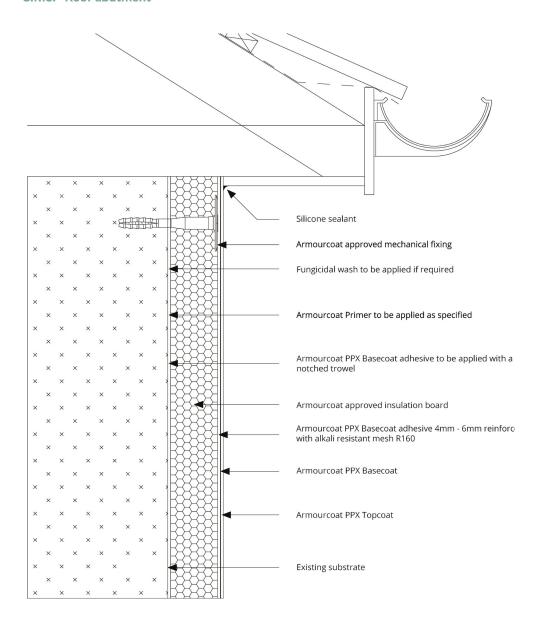


- Fungicidal wash to be applied if required
 Armourcoat Primer to be applied as specified
 Armourcoat PPX Basecoat adhesive to be applied with a notched trowel
- Armourcoat PPX Basecoat adhesive 4mm 6mm reinforced with alkali resistant mesh R160
- Armourcoat PPX Basecoat

- Armourcoat PPX Topcoat
 Armourcoat approved insulation board
 Existing substrate
 Armourcoat approved mechanical fixing
 ifir Tree' fixings at minimum 300mm centres
 Wemico PVC movement bead

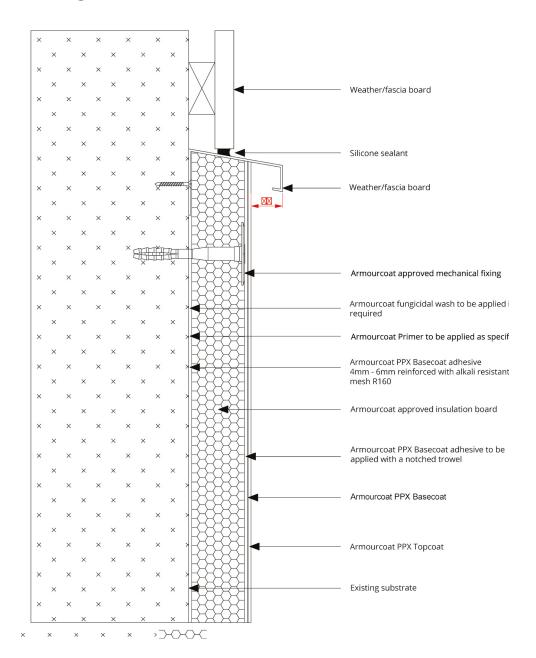


3.7.15. Roof abutment



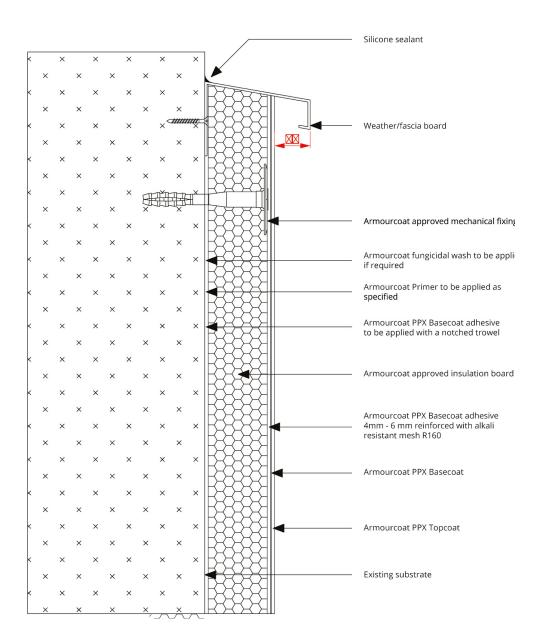


3.7.16. Verge (1)



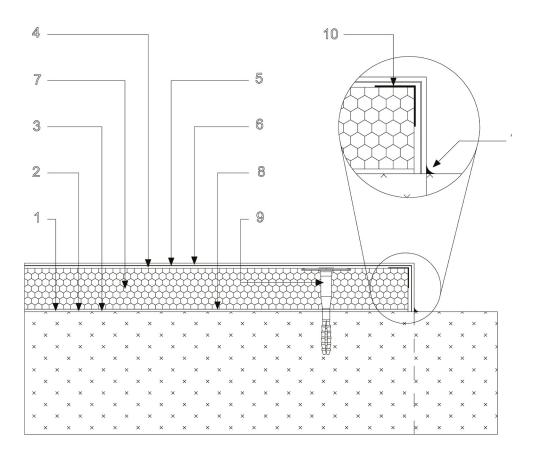


3.7.17. Verge (2)





3.7.18. Party wall (1)

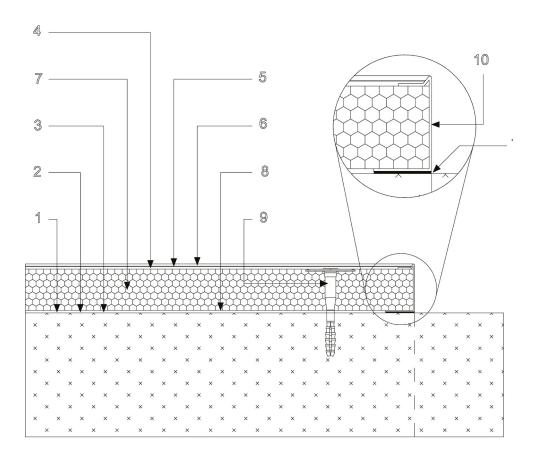


- Armourcoat fungicidal wash to be applied if required
 Armourcoat Primer to be applied as specified
 Armourcoat PPX Basecoat adhesive to be applied with a notched trowel
- Armourcoat PPX basecoat adhesive 4mm 6mm reinforced with alkali resistant mesh
- Armourcoat PPX Basecoat

- 6. Armourcoat PPX Topcoat7. Armourcoat approved inst Armourcoat approved insulation board
- 8. Existing substrate
- Armourcoat approved mechanical fixing
- 10. Wemico 9245 full depth stop bead fixed at 300mm centres
- 11. Silicone sealant



3.7.19. Party wall (2)



- Fungicidal wash to be applied if required
 Armourcoat Primer to be applied as specified
 Armourcoat PPX Basecoat adhesive to be applied with a notched trowel
- Armourcoat PPX Basecoat adhesive 4mm 6mm reinforced with alkali resistant mesh R160
- Armourcoat PPX Basecoat

- 6. Armourcoat PPX Topcoat7. Armourcoat approved insulation board

- Existing substrate
 Armourcoat approved mechanical fixing
 Wemico 9245 full depth stop bead fixed at 300mm centres
- 11. Silicone sealant



4. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

4.1. CLEANING

Armourcoat Exterior Plaster will over time accumulate airborne dirt and dust onto the surface which needs to be cleaned off. Wet down the surface with a hose or water spray prior to washing the surface. The surface can then be washed using a mild detergent solution that is applied to the surface with a sponge, soft brush or mop.

Wash the surface and then rinse with clean water with a hose or a power washer. When using a power washer please ensure that you use a fan shaped pattern and the tip of the power washer is never closer that 200mm to the surface.

When washing or cleaning the surface look out for any areas of the surface that begin to darken due to the uptake of water. These areas will require a spot application of the sealer or surface impregnator once they have dried out.

Do not use abrasive cleaning pads like pan scourers on the surface as this may abrade the surface sealer.

Under no circumstances use acid-based cleaners for this process, as they may cause permanent damage to the walls.

4.2. INSPECTION

The surface should be inspected on an annual basis to check for surface damage, movement cracks and any signs of moisture ingress at window and door openings.

All silicone seals at window frames and interfaces with other materials should be inspected and repaired if required to avoid any ingress of water into the building.

4.3. DAMAGE AREAS

If the surface of the Armourcoat Exterior Plaster is chipped or damaged it should be repaired and the surface sealer reapplied. If a particular area is damaged severely it may not be possible to make good the surface and a reapplication of the finish is required. The reapplication of the finish coat will add approximately 1-2mm to the final surface.

If you see areas that are darkening or staining, it may be that water is penetrating the finish. In this case it is important that the sealer originally used on the Armourcoat Exterior Plaster is reapplied over that area.

Armourcoat recommends that every 10 years the surface is fully cleaned and the surface sealer reapplied over the entire surface.

5. WARRANTY

5-year materials warranty.