

Crack Reduction Layer – Over Three-Coat or Hard-Coat Brown Coat (Exterior or Interior) For use over traditional three-coat stucco systems, including interior shower stalls and exterior wall assemblies.

Purpose:

Enhance strength, reduce surface cracking, and increase flexibility before applying the Texston finish color coat.

Purpose: Enhance strength, flexibility, and reduce crack formation in finish color coats.

Materials:

- **Mesh:** EIFS alkali-resistant fiber mesh (supplied by others).
 - **Recommended brands:** STO, Dryvit, Parex, Senergy, Finestone, or equivalent.
 - **Recommended mesh weight:** 4.5 oz to 10 oz (6 oz most recommended).
 - **Note:** Heavier mesh is preferred if the budget allows.
- **Admixture:** RPA Reinforced Polymer Additive.
- **Ortex Basecoat Coarse 20/30:** Coverage 25- 50 sq. ft. (with fiber mesh embedded in it).
OR
- **Ortex Basecoat Fine 60/70:** Coverage, 30- 60 sq. ft. (with fiber mesh embedded in it)
 - **Note:** Yield may vary depending on the condition of the Brown Coat and the thickness of the fiber mesh.

Step-by-Step Application

1. Preparation:

- **Mesh Handling:**
 - Cut the appropriate length of mesh and roll it up for easier handling.
- **Mixing:**
 - Mix 1 part RPA to 4 parts water, or **41.6oz of RPA + 166.4oz of water per 50.7 lb bag.**
 - Let's set for 5 minutes then remix and add water to achieve the desired consistency.
- **Substrate Preparation:**
 - **Brown Coat:** Use a stucco scraper to thoroughly scrape and clean the brown coat. Dampen the brown coat with **water** or a **5:1 mix of water and RPA.**
- **Other Substrates (Concrete, Existing Stucco – Painted or Unpainted, Silicone-Free EIFS Finish Coat):**
 - **Power wash** the surface thoroughly.
 - Allow the surface to **dry completely** before proceeding.

1. First Coat Application:

- If the substrate is uneven and needs leveling, use a straight edge to screed and level the entire surface. If necessary, apply Ortex as thick as 1/2" in one pass to level low spots.
 - **Note:** If the above step is used, allow that layer to set firm, though it does not have to dry completely, before proceeding to the next step.
- Apply a coat of Ortex to the substrate, approximately 1/16" thick.
- Ensure the coat extends about 4" wider than the mesh area.

2. Mesh Embedding:

- Roll the mesh over the wet Ortex plaster or hang it vertically.
- Embed the mesh into the first coat from the center outwards, ensuring a wrinkle-free surface.
- Ensure mesh overlaps are a minimum of 2-1/2" wide.
- Feather out 1 foot on either side of the overlap with additional first coat if needed.
- **Reinforce all openings** (such as windows, doors, and mechanical penetrations) by embedding

additional detail mesh diagonally at each corner, ideally at a 45-degree angle, into the Ortex basecoat. Extend each piece of mesh at least 6" in both directions from the corner to help distribute stress and minimize cracking caused by movement or settling.

3. Surface Adjustment:

- Apply a tight coat of Ortex over areas where the weave pattern of the mesh is visible.
 - Float and level all undulations and low spots using a **stucco Neoprene Float in a tight, small circular motion**, keeping the float totally flat against the surface.
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4. Final Surface Preparation:

- Allow the basecoat to dry.
 - Scrape off any high points on the surface, then brush or hose off any loose material.
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Final Appearance

The final surface should be smooth, level, wrinkle-free, and without any visible weave patterns from the mesh.

- **Finish System Application:**
 - Apply the Texston finish system following the specified step-by-step application process.
 - **Final Curing:**
 - Allow the finish system to cure for 24 to 72 hours.
 - **Sealer Application:**
 - Apply 2 to 3 coats of Texston recommended penetrating sealer as per the installation instructions.
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Notes: Exterior or interior Control Joints:

Follow industry standards for control joints. If control joints are not desired, take additional precautions to minimize cracks:

4. Crack Prevention & Application Prep – Summary

- Following industry control joint standards. If omitted, take added precautions:
 - Use metal studs and heavier mesh
 - Add bracing and blocking between studs
 - Use Texston RPA at 1:4 ratio with water + polypropylene fibers in scratch/brown coats
 - Moisture cure brown coat for 3 days
- Reinforce openings (windows, doors) with detail mesh in the basecoat
- Ensure drywall is fully supported and fastened to framing
- Confirm all structural loads (roof, drywall, floors) are in place before applying finishes
- Avoid hammering or vibration after finish coat—prevents cracking in envelope layers
- Keep hardscape (patios, driveways) separated from the building
- Use expansion joints in hardscape to reduce stress transfer
- Stagger wall sheathing joints to prevent continuous stress lines

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