Fresco® Carbon Steel

A very elegant decorative plaster finish using a combination of striations and subtle variegation in color

Product Data Sheet

9/17/2026

TECHNICAL DATA

TEST METHOD	REPORT	TEST CRITERIA	TEST RESULTS
ASTM E84	**Surface Burning**	< 25 Flame Spread < 450 Smoke Developed	0 Class A 2.0 Class A
ASTM D3960	**VOC** **This product complies with South Coast AQMD (Rule 1113) VOC emission standards for architectural coatings.		ZERO VOC
ASTM D3273	**Mold/Mildew Resistance**	No growth at 28 days	No growth
ASTM D3359	**Adhesion by Tape Test**	No peeling or removal	5A
ASTM D1308	**Chemical Resistance**		High

FEATURES BENEFITS

Water-based	Safe, non-toxic. Cleans up with water
Integrally Colored	Easy to clean using pencil eraser or Magic Eraser type
Micro Aggregate	Moderately durable. Resists surface abrasion
Acrylic-based	Won't crack. High impact resistance. Excellent adhesion
Vapor Permeable	Allows substrate to breathe. Resists blistering
VOC Compliant	Meets South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requirements

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SURFACE PREPARATION

Gypsum wallboard surfaces: Wallboard must be taped and sanded to a Level 4 finish per AWCI standards. Sanded surface must then be prime painted with an undiluted flat, white, latex primer to ensure uniform absorption. Prior to priming, ensure surface is free of dust, dirt, and other bond-inhibiting materials, and that all taping materials are dry.

Concrete and masonry surfaces: Surface must be clean, dry, free of dust, dirt and other bond-inhibiting materials, including efflorescence, form oil and other foreign materials. All loose or damaged material must be properly removed. Skim, patch, or level surfaces to required tolerance and smoothness with appropriate Fresco leveling materials. Surface must then be prime painted with an undiluted flat, white, latex primer to ensure uniform absorption. Prior to priming, ensure surface is free of dust, dirt, and other bond-inhibiting materials, and that all leveling materials are dry.

Cement board: Cement board surface must be bedded with Fresco Basecoat and appropriate fiberglass mesh at all board joints and damaged board surfaces. Entire board surface then must be skimmed with Fresco Basecoat such that the surface is free from defects, trowel lines, and is leveled to required tolerance and smoothness. Surface must then be prime painted with an undiluted flat, white, latex primer to ensure uniform absorption. Prior to priming, ensure surface is free of dust, dirt, and other bond-inhibiting materials, and that all leveling materials are dry.

MIXING

Using a bath scale or similar, weigh 10#s of wet Fresco material and 7#s of dry Micro-Agg Admix. Into a 5-gallon plastic pail, pour the 10#s of wet Fresco material. Add into the pail, the corresponding amount of Micro-Agg Admix, typically 7#s, unless noted otherwise. Using an electric drill and clean, rust-free paddle, mix well at high rpm, adding up to 10 fluid ounces of clean water for workability. Mix until all the Micro-Agg Admix is fully mixed into the wet Fresco material and there are no lumps. Allow to set for approximately 5 minutes. Remix to a uniform, creamy consistency. Do not exceed maximum amount of water in mix ratio.

APPLICATION

Apply only to sound and clean, dry, properly prepared surfaces. Surface must be primed with the appropriate primer per the surface preparation guidelines above.
Scratch coat: Apply a tight scratch coat on to the surface to a 1/16” thickness, or approximately 1½ times the aggregate size, using a clean steel trowel, in linear direction to which the pattern is intended to go. Allow to dry 100%. You can use a fan to speed up drying.
Double coat: Apply a double coat on to the surface to a 1/8” thickness, using a clean non-marring steel trowel, in vertical strokes. Immediately take a clean wallpaper smoothing brush and make striations in the wet plaster in the preferred direction (horizontal, vertical, or angular). Allow to dry 90%, which may turn out to be overnight depending on the thickness. Hard trowel to close up the surface in long vertical strokes. A stainless steel swimming

pool trowel is best (but not necessary) for this step to avoid leaving trowel marks/lines

Overlay coats: While the plaster is still damp to the touch (but not sticky), begin applying the overlays. There is no mixing required for each of the overlays, just stir them. On your hawk, put a baseball size circle of Overlay #1 Blue along with a dime size circle of Silver and mix together loosely on your hawk. You can adjust the amount of Silver needed to match the desired final appearance. Apply to the wall using the same trowel in long vertical strokes. Apply Overlay #2 Black in random vertical strokes to match the desired final appearance. Apply Overlay #3 Brown in random vertical strokes to match the desired final appearance. Allow to dry.

Polish coat: Once completely dry, if a high sheen is required, simply buff using a buffing pad and high-speed orbital sander

Curing/Drying: This finish requires minimum 72 hours and moderate, dry weather for complete drying. Drying time increases significantly with low temperatures, wet or humid weather, which may cause a non-uniform appearance. Avoid installation during cool, damp ambient weather conditions. Apply in a trial area first to be sure of desired results.

Clean Up: Clean tools and equipment with water immediately after use. Dried material can only be removed mechanically.

LIMITATIONS

Use only when surface and ambient temperatures are above 50°F (10°C) and below 100°F (38°C) during application and drying period.

COVERAGE

360-400 ft² (33-37 m²) per 5-gallon pail (19 L). Coverage will vary depending on application technique and surface conditions.

SHELF LIFE

24 months, if properly sealed and stored.

STORAGE

Protect from extreme heat (100°F/38°C), freezing and direct sunlight.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Product is water based.
- Wash hands with water thoroughly after handling.
- Wear protective gloves, protective eyewear, and protective clothing.
- Causes skin and eye irritation.
- Immediately flush eyes with clean water until contaminant is gone. Immediately wash skin with plenty of soap and water until skin is free of contaminant.
- Get medical attention if needed.
- If swallowed, get immediate medical help.