



**Thinset Exterior Surfacing System**  
*"The Next Generation in Architectural Finishes"*

- **One component**—Ready to use, just mix with water on job site
- **Smooth consistency**—Easy to spread; increases productivity
- **Premium formula**
- **Green packaging**—Economical, biodegradable paper bags are easily recycled
- **Zero VOCs**—No atmospheric emissions and solvent-free, providing safety for workers and the environment
- **Fire and smoke resistant**—Significantly decreases flame spread and smoke contribution



**Formulated Solutions LLC**  
 25-44 Borough Place  
 Woodside, NY 11377 USA

**T 718 267 6380**  
**F 718 204 6013**

**www.tessfinishes.com**

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Patent Pending

# BASE COAT

TESS™ Base Coat is a high performance, polymer-modified Portland cement base coat for use with TESS Finish in an EIFS configuration. TESS Base Coat embeds and secures the fiberglass-mesh reinforcing fabric over the EPS board and forms a “base” or undercoat for the finish coat, which is applied on top as the final layer of the system.

## INSTALLATION

**Approved Substrates:** Exterior grade gypsum sheathing (ASTM G79), expanded polystyrene insulation (EPS) board, fiberglass-mesh reinforced concrete backer board, Fiber Rock®, Durock®, PermaBase®, clean and unpainted masonry, concrete, brick, galvanized metal wire lath.

**Surface Preparation:** Surface must be above 40°F (4°C) and must be clean, dry, structurally sound and free of efflorescence, oil, grease, form release agents and curing compounds. The substrate should be flat within 1/4" (6.4 mm) within a 4-foot (1.2 m) radius.

**Mixing:** Each 50-pound (22.7 kg) bag of TESS Base Coat should be mixed with 1½ gallons (5.7 Liters) of clean, cool, potable water. Add the powder to the water while mixing. The use of a high torque, low speed drill (400-600 rpm) with a paddle attachment or a mortar type mixer with rotating, rubber-edged blades is recommended. Mix to a smooth, trowelable consistency. Allow mix to stand (slake) for 5 minutes. Remix material, adding small amounts of water or base coat to achieve the desired working consistency. Do not use any additives. Do not mix more material than can be applied in one hour.

**Applying and Embedding Fiberglass Reinforcing Fabric:** Cut the fabric into pieces that are manageable. For light to medium weight fabrics, provide a 2" (51 mm) overlap of seams. Heavy weight fabrics do not need to be overlapped, however take care to butt the edges of the fabric firmly together. Using a flat stainless steel trowel, apply TESS Base Coat to entire face of insulation board in a uniform thickness of 3/32" (2.4 mm). Immediately place the reinforcing fabric into and against the wet base coat mixture. Embed the fabric by troweling from the center to the edges with the curve of the fabric against the wall, avoiding wrinkles. Apply additional base coat as needed and trowel until the fabric is fully covered

and not visible. The overall minimum base coat thickness must be sufficient to fully embed the reinforcing fabric.

**Curing:** Once placed, TESS Base Coat is self-curing. Under average temperature and humidity conditions there is no need to damp cure. Misting or damp curing is recommended under conditions of high winds and/or low humidity which could prematurely dry-out the base coat. Under average drying conditions of 70°F (21°C) and 55% R.H., TESS Base Coat is ready to receive the finish coat application in 24 hours. Curing time is dependent on relative humidity and temperature. At lower temperatures, longer curing time may be necessary.

**Limitations:** Do not apply to frozen surfaces. Do not apply if temperature is below 40°F (4.4°C) or will fall below 40°F (4.4°C) within 24 hours after application. Protect from rain for 24 hours. Total thickness of TESS Base Coat layer should not exceed 1/4" (6.4 mm). Not recommended for horizontal, below grade or water-immersed surfaces. For further information, see Technical Bulletin No. 1.

**Packaging:** 50 pound (22.7 kg) multi-wall paper bag.

**Colors:** Gray or White.

**Coverage:** Each 50 pound (22.7 kg) bag will embed 100 sq. ft. (9.3 square meters) of fiberglass-mesh-reinforcing fabric.

**Meets ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for EIFS Clad Drainage Wall Assemblies (AC235).**

**Shelf Life:** One year from date of manufacture in original, sealed bag. Store bags in a cool, dry location out of direct sunlight. Do not store bags directly in contact with the ground or concrete. Protect bags from weather and freezing.

**Technical Assistance:** Telephone Formulated Solutions Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST: (718) 267-6380 ext. 111 or FAX inquiry to (718) 204-6013.

## Test Data

PHYSICAL PROPERTY	TEST	RESULTS
Accelerated Weathering	ASTM G153, 2000 hours	No cracking or chalking
Freeze Thaw Resistance	ICC ES AC 235	No cracking or erosion
Water Penetration	ASTM E331-00	No water penetration at 2.86 psf pressure differential
Structural Performance	ASTM E330, procedure B	Positive load, 185 psf Negative load, 64 psf
Bond Strength	ASTM C297-94	20 psi, foam failure
Rust Resistance	ASTM B117-90, 500 hours	No rust; No damage to the coating
VOC		0

# TESS™

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**Notice and Warranty Disclaimer:** Formulated Solutions (FS) products are intended for use by qualified professional contractors, not D-I-Y consumers or handy-men. TESS™ Systems and/or components must be specified by a qualified design professional, general contractor or builder as an element of a larger construction project. It must be installed in accordance with FS's instructions, the designer's specifications and local building code. Improper use of FS products or use as part of an improperly designed or constructed larger assembly or building may result in serious damage to this product, and to the structure of the building or its components.

FS disclaims all, and assumes no, liability for • products improperly applied by unqualified persons or entities • an improperly designed or constructed building • the nonperformance of adjacent building components or assemblies • other construction activities beyond FS's control • on-site inspections.

FS has provided the enclosed Instructions and Recommendations (I/R) to assist the USER in the application of this product. These I/Rs are not warranted to be comprehensive, complete, thorough or conclusive as regards any

specific installation. It is the USER'S obligation to ensure that the product is suitable for its intended use and that it is compatible with existing conditions or applications of other coincident or adjoining materials. The liability of the SELLER and MANUFACTURER, whether express or implied, whether in contract or in tort, arising out of warranties, representations, instructions or defects from any cause shall be limited exclusively to replacing the product, provided the same is proved defective, or refunding the purchase price upon return of the unused product. In no event will SELLER or MANUFACTURER be liable for consequential damages, including but not limited to loss of materials, costs of labor, loss of profits, costs of replacement goods, or other commercial loss. The USER accepts the product AS IS, and without warranties express or implied. Subject to FS approval, certain installations of TESS may be eligible for a limited warranty provided by FS. For further information, please contact your Distributor.

For the most current and complete information on proper application, clean-up, mixing, specifications, warranties, cautions and disclaimers, please refer to the company manual or our website at [www.tessfinishes.com](http://www.tessfinishes.com).



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