

# TESS<sup>®</sup>

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

- **Naturally breathable**—Transmits water vapor in both directions; water does not become entrapped; will not blister, peel or flake
- **Duracide™** integral anti-microbial kills mold, mildew and algae for more than 10 years
- **Zero VOCs**—No atmospheric emissions and solvent-free, providing safety for workers and the environment
- **Hydrophobic**—Repels water; resists wind-driven rain
- **Non-acrylic**—Environmentally safe, non-hazardous; provides maximum long-term durability
- **Integrated silicone**—Provides permanent silicone protection; long-lasting resistance to dirt and airborne pollutants; preserves original color and brightness; minimizes maintenance
- **Increased yield**—Compared to acrylic finishes, up to 30% more coverage per equivalent unit; reduces shipment weight by 40%; lowers shipping cost up to 50%; saves storage space



**Formulated Solutions LLC**  
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**www.tessfinishes.com**

TESS is a registered trademark and GREEN by DESIGN and the Green Trowel Symbol are trademarks of Formulated Solutions LLC.

Patent Pending

# FINISH

This newly formulated flexible, thinset exterior finish is the next-generation, superior replacement for both acrylic and conventional stucco finishes. Unlike typical acrylic finishes, TESS Finish's natural mineral formula contains no VOCs or hazardous solvents. By design, TESS Finish applies more easily and floats better than most commercial acrylic finishes resulting in less waste and clean-up.

TESS Finish is available in a wide range of attractive colors and in four textures to match the most popular surfaces in today's EIFS market. TESS Finish can withstand substrate movement and vibration thereby reducing unsightly surface cracks. Integrated silicone compounds repel water and dirt and offer greater antimicrobial protection than conventional acrylic finishes.

New technology incorporated in TESS Finish delivers a cladding with superior performance at a lower cost than conventional acrylic stucco finishes. Package weight reduction further adds to savings by reducing shipping costs. Each 44-pound bag of TESS Finish covers up to 30% more area than a 5-gallon pail of acrylic EIFS finish.

## INSTALLATION

**Approved Substrates:** TESS Base Coat in standard EIFS configuration; TESS Primer in One Coat stucco configuration

**Surface Preparation:** All surfaces must be clean and free of contaminants before applying finish.

**Mixing:** Each 44-pound (20 kg) bag of TESS Finish should be mixed with clean, cool potable water as follows:

Texture	Amount of Water
Coarse Sand	1 gal. (3.8 liters)
Freeform	1 gal. (3.8 liters)
Sand	1 gal. 16 oz. (144 oz.) (4.25 liters)
Limestone	1 gal. 16 oz. (144 oz.) (4.25 liters)

Add up to 1 pint (473 ml) of additional water when applying at temperatures over 80°F (26°C). Use a measured cup to ensure a consistent amount of water is added to each bag. Once the desired amount of water is established, all future mixes must contain EXACTLY the same amount of water to ensure color uniformity.

The best procedure is to pour all of the measured water into a clean, empty 5-gallon pail. Note: If a color cup addition (liquid pigment additive) is being used, empty it into 5-gallon pail first, prior to adding the measured water. Then using the measured water, rinse the color cup to ensure that the full amount of pigment is drained from the color cup. If not using a color cup omit this step. Add half or more of the contents of the bag and stir with a ½-inch electric drill and mixing blade until smooth and lump free. Finally, add the remaining contents of the bag and mix well for approximately 2 minutes to ensure complete, homogenous mixing and color-uniformity.

**DO NOT ADD EXTRA WATER BEYOND THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNT. DO NOT RETEMPER ONCE MIX BEGINS TO SET UP.**

When the mixture is ready, pot life is approximately 75 minutes at 75°F (24°C) and 40 minutes at 90°F (32°C).

**Application:** Apply the finish to the substrate with a steel trowel in the usual manner. A second applicator should follow immediately behind the first with a plastic float, floating and smoothing the surface. **DO NOT OVER FLOAT THE FINISH.** For best results and maximum efficiency, mixing personnel should keep the mixing operation

continuous, timed to the applicator's rate of progress and supplied as needed, without wait time. This method provides greater uniformity in the appearance of the finished wall and greater productivity for the applicators. Apply at temperatures between 40°F (4.4°C) and 100°F (37.8°C).

**Curing:** TESS Finish will dry-to-touch in 24 hours at 70°F (21.1°C) and 55% R.H. Drying times vary depending on ambient conditions.

**Note about color: Follow mixing instructions carefully to ensure color uniformity from bag to bag. Color should be reasonably close to any bags already used but special care should be taken to ensure consistency.**

**If you have any questions regarding color matching, please contact your local distributor or Technical Services at Formulated Solutions LLC, prior to application.**

**USE CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE. CLAIMS FOR OFF-COLOR CONDITIONS WILL NOT BE HONORED AFTER APPLICATION.**

**Best Practices and Use Limitations:** All cementitious products are subject to efflorescence. To avoid this white patina: Do not apply finish if rain is expected within 48 hours. Always protect from rain, especially if roof flashings are not installed. Do not apply to frozen surfaces. Do not apply when ambient or substrate surface temperature is below 40°F (4.4°C) or will fall below that temperature within 48 hours after application. Protect freshly applied finish from moisture intrusion for a minimum of 48 hours after application. Do not apply to horizontal, below grade or water-immersed surfaces. When ambient or substrate surface temperatures are below 60°F (15.6°C) or will fall below that temperature within 48 hours after application, it is considered a "Cold Weather Application" that requires all surfaces be primed with TESS Primer. Further, CWA (Cold Weather Accelerator) cups should be added to the finish during mixing to insure best results. If efflorescence occurs, consult *TESS Finish Repair Procedures*. For further information and product limitations please see the instructions on the packaging and Application Guides.

**Packaging:** 44 pound (20 kg) multi-wall paper bag ensures product freshness.

**Colors:** Standard Color Chart offers 48 unique colors. Custom colors also available.



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**Textures:** Four textures are currently available and replicate commercial EIFS finishes: • Sand Finish—the most widely used finish • Coarse Sand Finish—a coarser texture than sand finish • Freeform Finish—the coarsest of all the finishes provides attractive freeform patterns evenly distributed over the surface, creating depth and range of facade • Limestone Finish—a smooth finish that simulates natural limestone.

**ICC-ES ESR 2850 and ESR 2851**

**Complies with 2006 International Building Code (IBC) and 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) Meets ICC-ES AC 235 Acceptance Criteria for EIFS Clad Drainage Wall Assemblies and ICC-ES AC11 Acceptance Criteria for Cementitious Exterior Wall Coatings.**

**Coverage** rates are dependent on the substrate characteristics. It is therefore recommended that a trial area be done to establish exact coverage rates. The following are approximate coverage rates:

Sand Finish	160 sq. ft. (14.9 sq. m.) per bag
Coarse Sand Finish	140 sq. ft. (13 sq. m.) per bag
Freeform Finish	140 sq. ft. (13 sq. m.) per bag
Limestone Finish	300 sq. ft. (27.9 sq. m.) per bag; two coats required

**Shelf Life:** One year from date of manufacture in original, sealed bag. Store bags in a cool, dry location sheltered from direct sunlight. Do not store bags directly in contact with the ground or concrete. Protect bags from moisture 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
Water Vapor Transmission	ASTM E96, Procedure B	72 perms
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
Resistance to Mold Growth	ASTM D3274-95, 3274-00	No mold growth (Perfect rating of 10)
Compressive Strength	ASTM C109	@ 12F 2,435 psi @ 75F 1,970 psi @ 100F 2,140 psi
Flexural Strength	ASTM C348	@ 12F 1,225 psi @ 75F 945 psi @ 100F 1,420 psi
Compressive Modulus	ASTM C109	@ 12F 104,998 psi @ 75F 113,163 psi @ 100F 121,549 psi
VOC		0

**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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