



STUCCO OVER EXPANDED METAL LATH The Most Common Errors and Mistakes

Requirements for Lath and Accessories

Lath: Minimum weight 2.5lbs/yd² actual; G-60 Galvanized and 97 inch min. length.

Lath: installed perpendicular to framing members

Lath Laps: ½ inch on the long dimension (side lap) and 1 inch on the end lap.
Wire-tied between framing members @ 9 inches on center.

Laps: on Weather-Resistant Barriers (WRBs): End laps – 2inch minimum
Side Laps – installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Fasteners for various substrates^A: must engage at least 3 strands of lath

Base or Substrate	Fastener Type	Fastener specifics (minimum)	Depth - Framing Member or Base	Spacing Not to Exceed (NTE)
Wood Framing	Nails	11ga (6d), 1.5in long, 7/16 head, galvanized	¾ inch	7”oc vertical
	Screws	#12 X ¾ wafer head sharp		
Sheathing over Wood Framing	Nails	11ga (4d), 1.5in long, 7/16 head, galvanized	¾ inch	7”oc vertical
	Screws	#12 X ¾ wafer head sharp	⅝ inch	
	Staples	1¼ leg X ¾ crown galvanized	¾ inch	7”oc vertical
Sheathing over Metal Framing	Screws	#12 X ¾ wafer head Self-tapping	⅝ inch	
Solid (concrete, block, brick, stone or tile) ^B	Stub Nails	¾ stub nail ⅜ head	¾ inch	7”oc vertical & 16”oc horizontal
	Power/powder Actuated Nails ^C	¾ long X ⅜ head	¾ inch	Each corner & midpoint of long side (6 points) – infill with stubs as above

A. For complete requirements for fasteners see ASTM C-1063.

B. Lath should only be used over solid bases as a last resort to achieving bond as described in Section 5.2 of ASTM C 926.

C. You may use either all power/powder actuated fasteners in the 7” X 16”oc configuration or you may use a combination as described above.

Span Limitations: 16” oc without sheathing, 24” oc with sheathing (per footnote C, Table 3, C-1063).

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Wire-Tying: side and end laps between framing members not to exceed 9"oc with 18ga, galvanized annealed wire.

Furring: ¼ inch off ALL SUBSTRATES. Use either self-furred lath or furring strips.

Accessories (other than Control Joints): fastened 7"oc as required of lath and embedded in stucco.

End or butt joints to be embedded in sealant.

Control Joints: Tied to lath at spacing NTE 7"oc

Lath must be cut behind control joints

Spacing: 144sft for walls; 100 sft for ceilings

NTE 18ft in any direction

NTE length to width ratio of 2½ to 1

Locations: where dissimilar materials abut (i.e. block to frame)

Where there is an expansion joint in the base wall

Common Errors

Under Spec Wood Sheathing: 7/16 sheathing stood on end rather than perpendicular to framing members

Improper Placement of Wood Sheathing: A ⅛ inch gap shall be left around all sheathing pieces to accommodate thermal expansion and contraction.

Under Spec Lath: "Nominal" or "Utility" labeled lath not made to comply with ASTM C 847 requirement of +/- 10% of design weight (minimum 4.5 lbs/yd²) or G-40 galvanized or less than 97 inches long.

Over Attachment of Lath: Fasteners into sheathing between framing members. This mitigates the embedment capability of the stucco and causes more rapid deterioration of the lath.

Improperly Furred Lath: Results in poor or no embedment by the stucco. The ¼ inch furring requirement of C 926 encourages proper embedment and prevention of premature failure of the lath due to exposure.

Improper or no Flashing: Mill finish aluminum or no flashing around all penetrations (head, sills & jambs of doors and windows, pipes, vents, etc...)

Improper Lapping of WRBs and Lath: Paper must lap paper and metal must lap metal in a ship-lap method. Don't sandwich paper backing and metal lath.

All WRB laps should be placed so as to shed water down the surface to where it can weep.

Missing, Incorrect or Poorly Maintained Sealants: Sealants must be exterior grade, compatible with area of use and UV protected.

Sealants must be visually inspected with cracks or separations of the bead repaired annually.

Improper Spacing/Location/Attachment of Control Joints: CJs fastened to base rather than tied to lath.

CJs exceeding the spacing requirements of C 1063

Lath continuous behind the CJ

Improper Weep Mechanisms: Using Plasterstops with holes rather than weep screeds or failure to place the WRB over the flange of the weep screed.

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