

The Plasterers Inspection Process (part 1 in a 3 part series)

In the 13th Edition, on page 12 (which can be viewed at www.awci.org.au) we discussed the AWCI inspection process. Now it's time to drill down further to give you an idea of what you can do when you are called to site to inspect your work and perceived imperfections.



Quite often plasterers do not know what questions to ask, to investigate what impact other trades may have on their work. If you are comfortable that your work meets the standards then you should investigate the root cause, which may be completely unrelated to your work. This article and the next 2 in the series will provide you with the prompts to assist you and the builder during an inspection.

When inspecting a job it is sensible to work backwards, starting with the paint and work all the way back to the framing specifically considering your plasterboard installation is in the middle of all this.

The objective of the visit is for you to gather facts and not take over the meeting, so ask the painter how he prepared the surface, for example let him tell you...

1. If a 2 coat paint system has been used, then it does not conform to the Australian paint standard. The minimum is a 3 coat system, which in some cases may require more than 3 coats for background coverage purposes.
2. If a sealer undercoat has been used (over the entire surface, not just the joints and compounds) that has sufficient solids to be able to be back rolled to produce a texture, not just wall board sealer.
3. If Premium or Ultra-Premium grade paints have been used, as along with suitable sealer undercoats these produce the right Dry Film Thickness (DFT) when applied from the tin.
4. If the paint has been thinned (just to get it through the nozzle and to economise) less than the maximum recommended:- approx 5%.

5. If all coats have been back rolled wet on wet.
6. If the surface has been sanded between coats.
7. If sufficient drying time has been allowed between coats and the painter did not spray when it was raining or the moisture content in the air was too high.
8. If the spray application provided full bodied coverage coats for all coats, or skim/mist coating was used.
9. If all rework and patching had the entire painting process applied to it as well and not just the final coat applied.
10. If Semi-Gloss or full gloss paints have been used. It is a requirement of the Standard to use a level 5 finish for these sheen levels.

Most Painters are not aware that internal lining Manufacturers recommend the roll method, however will accept the spray method when quality paints are used and back rolled.

Remember if any of the above has not been done then the builder is entitled to have that addressed first.

If you are comfortable with your workmanship then you should challenge anything that brings down the overall quality of your work. Just remember a lousy paint job can destroy a good plaster job but a lousy plaster job will always be a lousy plaster job.

Do not miss the next editions when we will discuss the plastering and framing segments of the inspection process.