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## STUCCO CURING ALERT (Prevent Soft Stucco Walls)

**Association of the Wall & Ceiling Contractors of Arizona**  
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Attention Home Builder:

The heat of summer has arrived. Consequently, more effort must be made to insure that **Stucco Walls are properly hydrated before they are painted.** Soft stucco walls have been an ongoing problem in the Valley for several years. The hot summer months exacerbate the potential for problems. **Please consider the following:**

### Stucco Hydration Facts

- **Water is the catalyst in the chemical process** that causes stucco or cement paste to crystallize and harden. **It is not intended to reduce the stucco's pH.**
- Stucco Walls are required to be moist cured until the process that makes the paste set and harden is complete.
- The time period required to cure and harden stucco varies with weather conditions such as wind, temperature and humidity.
- More moist curing time is required during the hot and dry summer months.
- Many stucco industry professionals recommend that stucco be allowed to **cure 28 days** before painting.
- Once a stucco wall is sealed with paint, moisture can no longer get into the stucco and the curing process can stop.
- A stucco wall that is soft at the time of painting will likely remain soft.

### Recommendations (How Home Builders Can Help)

1. Allow ample time for your stucco walls to cure and harden before they are painted.
2. Consult with your Stucco Contractor regarding seasonal cure times.
3. Develop a protocol that insures stucco walls are not painted before they harden.

To learn more about the hydration and curing process, please call AWCI - AZ at 480-468-9680 or email [director@arizonawallandceiling.com](mailto:director@arizonawallandceiling.com)>