

WHAT'S HAPPENING BEHIND YOUR STUCCO?

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW about your stucco can hurt you in the long run. There's a major problem with stucco along the Wasatch Front that is causing "hard coat" stucco systems and synthetic stucco systems to fail miserably. You may have noticed cracks, discoloration, rust or deterioration on your stucco home. These are indications of system failure, but what is happening behind the stucco, which you can't see, is of greater concern.

As housing moves up onto the benches and into the canyons, as well as further west in the Valley, greater amounts of rain, driven by higher winds, push moisture behind the stucco.

This stucco failure allows water penetration into and through wall assemblies. The result of moisture penetration is dry-rot, mold and fungus in framing members, bulged stucco, and stucco that is rusty, stained and cracked. Most of the time, with synthetic foam-based stucco systems, there are no outward indications of the moisture-related destruction that is taking place in the framing members behind the stucco.

The rule of "sooner" rather than "later" applies when determining when your stucco should be repaired. A small investment in the early stages of failure eliminates major damage repair a few more years down the road.

The Lasting Stucco Solution

Sonneborn Corporation, one of the country's largest building material manufacturers, has been in the stucco and sealant business for 94 years. The Sonneborn Corporation has developed a system of stucco repair that they call "The Sonowall Stuccolast System." The compo-



Mold and fungus in framing



Dry rot below window in Utah stucco home

nents, which most set this system apart, are the sealants and the two-step finish. These components are 15 times more flexible than what is most likely on your stucco home now.

Because of their flexibility they are able to secure the surface connections between the unlike materials that make up exterior walls. For example, where stucco connects to a vinyl window, a metal ventilation hood, to the wood trim around exterior doors, the "Stuccolast" finish allows for movement. Furthermore, the Sonowall Stuccolast System is vapor permeable and will allow the house to breathe.

Sonneborn Corporation offers a warranty on their systems that is second to none in the stucco products industry.

When their system is installed by a certified "quality applicator" per their specifications, they offer an extended warranty. When warranty criteria are met, and the system or its components fail within the warranty period, Sonneborn Corp. will repair or replace the failed system or components, materials and labor included.

Historically, stucco system warranties provide for a company to simply deliver replacement materials to your home. Installation and labor charges were the homeowner's responsibility.

For information on the Sonowall Stuccolast System of stucco repair, or for new construction needs, you can contact RAM Builders, Inc. at (801) 796-9699 or visit their website at www.rambuilders.com. □