

Stucco & Plastering Photo Checklist

Stucco and plaster work is a layered system — each coat bonding to the one below it, with lath, moisture barriers, and control joints all disappearing under the finish surface. When a crack appears, water intrudes behind the cladding, or a homeowner disputes the finish quality, the question is always the same: **can you prove the lath was installed correctly, each coat was applied at the right thickness, and the system was detailed properly at all transitions?** This guide gives your crew the exact shots to capture on every stucco and plaster job.

THE 7 PHASES

Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

01 PHASE Pre-Application Site Assessment

- Existing stucco condition — all elevations
- Existing cracks — width & location noted
- Water damage or efflorescence documented
- Substrate type — wood frame, CMU, or metal
- Existing WRB condition (if visible)
- Control joint locations — existing noted
- Window & door flashing condition
- Permit & approved scope on-site
- Homeowner pre-existing damage noted

02 PHASE Substrate & Lath Preparation

- Existing stucco removed — substrate exposed
- Substrate condition — rot or damage noted
- WRB type & installation — brand labeled
- WRB lapped correctly — min 2" side lap
- WRB at all openings — sill & jamb
- Self-furring metal lath — type & weight
- Lath fastener type & spacing
- Lath lapped at seams — 1" min
- Lath at all corners & penetrations

03 PHASE Accessories & Control Joints

- Corner bead type — metal or PVC
- Corner bead fastened & plumb
- Casing bead at all terminations
- Control joint type & spacing per plan
- Control joints at all re-entrant corners
- Weep screed at base — height above grade
- Weep screed level & continuous
- Expansion joint at dissimilar materials
- All accessories — wide shot before scratch



04 PHASE Scratch Coat

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat mix — product labeled | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat thickness — 3/8" nominal | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat fully embedded in lath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat — horizontal scarification | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat at all corners & reveals | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat curing — misting or cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat cure time before brown coat | <input type="checkbox"/> No delamination or cracking noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch coat complete — wide shot |

05 PHASE Brown Coat

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat mix — product labeled | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat thickness — 3/8" nominal | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat rodded flat & true |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat at all control joints | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat floated — texture noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat curing — misting schedule |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat cure time before finish | <input type="checkbox"/> Surface flat — straightedge check | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown coat complete — wide shot |

06 PHASE Finish Coat & Texture

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finish coat product — label photographed | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish coat color — mix or integral color | <input type="checkbox"/> Texture type — smooth, sand, or dash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finish coat thickness — 1/8" nominal | <input type="checkbox"/> Texture pattern consistent — wide shot | <input type="checkbox"/> Color consistency across elevation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finish at all control joints clean | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish at windows & doors — reveals clean | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish coat complete — all elevations |

07 PHASE Final Inspection & Closeout

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permit card & inspection sticker | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspector approval documented | <input type="checkbox"/> No cracks at control joints |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No delamination — tap test performed | <input type="checkbox"/> Weep screed open — not blocked | <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk at all window & door frames |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint applied (if in scope) — product noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Client walkthrough documented | <input type="checkbox"/> Before & after — all elevations |

HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD**Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow**

- 01 Photograph the WRB and Lath Before Any Mud Goes On**

The moisture barrier, lath type, lath fastening pattern, and accessory placement all disappear under the scratch coat within hours. These are the layers that determine whether the system manages water correctly — and they are completely invisible once the first coat is applied. Take these shots before the mud truck shows up.
- 02 Capture Coat Thickness with a Depth Gauge or Straightedge**

Stucco performance depends on each coat being applied at the correct thickness. A depth gauge or straightedge in the frame while the coat is still green is your proof that the system was built to spec — critical when a delamination or crack dispute arises years after the job is complete.
- 03 Document All Control Joint and Weep Screed Locations Before Finish Coat**

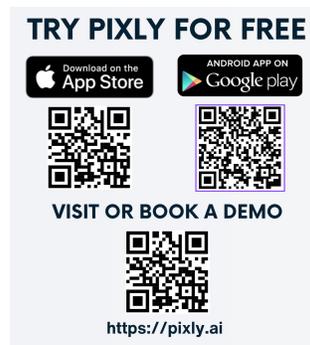
Control joints and weep screed are covered or visually absorbed by the finish coat. A photo of their location and installation before the finish goes on is your record that the system was correctly detailed — and your defense when cracks appear at re-entrant corners or water stains show up at the base.
- 04 Wide Shot of Every Elevation Before and After**

A before-and-after pair of each elevation of the building — taken from the same position — documents the full scope of your work, the pre-existing conditions you inherited, and the finished quality you delivered. These are the images that resolve every dispute about what was cracked before you arrived.

Start Documenting Like a Pro With a 7-Day Free Trial of Pixly.ai

Give your crew the photo documentation system built for stucco and plastering contractors.

Only \$24.99 / month after your free trial.



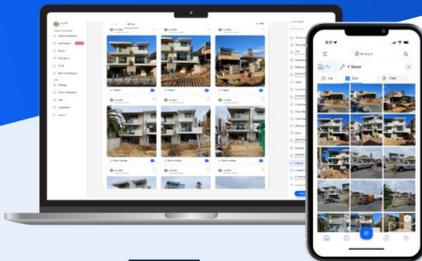
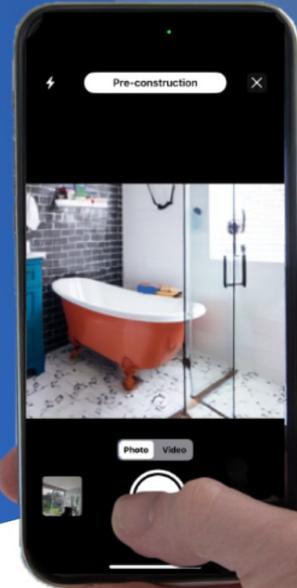
Scan to download on App Store or Google Play · visit pixly.ai





THE EASIER CONSTRUCTION PHOTO APP.

The Easiest Way To Prove Your Work,
Track Projects or Tasks & Get Job Photos
Off Your Phone & Drives.
Users Save 1+ Hour a day.



TRY PIXLY FOR FREE



VISIT OR BOOK A DEMO



<https://pixly.ai>



STOP SKETCHY DISPUTES

Time stamped, location stamped records of pre-construction conditions, progress and work completed.



STOP WORK PHOTO CHAOS

Never text another work photo. Never upload to another disorganized drive. Never lose photos in between family pictures.



ASSIGN AND TRACK TASKS

Snap, Tag, Share & Collaborate. Get a list of open items and close them out in real time. Send instant end of day reports.



SIMPLE & AFFORDABLE

Pixly was created for the field. Get Started in 10 minutes with little to no training. Only the features contractors need. No Fluff.

Start Documenting Like a Pro With a 7-Day Free Trial of Pixly.ai

Only \$24.99 / month after your free trial · pixly.ai

Available on App Store & Google Play

