

EXTERIOR FINISHES

Virtually any finish material can be attached to PolySteel walls through either a mechanical or adhesive bonding method.

If the PolySteel walls have been exposed to the sunshine for an extended period of time, they may develop a coating of oxidation that must be removed prior to applying any finish that requires physical bonding to the foam. This coating is powdery to the touch and often yellow in color, but does not reflect a defect in the forms. It is simply removed with a stiff brush and can be washed off with water to provide a clean substrate for the finish material to be applied.

Waterproofing. PolySteel is not waterproof and must be waterproofed for below grade applications. Accordingly, we recommend a 60-mil peel-and-stick waterproofing membrane, such as Protecto Wrap®, which provides an overlapping seam and a uniform barrier for waterproofing PolySteel basements.

We also recommend the **platon**® foundation protector, a dimpled high-density polyethylene sheeting material that is mechanically attached to the PolySteel wall with their patented clips.

Other waterproofing coatings may be applied to PolySteel walls as long as they are compatible with polystyrene and do not have mineral spirits in sufficient quantities to erode the foam. Check with the manufacturer before applying any of these coatings.

Whatever waterproofing system is used, it is important that it is protected during backfilling so as not to breach the system.

Siding. Any type of vinyl, wood, metal, or cement board siding can be attached to PolySteel walls directly to the steel attachment studs. In fact, PolySteel is the ideal wall system for cement board siding, as the steel studs provide a substantial anchor for this heavyweight and durable finishing system.

Brick, Stone, and Masonry. Brick and other masonry ties can be mechanically attached directly to the steel attachment studs to allow for the secure attachment of any type of brick, stone, or masonry veneer. There are a variety of methods to create and incorporate a brick ledge into a PolySteel wall that will support a complete veneer of any size. Refer to the Installation Manual or consult with a PolySteel Representative to determine the best method for your project.

Stucco and EIFS. Traditional stuccos are attached to PolySteel walls by attaching the lath directly to the steel attachment studs and adding whatever additional coatings are required by the manufacturer.

PolySteel also provides the ideal substrate for synthetic acrylic coatings, also known as EIFS (exterior insulating finishing systems), as our walls do not have wood, or the cavities that collect the damaging moisture so common to the problems associated with EIFS and wood-framed structures.

INTERIOR FINISHES

Drywall. The most common material used in finishing interior walls, drywall can be attached (screwed) directly to the steel attachment studs in our PolySteel walls, located every 12" on center.

Plaster, Paneling, or any other interior finish can be applied to PolySteel with an ease and efficiency not common to other wall systems.

Cabinets. While we recommend the attachment of 1/2" plywood behind heavy cabinets for the convenience of the cabinet maker, our steel studs provide superior strength and security for even these types of loads. You can also attach a sheet of 20-gauge sheet metal behind the cabinets to provide an unrestricted attachment surface for large cabinets.