

OTTAWA STUCCO

Stucco Painting

Painting and refinishing stucco surfaces with elastomeric and specialty coatings, including colour selection, surface preparation, and maintenance schedules.

3 Expert Answers from Stucco IQ

ottawastucco.com/construction-brain

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Can stucco be painted with a masonry-specific coating for longer life in Ottawa?

Yes, stucco can and should be painted with masonry-specific coatings in Ottawa, and this is actually one of the best investments you can make to extend your stucco's lifespan in our harsh climate. Elastomeric paint is the gold standard for stucco coating in Ottawa because it's specifically formulated to handle the extreme temperature swings and freeze-thaw cycles that destroy regular exterior paint.

Why Masonry Coatings Matter in Ottawa

Ottawa's brutal climate puts enormous stress on painted stucco surfaces. Regular latex or acrylic house paint simply cannot handle the 65-degree temperature swings from minus 30 in winter to plus 35 in summer.

Elastomeric coatings are engineered to stretch and contract with the substrate, preventing the cracking and peeling that leads to water infiltration. Once water gets behind failed paint, it freezes, expands, and starts the destructive cycle that can damage the stucco underneath.

Quality elastomeric coatings form a **waterproof yet breathable membrane** over your stucco. They allow water vapor to escape from inside the wall while blocking liquid water from penetrating the surface. This breathability is crucial because trapped moisture in Ottawa's freeze-thaw environment will cause spalling and delamination of the stucco itself.

The best masonry coatings for Ottawa stucco include **100% acrylic elastomeric paints with a minimum elongation rating of 300%**. Premium brands like Sherwin-Williams Loxon, Benjamin Moore Aura Masonry, and Dulux Weathershield Masonry offer excellent performance. These coatings typically cost **\$80 to \$120 per gallon** but provide 10 to 15 years of protection compared to 3 to 5 years for regular exterior paint.

Professional application of elastomeric coating on a typical Ottawa home runs \$3,000 to \$7,000, depending on the home's size and surface condition. The surface preparation is critical — all loose paint must be removed, cracks filled with appropriate elastomeric caulk, and the surface properly primed. Many contractors recommend a **primer specifically designed for masonry substrates** before applying the elastomeric topcoat.

Timing is important in Ottawa's climate. **Apply masonry coatings between May and September** when temperatures are consistently above 10 degrees Celsius and humidity is moderate. The coating needs 24 to 48 hours of dry conditions to cure properly. Avoid painting in direct sunlight on hot days, as this can cause the coating to dry too quickly and compromise adhesion.

For homeowners considering this upgrade, start by having your stucco inspected for any cracks or damage that should be repaired before painting. You can browse experienced stucco contractors who handle coating applications through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com using the stucco trade

filter.

Q2

What is the best elastomeric stucco paint for preventing crack visibility in Ottawa?

Elastomeric paint is your best defense against hairline crack visibility on Ottawa stucco, offering the flexibility needed to bridge minor cracks that develop through our city's brutal freeze-thaw cycles. The key is choosing a paint with high elongation properties and proven performance in extreme temperature swings.

Elastomeric Paint Performance in Ottawa Climate

For Ottawa conditions, you want an elastomeric coating with **elongation properties of at least 400%** and preferably 600% or higher. This flexibility allows the paint film to stretch and contract with the stucco substrate as temperatures swing from minus 30 to plus 35 degrees Celsius. Quality elastomeric paints can bridge hairline cracks up to **1/16 inch (1.5mm) wide** without splitting or peeling.

The most effective products for Ottawa stucco include **100% acrylic elastomeric coatings** rather than vinyl-acrylic blends. Pure acrylic formulations maintain their flexibility longer in UV exposure and resist chalking better during our intense summer sun. Look for products specifically rated for **Canadian climate zones 6 and 7**, which covers the Ottawa region. These paints typically have enhanced freeze-thaw resistance and better adhesion in temperature extremes.

Sherwin-Williams Loxon XP and **Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior** are frequently used by Ottawa contractors for their proven track record in our climate. Both offer excellent elongation properties and come in low-sheen finishes that help minimize the appearance of surface imperfections. **Behr Premium Elastomeric Masonry Paint** provides good value while maintaining necessary performance characteristics for Ottawa conditions.

Application Costs and Coverage

Professional elastomeric paint application on Ottawa stucco runs **\$3,000 to \$7,000 for a typical home**, depending on wall area and surface preparation required. The paint itself costs **\$80 to \$120 per gallon** for quality elastomeric products, with coverage rates of 75 to 100 square feet per gallon on textured stucco. Two coats are essential for proper crack-bridging performance and longevity.

Surface preparation significantly affects both cost and performance. Existing paint must be pressure washed and any loose material removed. **Crack filling with elastomeric caulk** should be completed before painting for cracks

wider than 2mm. This preparation work can add \$500 to \$1,500 to the total project cost but is essential for long-term success.

Timing and Climate Considerations

Elastomeric paint application requires **ambient temperatures between 10 and 30 degrees Celsius** with humidity below 85%. Ottawa's optimal painting window runs from **late May through early October**, avoiding the spring moisture season and fall temperature drops. The paint needs 24 to 48 hours of dry conditions for proper film formation, which can be challenging during Ottawa's variable shoulder seasons.

Avoid application during periods of high humidity or when rain is forecast within 24 hours. Morning dew can interfere with adhesion, so start painting after surfaces are completely dry, typically after 10 AM during Ottawa's humid summer mornings.

For best results with elastomeric stucco paint in Ottawa, consider consulting with contractors experienced in our specific climate challenges. You can browse stucco painting professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to get multiple quotes and ensure proper application techniques for maximum crack-bridging performance.

Q3

How do you paint stucco around detailed architectural trim on an Ottawa home?

Painting stucco around detailed architectural trim requires careful preparation and the right technique to achieve clean lines while protecting the stucco's texture and performance in Ottawa's harsh climate.

The key to professional-looking results lies in proper masking and using elastomeric paint specifically designed for stucco surfaces. Start by thoroughly cleaning both the stucco and trim with a pressure washer set to low pressure (1,500 PSI maximum) to avoid damaging the stucco texture. Allow 24-48 hours for complete drying before beginning paint preparation.

For masking detailed trim, use high-quality painter's tape designed for textured surfaces — standard masking tape won't conform properly to stucco's irregular surface. Apply the tape carefully, pressing it firmly into the texture around trim edges. Consider using a plastic putty knife to work the tape into deeper texture grooves. For intricate Victorian-era trim common in Ottawa neighbourhoods like the Glebe or Sandy Hill, you may need to use multiple strips of narrow tape to follow complex curves and details.

Choose elastomeric paint specifically formulated for stucco — regular exterior latex paint will crack and peel within 1-2 years in Ottawa's freeze-thaw environment. Quality elastomeric stucco paint costs **\$65-85 per gallon** and provides the flexibility needed to accommodate thermal movement. Popular brands like Sherwin-Williams Loxon or Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior work well in Ottawa conditions. Plan on **\$3,000-7,000** for painting a full Ottawa home's stucco, depending on size and trim complexity.

Apply paint using a combination of brush and roller techniques. Use a high-quality angled brush (2.5-3 inches) to carefully cut in around trim details, working the paint into the stucco texture. Follow immediately with a thick-nap roller (3/4 inch minimum) to maintain consistent texture across larger wall areas. Work in manageable sections to maintain a wet edge.

Ottawa's climate demands careful timing for this work. **Paint only when temperatures will remain above 10°C for at least 48 hours** after application, and avoid painting in direct sunlight on hot summer days when surface temperatures exceed 32°C. The ideal painting season runs from late May through early October. Morning application often works best, allowing the paint to cure before afternoon heat or evening dew.

Remove masking tape while the paint is still slightly tacky — typically 2-4 hours after application depending on temperature and humidity. Pulling tape from fully dried paint can cause peeling along the edges. If you discover small areas where paint bled under the tape, touch them up with a small artist's brush rather than attempting to re-tape and repaint.

For homeowners comfortable with ladder work and detail painting, this project is manageable as a DIY task on single-storey areas. However, **hire a professional painter** for work above 12 feet, homes with extensive architectural details, or if you're uncomfortable with the precision required around expensive trim work.

Your next step should be obtaining quotes from experienced painters familiar with stucco work. Browse painting contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com, specifically looking for those with stucco painting experience in Ottawa's climate conditions.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Stucco. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any stucco, parging, or exterior rendering project. Information is current as of July 19, 2026 and may change. Visit ottawastucco.com for the latest answers.