

# Tech Hotline

**No. 0407-S**

**April, 2007**

## **Keys to Success: StoQuik® Silver Cement Board Stucco Systems**

1. Address critical details at sills, decks, chimneys with proper flashing techniques. Refer to Sto Tech Hotline No. 0403-BSc, *Critical Details Checklist for Wall Assemblies*.
2. Framing: use kiln dried lumber and eliminate twisted or warped studs—installed cement board must be true to ¼ inch in 10 feet (6 mm in 3 m) for best aesthetics. Space framing no more than 16 inches (406 mm) on center. For structural design criteria use L/360 maximum allowable deflection.
3. Install sheathing and weather protection (StoGuard® or other code compliant water-resistive barrier) beneath cement board: the sheathing not only helps to correct minor planar irregularities in the framing, but also minimizes the risk of studs telegraphing through the finished wall surface. The water-resistive barrier is code required moisture protection. Use StoGuard for best moisture protection.
4. Offset cement board from sheathing joints by one stud minimum.
5. Stagger cement board joint layout.
6. Attach cement board at no more than 8 inches (203 mm) on center along ends and edges.
7. Cut cement board in “L” shape around windows, doors and similar openings.
8. Abut cement boards to each other (no gap at cement board joints).
9. Provide proper joints and joint accessories at floor lines, changes in substrate or structural system, changes in building shape, at expansion joints in the framing or building, and at intervals not to exceed 25 ft (7.6 m) in any one direction (16 feet [4.9 m] for colors with Lightness Value < 50).
10. Always use light colors (Lightness Value > 30) to minimize thermal expansion and contraction.
11. Use accessories correctly with double mesh (self-adhesive mesh and field mesh) over accessory flanges on face of cement board. Refer to Sto Tech Hotline No. 0307-S, *Accessories for StoQuik Silver Cement Board Stucco Systems*.
12. Tape cement board joints with self-adhesive mesh and apply diagonal mesh at corners of openings.
13. Install full mesh reinforcement over the entire cement board wall surface.
14. Use 1.5 mm and heavier texture finishes for best aesthetics.
15. Install two layers of base coat (double back over the mesh reinforced layer of base coat) if needed to improve aesthetics. This is especially important if a fine texture finish is used.