

National Certificate in Building, Construction, and Allied Trades Skills (BCATS)

**Demonstrate knowledge of the
exterior plastering industry within
a BCATS environment**

Unit Standard – 25323

Level 2, Credit 2

Name: _____



What you need to do

By the end of this module, you should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the exterior plastering industry covering:

- major industry sectors
- industry work processes
- industry clients, supply and inter-trade relationships
- the impact of regulatory and trade bodies on the industry and
- industry jobs and their training requirements.

How you will be assessed

Your teacher/tutor will give you a worksheet that you need to complete, which your teacher/tutor will mark.

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
AS/NZS	Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard. A standard that applies in both Australia and New Zealand.
Industry bodies	Organisations that play a role within an industry in a regulatory, support or advisory capacity. This includes regulatory bodies, industry training organisations and trade or professional associations.
ITO	A tertiary education organisation which develops qualifications and arranges training for a specific industry.
NZS	New Zealand Standard.
PPCS	Proprietary Plaster Cladding Systems are the modern form of exterior plastering that use modified plasters to coat the exterior of buildings.
Regulations	Regulations are rules that tell companies how work should be done or what the finished product should be like.
Solid plastering	Solid plastering is the traditional form of exterior plastering that uses sand and cement plasters to coat the exterior of buildings



Introduction

Exterior plastering evolved in Europe as a means of plastering old stone structures and adorning them with decorative mouldings. The traditions of the “old world” were brought to the “new world” as countries such as New Zealand were colonised. Over the years, the trade has adapted to working with new structures and new materials. Traditional, historical plastering work is becoming less and less common but the fundamental skills and applications of building up protective layers of plaster to weatherproof a structure remain the same.

In New Zealand, there are two main sectors of the exterior plastering industry. Some tradespeople prefer to work within the one defined sector, others choose to work across both.



Solid plastering

Solid plastering is the traditional form of exterior plastering that uses sand and cement plasters to coat the exterior of buildings. In New Zealand, solid plaster is often referred to as stucco which, in reality, only covers part of the work a solid plasterer does.

Solid plasterers work on two types of substrates:

- solid substrates – which include concrete, concrete block, stone, brick or any other material that is considered “solid” in form; and
- light timber framed substrates – which include timber framed buildings with some sort of exterior lining to which the plaster layers are applied

Proprietary Plaster Cladding Systems (PPCS)

Proprietary Plaster Cladding Systems (PPCS) use modified plasters to coat the exterior of buildings.

People who work within the PPCS sector are often referred to as applicators as they “apply” a specific manufacturer’s system in order to achieve the finished plastered surface.

There are a number of different manufacturers of PPCS within New Zealand – who either alone or in conjunction with manufacturers of other products develop their own specific plasters, coatings, flashings, beads, trims, accessories and paints that together form a particular PPCS. Below are some well-known PPCS manufacturers operating in New Zealand.

- Rockcote Systems www.rockcote.co.nz
- Sto NZ www.sto.co.nz
- Nu-Age Plaster www.nu-age.co.nz
- Masons Plastabrick www.mpb.co.nz
- Specialized Construction Products www.specialized.co.nz

There is not a single plaster that makes up a manufacturer’s PPCS. Each manufacturer will have a variety of different types of plasters depending on their intended use and each plaster will be a composition of different ingredients combined together in different quantities. In a similar way to how KFC will only tell you that their chicken is coated in the Colonel’s secret herbs and spices, so too is a PPCS manufacturer protective about their plasters. Each plaster is designed for specific use on a specific material in a specific way.

PPCS applicators work on a number of different types of substrates:

- solid substrates – which include concrete, concrete block, aerated concrete or any other material that is considered “solid” in form;
- lightweight fibre cement sheets fixed to a timber frame;
- rebated fibre cement sheets fixed to a timber frame;
- polystyrene sheets fixed to a timber frame; and
- polystyrene blocks, which are a lightweight alternative to concrete blocks. They are filled with reinforcing and mortar in a similar way to traditional concrete blocks.

Below are some substrate manufacturers who provide the surface onto which the PPCS is applied.

- Koolfoam Industries www.koolfoam.co.nz (manufacturers of expanded polystyrene [EPS] sheets)
- James Hardie Building Products www.jameshardie.co.nz (manufacturers of fibre cement sheets)
- Hebel www.hebel.co.nz (manufacturers of aerated concrete products)
- Superform Building Systems www.superform.co.nz (manufacturers of polystyrene blocks)

While the individual products that form a particular system may be available as separate items, it is only when they are assembled, constructed, applied and finished, as specified by the manufacturer, can it be called a PPCS.

Work Processes

There are a number of different work processes undertaken by exterior plasterers depending on:

- the sector they are working in (Solid Plastering or PPCS);
- the substrate they are working on (solid, light timber framed, fibre cement sheet, polystyrene etc);
- the manufacturers system they are working with (if applying a PPCS); and
- the extent of the work they are required to undertake as part of their contract.

Preparation of surfaces

The amount and type of surface preparation that needs to happen prior to applying exterior plaster depends on whether the type of plaster is a solid plaster (sand and cement) or a PPCS (modified plaster) – and what type of substrate the plaster is being applied to.

No matter what type of material the substrate is made of, it needs to be prepared properly so that the plaster will stick to it. As a general rule of thumb, that means that all surfaces need to be clean and free of dust, oils, and not have any loose bits flaking, peeling or falling off it.

Some examples on how surfaces are prepared for solid plastering

Solid surfaces	water blasting, sand blasting or scabbling (a process that chips and roughens the surface).
Light timber framed buildings	checking the lining material has been installed properly, fixing reinforcing mesh, mouldings and flashings, and ensuring construction joints are formed.

Some examples on how surfaces are prepared for PPCS

Fibre cement sheets	checking that the fibre cement sheets and accessories have been installed properly, masking adjoining areas, installing proprietary beads and flashings, and priming joints.
Polystyrene	checking that the polystyrene sheets and accessories have been installed properly, masking adjoining areas, and installing proprietary beads and flashings.
Solid surfaces	washing, water blasting, sand blasting or chemical cleaning.

Surface preparation is crucial to exterior plastering as it is often the quality of the base surface that determines the quality of the finished job. Another important thing to know is that once a plasterer or applicator accepts the surface for plastering, they are accepting responsibility for that surface. So if the surface is some type of sheet material that has been installed by someone else and if it

has not been installed correctly, the exterior plasterer needs to ensure that the installer undertakes any remedial work necessary before any plaster is applied.

Plastering solid surfaces

Plastering solid surfaces is a work process undertaken by both solid plasterers and PPCS applicators. The difference being in the types of plasters used and the number and types of coats applied.

Solid Plasterers apply three types of sand and cement plaster coats to solid surfaces. They are:

- bond coat;
- flanking coat; and
- finish coat.

The bond and flanking coats are “keyed” or “scratched” prior to the application of the next coat to ensure that it sticks to the surface.

PPCS applicators apply modified plaster coats as specified by the PPCS manufacturer. The plasters used often have different additives and serve different purposes in the overall composition of the completed plastered surface. As a rule though, a PPCS applicator will apply the following modified plaster coats to solid surfaces:

- levelling base coat; and
- finish coat(s).

Solid plastering light timber framed substrates

Solid plastering light timber framed substrates is referred to as stucco work. It is undertaken in a similar way to how a solid substrate is plastered with the main difference being that there is a reinforcing mesh that is attached to the surface of the sheet lining material that is fixed to the timber framing.

Once the reinforcing mesh is attached, there is again the application of three coats of sand and cement plaster – those three coats being:

- scratch coat (the first coat to bed-in the reinforcing mesh);
- flanking coat (the middle coat); and
- finish coat (sometimes textured in some way to provide a distinctive pattern to the finished surface).

Sand and cement plasters require careful curing to ensure that the surface does not dry too quickly or unevenly – both of which could cause cracking. Apart from the finishing coat of paint, the finished plastered surface is the surface that is seen by all and therefore much care and skill goes into making sure that it is applied in such a way that will end up looking precisely like it is supposed to.

Applying modified plasters (PPCS) to fibre cement substrates

As described earlier, there are two types of fibre cement sheet that can be attached to timber frames and plastered.

Lightweight fibre cement sheets: Usually only 4.5mm thick.

Coated all over the surface with several thick layers of modified plasters – the first being a base coat and the second a mesh coat which has fibreglass reinforcing mesh bedded into it.

Subsequent modified plaster coats are then applied as per the PPCS manufacturer's specifications.

Rebated fibre cement sheets: Usually 7.5 or 9mm thick with rebated edges.

Sheet joins (along the rebated edges) are primed and plastered (jointed) with a fibreglass reinforcing tape bedded into a jointing compound to effectively make the entire surface of all the joined sheets one, large monolithic surface.

Modified plaster coats are then applied to the whole surface as per the PPCS manufacturer's specifications.

Applying modified plasters (PPCS) to polystyrene substrates

Polystyrene substrates that are coated with a proprietary plaster system are known as an Exterior Insulation and Finishing System (EIFS).

There are a number of different thicknesses of polystyrene sheets that provide the substrate for plastering – the most common thicknesses being 40mm and 60mm.

The polystyrene substrate is coated all over the surface with a thick layer of modified plaster – the first being a base coat into which a fibreglass reinforcing mesh bedded in. Subsequent modified plaster coats are then applied as per the PPCS manufacturer's specifications.

Note: The polystyrene substrate is usually fixed in position by the applicator or another member of the exterior plastering crew they belong to. This is an important difference to note because fibre cement substrates are usually fixed by the carpenter/builder.

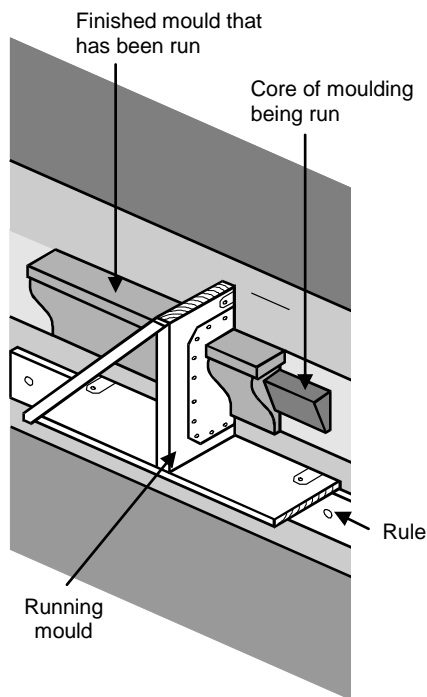
Applying decorative mouldings

Decorative mouldings help to bring out the architectural features of the building. The application of decorative mouldings is completely different for the Solid Plastering and PPCS sectors.

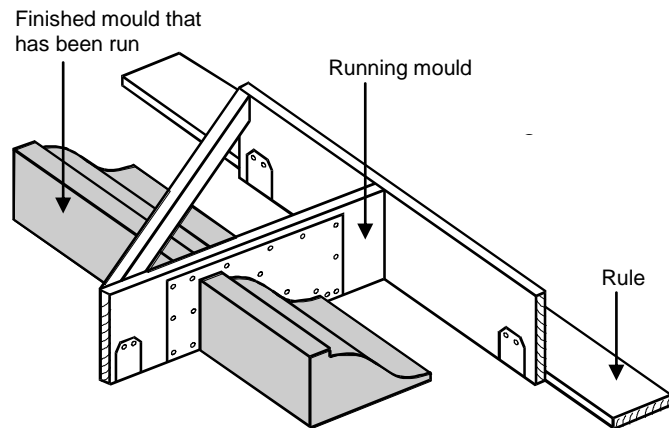
Solid plastering decorative mouldings

While plastering flat surfaces is the bread and butter work of the solid plasterer, the application of mouldings is the artisan side of the trade. This process is most often done as part of historical restoration work and very few plasterers get the opportunity to undertake this as part of their trade.

Decorative mouldings are formed by a process called “running”. Running a moulding is done by building up layers of plaster and running a specially shaped profile mould along a rule (that has been temporarily fixed to the face of the building) to form the shape of the mould on the surface of the building. Mouldings can be run in-situ (on the building in its designated position) or on a bench – which will mean that once dry, the moulding can be lifted and fixed to the building.



Running a moulding in situ



Running a moulding on a bench

PPCS decorative mouldings

When there is the need for some sort of decorative moulding to be applied to a PPCS, they tend to be pieces of pre-formed polystyrene that are stuck onto the building and plastered over. Often these decorative mouldings come “pre-meshed” so that all that needs to happen to them is the application of the finishing coat of plaster.

Client Base

Subcontracting

An exterior plastering subcontractor is a tradesperson, company or business contracted by a main contractor to work in their specialised trade as part of an overall project.

The subcontractor will take instructions from, is paid by, and is responsible to the main contractor or their on-site representative.

By way of example, a builder is building a new house and engages a local exterior plasterer to apply the PPCS that has been specified for the job by the architect. The builder will generally have an existing relationship with the exterior plastering subcontractor as they will with other subcontractors (such as the plumber, electrician, concrete placer etc) but will probably still ask them to quote for the job and the negotiated price will be included in their tender price to the client when determining the cost for the whole job.

In this example, the builder is acting as the main contractor and is managing all the different relationships with subcontractors who are assisting them in completing the full scope of work.

Direct to client

Many exterior plastering tradespersons (sole traders), companies or businesses may also have clients who aren't "in the trade" – but are clients who choose to manage the building process themselves and engage directly with the trades or professions whose skills they need to hire.

In this situation, they are working direct for the client and will take instructions from, be paid by, and be responsible to them.

By way of example, a homeowner has had a new concrete block fence constructed at the front of their house and wants to have it plastered. They get a local exterior plasterer to do the work and agree on the provision of materials and the timing of the job. The exterior plasterer will work directly with the client on all matters of the job.

Supply Relationships

Different exterior plastering contractors will have different supply relationships depending on the type of work they undertake and the necessity to form relationships with one or more manufacturers and/or suppliers to the industry. There is no “one size fits all” for this industry sector – or in fact most other sectors of the construction industry. However there are some general principles that apply and the following documents some specific relationships and gives some examples relating specifically to exterior plastering.

Trade accounts

This is where a manufacturer or supplier agrees to sell trade goods to approved customers on the basis that the customer promises to repay on or before a stipulated date in the future (generally the 20th of the month following invoice).

Trade accounts allow contractors requiring materials the ability to get those materials without having the money up-front – therefore benefiting from the credit given to them by the supply company. Suppliers have the benefit of selling more of the products they supply over those same or similar products that may be supplied by their competitors. Realistically, the relationship has to be mutually beneficial for it to work and so by and large, both the contractor and the supplier need to work together to ensure that they both get what they need out of it.

Trade discounts

Most suppliers reward their loyal customers with a discount – and this is certainly true of those suppliers to the exterior plastering industry. From a supplier perspective, they want repeat business and the ability to be able to sell larger quantities than non-business shoppers might buy when walking in the door.

Trade discounts are usually expressed as a percentage of the retail price and may vary depending on the type of product and quantity ordered. There is no guarantee that the trade discounted price will always beat “specials” or other discounts that may be available from time to time on standard retail stock.

Manufacturer guarantee systems

Manufacturer guarantee systems are written assurances from manufacturers that their goods or services meet a certain standard of quality and durability.

- Sometimes the manufacturer guarantees only their products/systems to be manufactured to a specific quality level.
- Sometimes the manufacturer also guarantees the use of their products/systems in their installed state by a contractor whose work they are prepared to stand behind.

Either way, manufacturers have a vested interest in ensuring their good name remains at the forefront of people’s minds when thinking of purchasing or specifying the use of their products.

Manufacturer guarantee systems are particularly relevant in the PPCS sector of exterior plastering. In order for a PPCS to be specified and used on a building, it must:

- go through a BRANZ Appraisal (which is a strict testing regime undertaken by the Building Research Association of New Zealand); and
- be signed-off by the Territorial Authority issuing the Building Consent for the work being undertaken.

Both of these requirements mean that manufacturers are extremely concerned about standing behind their systems and working closely in partnership with:

- the manufacturers of the substrates on which their products are being applied; and
- a network of applicators who will apply their specified systems.

Accredited supply networks

PPCS manufacturers and suppliers have accredited supply networks whereby a manufacturer or supplier of products and systems is prepared to stand by certain contractors/applicators work provided they satisfy the manufacturer's accreditation criteria.

There are no set criteria when it comes to the various accredited supply networks of the different manufacturers associated with the Exterior Plastering industry, but by and large they develop long-term relationships with those exterior plasterers who have a good standing in the industry and are known for the quality of their workmanship.

Product training

Many modern construction products and systems have become more complex over time and require specialist knowledge and skills in order to ensure that the finished job meets the required quality standard.

Because PPCS manufacturers have a vested interest in ensuring that their products and systems are installed and applied correctly and they know that technical trade literature is often not read as thoroughly as it should be, PPCS manufacturers offer technical training (often free) on the use of their products and systems to ensure that they are used the way they were designed to be used.

Sometimes this training is delivered by a specialist technical training team and sometimes the manufacturer's sales representatives lead the training as a part of their role. Depending on the size of the manufacturer, in-house engineers and designers can also be involved in training – although this type of training is generally limited to designers and specifiers within the construction industry who want to incorporate the manufacturer's products and systems in the buildings they are creating.

Relationships with other Trades

The successful completion of any construction project, large or small, relies on bringing together people with a wide range of skills and expertise along with good organisation, quality control, coordination and clear lines of communication. All trades have a duty of care to respect and avoid damage to the work of other trades that have preceded them.

The responsibility for organising and coordinating all construction operations for a project will usually fall upon the main contractor – who for a large project may have a team of people working for them in overseeing roles and for a small project may just be them as the builder. Clear avenues of communication need to be established to ensure that everyone involved in the project is fully aware of their specialist roles and responsibilities and also the roles of other trades that they will be associated with. The complex task of planning and organising the various construction trades working cooperatively together to produce a quality completed project requires the coordination and cooperation of all construction trades working on the project, plus their material suppliers and all other companies and individuals associated in any way with the project.

Exterior Plastering contractors are involved in projects once the exterior framing or substrate is complete, the roof is on, the exterior windows and doors are installed, and the building is ready to be made completely weatherproof.

Along with a good relationship with the main contractor (generally the builder), Exterior Plastering contractors need to consider the trades that come immediately before them and those that follow immediately after them.

Trades that come before and the relationships with them

There are many trades that come before the Exterior Plastering contractor starts to apply the plaster coats to the substrate. Here are some of the important ones.

- The carpenter or builder who has constructed the framing on which the substrate is fixed (if it is a light timber framed building).
- The block-layer (if it is a solid concrete block structure).
- The fixer of the substrate – which may or may not be the carpenter or builder (in fact if the substrate is polystyrene, it will be fixed by the Exterior Plastering contractor themselves).
- Any trade that will “penetrate” the substrate and plastered surface of the building (such as plumbers and electricians) as they need to have their pipes and cables in place before any plastering work is undertaken.
- The joiner who installs the exterior doors and windows.
- The scaffolder who provides the working platforms off which the exterior plasterer will work to reach all surfaces off the ground.

Exterior plastering contractors need to know what trades come before them in their work and build relationships with them to ensure that together, they are able to produce weathertight exterior surfaces.

Trades that come after and the relationships with them

The trades that follow exterior plastering contractors tend to be those that come before them (such as the plumbers, electricians etc) to finish off the work that they started and can only complete once the surface is finished.

Another trade that follows immediately after the exterior plasterer is the painter – who tends to form close relationships with the exterior plasterer as the work of a painter goes hand in hand with the work of a plasterer if the finished surface is going to achieve what has been specified.

There are also other trades that follow, many of whom have not been on the site to date. These trades can affect the weather-tightness of the plastered surface if they do not take care with what they are doing. Below are a couple of examples.

- Sky television installers or other trades that “fix to” the finished plastered surface can create weaknesses in the surface or allow water to penetrate if they do not install their products properly. All penetrations to the plastered surface must be properly flashed and sealed and there must be sufficient support in the structure behind to take the fixings.
- Landscape gardeners must not build-up the gardens to or over the line of the plastered surface or over time, the system will deteriorate and moisture could enter the structure.

Exterior plastering contractors need to know what trades follow them in their work and build relationships with them to ensure the integrity of the finished plastered surface is not compromised in any way.



Requirements of Industry Bodies

Construction and building work in New Zealand is primarily governed by the following legislation:

- the Building Act 2004; **and**
- the Building Regulations (which includes the Building Code)

All new building work must comply with the Building Code. Its purpose is to ensure that buildings are safe and healthy for the people who use them and identifies the minimum requirements to be met to guarantee this.

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) administers the Building Act and Building Code and also oversees a range of other building and housing related acts and regulations (including occupational licensing in the building trades).

Occupational licensing aims to ensure that people in the building industry who are responsible for the work done are competent and accountable, so that homes and buildings are designed and built right the first time. The main occupational licensing that impacts on the exterior plastering trade is the Licensed Building Practitioners scheme; the Building Practitioners Board is closely related to the scheme.

Licensed Building Practitioners Scheme

The Licensed Building Practitioners Scheme was introduced in November 2007. Along with a series of licence classes covering carpenters, site supervisors, construction managers, designers and architects, there are also a number of specialist trade licence classes – of which one is for external plastering.

The external plastering licence class was introduced in November 2008 and allows licence holders to specialise in solid plastering, PPCS, or both types of exterior plastering work.

All exterior plastering work needs to be undertaken by someone holding an external plastering licence. That doesn't mean that every single exterior plasterer needs to be licensed, just that a licence holder will need to be responsible for, and sign-off, every job that is completed.

Building Practitioners Board

The Building Practitioners Board plays a key role in the Licensed Building Practitioner Scheme. The Board's role is to:

- recommend to the Minister for approval the rules relating to licensed building practitioners – including licence standards;
- consider appeals against decisions made by the Registrar; and
- hear complaints about licensed building practitioners.

WorkSafe New Zealand (WorkSafe)

WorkSafe is the work health and safety regulator and is responsible for implementing the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

WorkSafe's functions include:

- Monitoring and enforcing compliance with work health and safety legislation
- Providing guidance, advice and information on work health and safety
- Fostering a co-operative and consultative relationship between the people who have health and safety duties and the persons to whom they owe those duties and their representatives.
- Collecting, analysing and publishing statistics and other information relating to work health and safety.

Building Consent Authorities

A Building Consent Authority (BCA) is an organisation or individual accredited to administer building control functions which is most commonly done by Territorial Authorities (local authorities or councils).

BCAs administer the requirements of the Building Code. They make sure that the work that has been done meets the Building Code.

They have to check the work before it starts, while it is underway and when it is finished. This is shown in the table below.

What the BCA does	When	What they are checking
Issue building consents	Before any building work starts	Checking that the details shown on drawings meet the Building Code
Perform inspections	As building progresses	Checking that construction, insulation, lining, bracing, weather tightness, plumbing, and electrical work complies with the Building Code
Issue Code Compliance Certificates	When the building is completed	Checking that all the requirements of the Building Code are met.

The work of the exterior plastering industry does not require an individual building consent, but the jobs they do and the specifications they must meet form part of the approved working drawings and specifications that make up a building consent. Furthermore, their work is often subject to BCA inspection prior to plastering the substrate and once the substrate has been plastered.

Standards New Zealand

Standards New Zealand is the operating arm of the Standards Council, an organisation set up under the Standards Act 1988. The Standards Council is the governing body for Standards New Zealand.

What is a Standard?

Standards are agreed specifications for products, processes, services, or performance. New Zealand Standards are used by a range of trades, including exterior plastering, to enhance their products and services, improve safety and quality, and meet industry best practice.

What are Standards for?

- Standards help to keep homes, buildings, playgrounds, and health services safe. They help to prevent accidents and injuries in a broad range of areas.
- Standards minimise the impact of potential disasters such as earthquakes, or fires and electrical hazards, and also improve the quality of goods and services. They help to protect the environment, and they boost the country's economic growth and our trade opportunities.

The standards that directly relate to the exterior plastering industry are:

- NZS 4251:2007 – Solid Plastering – cement plasters for walls, ceilings and soffits

Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ)

BRANZ is an independent and impartial research, testing, consulting and information company providing services and resources for the building industry.

Their two main areas of activity are to:

- research and investigate the construction and design of buildings that impact the built environment in New Zealand; and
- enable the transfer of knowledge from the research community into the commercial building and construction industry.

Their core purpose is to improve people's lives through research and to inform, educate and motivate those who shape the built environment.

BRANZ produce a series of Good Practice Guides (GPG) to the industry and two of them are specifically related to the exterior plastering industry. They are:

- GPG – Stucco
- GPG – Texture Coated Claddings

Trade associations

The solid plastering sector of the exterior plastering industry has had an association with the tiling industry for many years and as such, their trade associations are generally Master Plasterers and Tilers Associations. While there was a national federation that operated for a number of years, there is now instead a series of regional industry associations. You can Google these.

The Canterbury Master Plasterers and Tilers Employers Association (www.cmpt.co.nz) has been around for over 110 years and is probably the strongest of all the regional associations in New Zealand with members covering the South Island from Timaru to Nelson.

The PPCS sector of the Exterior Plastering industry doesn't have a trade association as such, but most PPCS manufacturers have groups of accredited applicators who together basically form their own association of sorts – specialising in a particular manufacturer's products and systems.

Many PPCS manufacturers also belong to the Claddings Institute of New Zealand (CINZ) who bring together the resources of the many sectors that make up the claddings market. (You can visit the Claddings Institute website at www.cinz.org.nz.)

Industry Training Organisations

Industry training organisations (ITOs) set the skill standards and arrange training for people employed in the industries the ITO is responsible for. Almost all apprentices in New Zealand are enrolled with an ITO.

The ITO that serves the construction sector is the Building and Construction industry Training Organisation (**BCITO**). Aside from Exterior Plastering, the BCITO is the ITO that serves:

- Interior Systems
- Flooring
- Tiling
- Frame and Truss Manufacturing
- Cement and Concrete
- Proprietary Plaster and Cladding Systems
- Joinery
- Painting and Decorating
- Kitchen and Bathroom Design
- Brick and Block Laying

Job roles and Training

The exterior plastering industry offers a range of jobs and a progressive career structure so you can grow and develop with experience.

We list most of them below, starting from the more junior roles and working upwards towards those that require more qualifications and experience but have subsequently greater rewards.

Unskilled labourer

This is the most junior position in the trade. The labourer does a lot of the general basic “lifting, carrying, loading and unloading” sort of jobs and is not expected to have a qualification although if they remain on the job long enough they can pick up good experience.

Labourers report to the main tradesman, foreman or leading hand.

Often their job may be on a casual contract basis and they can be easily out of work if the industry goes through a lean time.

Apprentice

To become qualified, exterior plasterers complete a formal apprenticeship, which usually takes between two and three years. An apprentice is a person who has signed into a Training Agreement with an employer to learn the range of knowledge, skills, and competencies that are required for a career in the plastering industry.

Apprentices receive on the job training and are assessed for a range of theory and practical plastering work. Apprenticeships are “competency based” which is all about demonstrating the ability (both in terms of knowledge and skill) to complete a range of tasks to a recognised industry standard.

An apprentice works towards a National Certificate in Solid Plastering or in PPCS which provides the skills and knowledge required to work as an exterior plasterer in the construction industry. People who gain a qualification will have a broad knowledge and skill base to work as a competent tradesperson whether they specialise in residential, industrial, commercial or multi-storey construction. Many apprentices complete both the solid plastering and PPCS qualifications.

Exterior plastering tradesperson

An exterior plasterer tradesperson is a skilled person who performs a range work operations involved in the exterior plastering trade in which they have been successfully trained.

Once qualified, there are a variety of career paths to choose from - some requiring further experience and extra training including:

- Specialising in the residential (housing) or commercial sector.
- Working for a large construction company.
- Starting up in business as a sole trader.

Depending on the area of the trade that the tradesperson has chosen to work, they may report to different people.

If they are working on a large commercial site they will generally report to the construction foreman (leading hand), although if they are a contractor they may report to the construction supervisor or project manager.

If the tradesperson is an independent business person (sole trader) he will be responsible for his own work performance but will have to perform to the contract and/or expectations of the home owner/building manager or the owner/architect if working on a residential or commercial structure.

Foreman/Supervisor

A foreman is usually a tradesperson with years of experience and specialist knowledge who is charged with the day to day organisation of a gang/team generally made up of qualified tradespersons and labourers. He will probably spend a reasonable amount of time still doing exterior plastering tasks.

Foremen/supervisors report to the project manager on large sites or to the main contractor/builder on smaller sites.

The National Certificate in Construction Trades (Supervisor) (Level 4) is designed to recognise the skills and knowledge required to be a supervisor/foreman in the construction industry..

Training enquiries

If you are interested in a career in the exterior plastering industry contact the BCITO:

Phone: 0800 4BCITO
0800 422 486

Web: www.bcito.org.nz
getacareer@bcito.org.nz

For more experience at school contact your school Gateway supervisor or careers advisor.