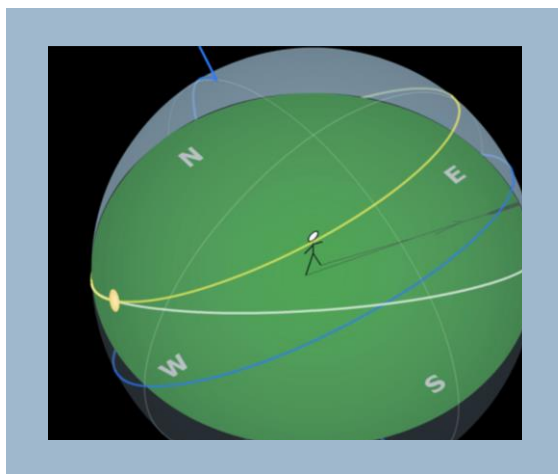


Critical Light Considerations with Dryvit Outsulation® Systems



The phenomenon of critical light is most pronounced when sunlight, or any source of light, strikes a wall surface at a 15 degree angle or less. All hand applied materials, even when installed to industry standards, can sometimes result in “shadowing” (or texture variations) for short periods of time under critical light. This effect can become more pronounced with smoother, less textured surfaces. This is a normal, temporary aesthetic phenomenon and does not affect the performance or physical properties of the cladding system.

To minimize potentially objectionable results it is important that proper procedures be followed. Dryvit provides specifications and application instructions for its products, with specific methods and procedures to ensure long-term performance as well as to provide aesthetically acceptable results. The condition of the substrate prior to the system installation is a key factor in the final appearance. Dryvit specifications require that the substrate be reasonably flat to within 1/4 inch in any 4 ft. radius. Although the contractor may be able to mask/improve minor imperfections, it is critical that the substrate be as flat, smooth and plumb as possible so irregularities do not impact the finished surface.

During the EPS installation process, all boards must be tightly abutted and any gaps properly slivered. Also, Dryvit procedures require that the entire surface of the EPS be sanded/rasped prior to the base coat application. This not only removes potential UV degradation, but is intended to also plane and plumb the EPS surface as much as possible. The base coat should not be used to level an irregular EPS surface. Also, to provide as smooth a base as possible for the

finish, it is recommended that the base coat be applied using the two-pass method.

Even subtle planar variations can appear exaggerated and pronounced when viewed in critical light. The building orientation (with regard to solar angles and exterior lighting) will also affect its appearance.

Part of the appeal of Dryvit products is the fact that they are hand applied and texture is an inherent feature of our systems. However, the subjective nature of aesthetics makes it important that the designer, contractor and owner are in general agreement on the products' capabilities before the job starts. This is best addressed by constructing an adequately sized mock-up. This may be separate from the building or a designated area of the project itself. The mock-up can be used to establish the level of acceptance for the project.

Situations requiring remediation are best addressed on a job specific basis and should be discussed directly with the contractor, local Dryvit Distributor or Dryvit Regional Field Services Manager. Additional information is available in Dryvit publication DS498 including procedures describing generic methods for correcting finish irregularities.

