



BEST PRACTICES FOR SELECTION, INSTALLATION OF

EXPANDED
METAL LATH
PRODUCTS

mal expansion. The same standard describes expansion joints as two-piece joints used to accommodate some degree of movement in the stucco membrane caused by movement in the building or its components. Fastening the expansion joint flanges to sheathing, or leaving the lath un-cut behind the joint, negates the lath's effectiveness.

Just like all accessories, the expansion joints must be wire-tied to lath edges or, in some applications, attached to supports at spacing that ensures stability. On large, vertical surfaces, it is wise to make vertical joints continuous and cut horizontal joints to abut the verticals, with proper care taken to prevent the horizontal joints from impeding the vertical joints' movement.

- **Improper Installation of Flashing or Sealants:** Poorly installed or omitted flashing in areas where water can enter the exterior wall assembly can easily cause the cladding, sheathing and wood framing members

to deteriorate. Mold growth may also result from extended moisture exposure, causing indoor air quality problems inside the building.

Though flashing is generally not the responsibility of the lath contractor, notifying the general contractor of any improperly installed flashing or areas where flashing was left uninstalled can save the project team some trouble in the long run.

Conclusion

In order to provide customers with high-performance, long-lasting building exteriors and minimize liabilities, it is imperative for building and design professionals to keep themselves up-to-date on all applicable building codes and ASTM standards. Adherence to the guidelines covered above will produce healthier, more stable and sustainable buildings and reduce callbacks. **W&C**