Painting Fundamental - 19

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Authored by: Steve Adickes, Charlie Gilley, Shawn Heffernan, Rich O'Neil, Ken Sisco

Need: To determine if the moisture content of a substrate including drywall, wood and plaster is suitable to be painted or repaired. Sometimes used to locate the extent of a leak in ceilings and walls.

Types

1. Pin Type – has 2 or 4 pins to be inserted into the substrate that measures the moisture content by an electric current
    a. Advantages
        i. Can determine moisture level in irregular surfaces
        ii. Can be used with longer probes to measure into wall cavities
    b. Disadvantage
        i. Leaves holes when used

2. Pinless Type – has a sensor pad that creates an electromagnetic field to determine the moisture content
    a. Advantages
        i. Leaves no damaging holes in the substrate
        ii. Can be moved around to get a wide range of readings very easily
        iii. Can test the moisture content deeper into the substrate vs Pin Type
    b. Disadvantage
        i. May not get an accurate reading on curved or irregular surfaces

Benefits

1. Cheap insurance – it eliminates the guessing if a substrate is too damp or wet to paint.
2. An objective reasoning tool for when to paint and when not to paint. This can be very effective when dealing with a customer.
3. A diagnostic tool to help determine why a coating has failed.
4. Looks and is professional. Sets you apart from contractors who don't use them.
5. Used as a defense against warranty claims related to shrinkage or contraction of interior cabinetry, furniture, trim etc. due to environmental changes.