

# Care & Maintenance Guide

Exterior Facade



Better looking, longer lasting protection



Performance Coatings for Masonry

# 9 steps to keep your Dulux® AcraTex®

**1** The exterior coatings on your home should be cleaned on a regular basis. This will help maintain your coatings aesthetic appearance and preserve your *Dulux AcraTex* Texture coating system. Cleaning on an annual basis will remove light soil as well as grime and airborne pollutants. Coastal exposure will have a build up of salt contamination and a six month wash down is recommended. All joint sealants should be regularly checked to ensure no cracking is evident to allow water ingress. Where cracking is evident, sealant will need to be replaced immediately.



**2** The exterior can be cleaned with a low-pressure water blast (less than 450psi) using a fanjet of cold water at a 45 degree angle from the wall (not perpendicular). The fan of the water blaster should be kept a minimum of 30cm from the surface of the *Dulux AcraTex* Texture coating in order to avoid damage. Alternatively you can clean the exterior walls with a solution of detergent and warm water using a soft brush.



**3** Localised grime or ingrained dirt should be removed by cleaning with a scrubbing brush along with a solution of detergent and warm water. Under no circumstances should you attempt to remove heavy staining using a high-pressure water blaster.

**4** Check for cracked, loose or missing sealant as part of your regular maintenance inspections. You will find sealant in most areas where different substrates meet ie. above door openings & windows, pipes, where walls meet the soffit line and where electrical fittings and handrails have been attached to walls. Control joints should also be inspected as part of maintenance inspections. All deteriorated or damaged sealant should be removed and replaced as soon as it is apparent. We recommend that a paintable polyurethane sealant be used.



# Acrylic Texture Coating looking great



**5** It is important to monitor areas that are heavily exposed to the elements such as parapets and balcony handrail tops. Due to the minimal slope on these areas it will tend to hold dirt and grime which can potentially lead to mould over time if not regularly washed. These building sections should also be checked for any movement over time due to the extremes of thermal movement so it is critical that they are inspected and maintained.

**6** Any damage to the texture coating needs to be recoated from edge to edge of the effected wall area to ensure texture and colour consistency. If accidental damage occurs please feel free to contact your local *Dulux AcraTex* representative or phone *Dulux AcraTex* Customer Service on **13 23 77** and they will provide the support or technical expertise required to help solve the problem. Visual cracks may indicate underlying structural problems; a professional should always inspect them.

**7** Temporary repairs can be made to cracks by filling them with polyurethane paintable sealant until the inspection has been completed and permanent repairs undertaken.

**8** During your inspections don't forget to check areas that are cold and dark such as behind heavy foliage. Dirt provides the perfect nutrient for mould and algae growth. The tiny roots that these organisms use to cling to your walls will cause your texture coating to deteriorate very quickly if not regularly cleaned.



**9** Recoating is recommended after a minimum of 7 to 10 years to rejuvenate the surface appearance. This can be done by using *Dulux AcraTex* elastomeric top coat protective membrane to a selected *Dulux AcraTex* colour which will protect from air pollutants, water ingress and dirt accumulation to provide a new low maintenance surface.



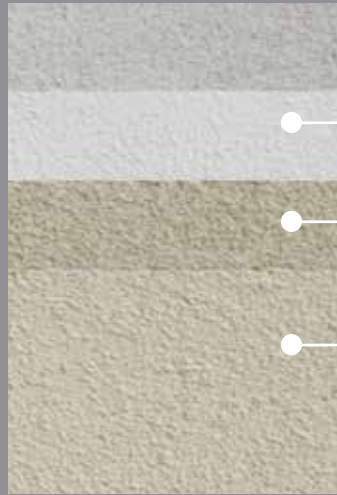
# How Acrylic Texture lasts longer

When specifying a new project, insist on **FLEXIBLE ACRYLIC TEXTURE**, not just painted cement render.

The *AcraTex* 3 step system encapsulates the walls in a membrane envelope acting as a barrier against adverse weather conditions for years longer than cement render.

Available across the full Dulux® Exterior colour range.

## The AcraTex® 3-step coating system



Suitably prepared masonry substrate  
(refer to *AcraTex* system guides for detail)

### AcraTex AcraPrime™

More than just a "first coat" *AcraPrime* consolidates the substrate providing a stable base for long term integrity.

### AcraTex Acrylic Texture

High Build Acrylic Texture up to 40 times thicker than paint, providing feature style and Acrylic Texture durability with colour integrated throughout.

### AcraTex AcraShield® ADVANCE

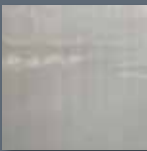
Elastomeric Barrier coat protection up to 3 times thicker than paint – *AcraShield Advance* is the system lock that ensures maximum resistance to the elements and extended system life cycle.

The *AcraTex* System with it's flexible Acrylic Texture coating guards against degradation. Ordinary cement render is hard and brittle leading to typical problems like these.



### CRACKING

Cement shrinks as it hardens & expands/contracts with temp. Low build paint systems are typically unable to bridge render cracking.



### EFFLORESCENCE

Salt blooming over the surface & concentrated leaching at cracks can occur leading to discolouration and potentially peeling.



### STAINING

Inferior paint systems hold dirt & can allow moisture ingress. Moisture attracts and magnifies surface contaminants.



For further information go to: [acratex.com.au](http://acratex.com.au)  
Dulux Customer Service: 13 23 77



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