

Accurately identifying the construction type of a dwelling.

One of the basics in doing field surveys is understanding siding materials to correctly identify the construction type of a dwelling.

Stucco is primarily a masonry concrete product and is a form of covering for the structural, load bearing construction of the dwelling. Stucco is not a construction type, it is material that is over wood frame or masonry.

A common way to determine the actual construction type is looking at the windows, if the inset is almost flush with the exterior wall it is frame, if the inset is about 4 inches deep it will be masonry construction.

You can verify your observation to insure accuracy by knocking on the wall. If it is a frame construction there will be a slightly hollow sound--masonry construction will be very solid and hard, like knocking on stone.

Masonry Veneer – The bottom photo is a frame house with a single layer of brick on the exterior. Essentially the brick is acting like siding, it is not structural and does not bear the weight of the roof of the home.



FRAME CONSTRUCTION/ STUCCO ON FRAME



MASONRY CONSTRUCTION/ STUCCO ON MASONRY



MASONRY VENEER (or BRICK VENEER)