Date: November 21st, 2019

Atlas molded polystyrene products (commonly known as expanded polystyrene or EPS) will bond to wet concrete once the concrete cures. This is one reason that expanded polystyrene beads are used as an admixture in some lightweight concrete systems. Once the concrete cures in contact with the EPS, there is no easy way to remove the residue.

For structural bonding of concrete or other cementitious coatings to molded polystyrene, mechanically attached lathe is first installed over the EPS (such as with traditional stucco systems or adhered stone veneer). Synthetic, cement-like coatings such as EIFS or “one coat” stucco rely on plastic mesh or light weight wire lathe installed over the EPS.

To prevent concrete from sticking to molded polystyrene, various commercial mold release agents are available. The best release agent varies depending on the project, so no list is provided here. Users are strongly urged to verify compatibility of any chemical with EPS, as certain ketones and petrochemicals may damage or dissolve the molded polystyrene.

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