

Texston Plaster Invisible Cold Joint Method

Common Challenges:

- **Spot or Cracks Repairs:** For damaged or cracked plaster, see "Repairing Damage or Cracks in Texston Plaster."
- **Cold Joints:** Follow the step below to eliminate the cold joint.

Objective: When a continuous seamless plaster area cannot be finished in one day, visible joint will appear at the connection. To achieve a seamless surface by eliminating visible cold joints. This process requires precision and practice, particularly with darker colored plaster. This method is applicable to all Texston plasters containing aggregates or gravel. Achieving a satisfactory repair can be tedious, and the outcome may not guarantee complete invisibility. Process involves applying a thick plaster layer and compressing it onto the surface, Pushing microscopic aggregate and cream into small cavities of the repair spot.

Step 1: Creating a Visible Stitch Joint

1. **Key Coat Application**
 - Apply Texston's plaster "Key coat" (scratch coat) beyond the upcoming finish plaster cold joint and let it dry.
 2. **Grout Tape Placement**
 - Use GT 3/8" 60-yard grout tape. Choose a shorter area to create the invisible stitch joint. Secure the grout tape in place.
 3. **Finish Coat Application**
 - Apply one or two layers of Texston plaster finish coat as per the original method, butting into the grout tape.
 - Complete the plaster application, including burnishing up to the grout tape.
 - **Tape Removal:** Let the plaster set (not dry) and carefully remove the grout tape.
 - **Burnishing:** Immediately smooth the plaster edge with a mist of water using an 817/RS plastic burnishing trowel. Allow it to dry overnight.
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Step 2: Application of Second Coat on the Other Side of the Joint

1. **Plaster Application**
 - Use the same material and mix as the original application. Apply one or two layers as per the original method.
 - Apply plaster over the exposed "key coat," leveling it to the dry finished coat on the other side of the cold joint area. **(Do not tape off the finished coat)**
 2. **Scraping & Burnishing**
 - Use a stainless-steel trowel to scrape plaster off the dry finished section.
 - Burnish, smooth, and level the joint.
 - Dark marks from the stainless-steel trowel over the dry finished plaster, can be wiped off later using a wet cloth, followed by a dry cloth.
 3. **Drying**
 - Let the plaster dry overnight or until fully hardened.
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Texstōn Industries, Inc.

Offices & Showroom: 8025 Deering Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91304 Tel: 818-227-4812. Fax: 818-227-4852.

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Step 3: Eliminating the Cold Joints

1. Dampening

- Dampen the plaster area around the joint, including the finished sections overlapping the two sides of the cold joint, about 5" to 7" on each side. Wait until the water sheen dulls.

2. Plaster Application

- Apply plaster over the cold joint, creating a tall bump about 1/8" to 3/16" thick.
- Apply plaster in a single stroke with a low-angle trowel, slightly overlapping (1-2 inches) onto the surrounding area.

3. Setting & Pressing

- Let it set for 10-15 minutes (a torch or fan for air circulation can expedite drying). Press the material down with heavy pressure, maintaining the bump's thickness.
- Spray water on the thick patch and press down harder with a low-angled trowel. Repeat as necessary, ensuring the patch doesn't get thinner.

4. Repetition

- Repeat the process several times to achieve precision in filling the cavities with microscopic aggregate and cream.

Step 4: Level the Surface

- **Scraping:** As the plaster begins to dry and light patches appear, Re-dampen and Smooth again: use a stainless-steel trowel to scrape the newly applied material down to the level of the surrounding surfaces. Use a diagonal, backward motion as if slicing bread.
- **Dark marks** over the existing dry finish created from the stainless-steel trowel friction can be wiped off later using a wet cloth, followed by a dry cloth.
- Use plastic burnishing trowel and burnish the repaired surface. **DO NOT** let dry.
- **Clean Up Residue:** If a visual haze forms around the repaired area, wipe it off with a damp or wet cloth, then immediately follow with a dry cloth to fade the haze. Let dry.

1. Finishing Notes

- **If the cold joint is under level:** Repeat the process.
 - **If the cold joint is leveled but still visible:** Wet sand the area using 220-grit wet and dry sandpaper, going flat on the surface in a circular motion, including some of the surrounding area. Use plenty of water when sanding. Wipe off the residue using a wet rag, followed by a dry cloth, and let it dry.
 - **If sanding is required:** Follow the same process of dry sanding as the original finish method.
 - **Reseal the area** using the same sealer as the original application.
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