

Repairing damages/ cracks in Texston's Plasters

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Objective:

To perform a local spot repair to crack or damage plaster achieving a seamless surface by eliminating a visible repair. 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. Repair 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: Prepare the Area

- **For Damages:**
 - **Dry sand on** the edges of the damaged area or the 2 sides of the crack, using **120 grit, wet and dry sandpaper.**
 - Clean the area with a wet rag, then dry it thoroughly with a dry rag.
 - Apply TexPrep primer if necessary, only if damage is deep and original primer demolished.
- **For Cracks:**
 - For hairline cracks, proceed to step 2.
 - For wider cracks, create a V groove along the crack, sand the area, and clean it well.

Step 2: Dampen the Surrounding Area

- Lightly dampen the area around the damage.
- Ensure the surface remains damp throughout the repair process.
- For deeper damage, dampen (brush or spray) surface using **5 parts water and 1 part RPA.**
- Ensure the edges of the damaged spot are well dampened.

Step 3: Apply the Plaster

- Mix the same plaster material used in the original application.
- Using a stainless-steel trowel, apply the plaster in a single stroke, creating a thick, elevated patch. Keep trowel in a low angled position (almost flat)
- **Allow it to set for 5-10 minutes.** Using a torch or promoting air circulation can expedite the setting time. Press the material down with heavy pressure, maintaining the bump's thickness. Let it set. **Keep the trowel in a low-angled position (almost flat).**
- **Spray water on the thick patch** and press down harder with a low-angled trowel. Repeat as necessary, ensuring the patch maintains its thickness. If it becomes thinner, apply additional fresh material to restore and maintain the desired thickness.
- **Repetition:** Repeat the process several times to achieve the desired pressure, filling the cavities with microscopic aggregate and cream.

NOTE: Keeping the trowel in a low-angled position (almost flat) is important for achieving an acceptable outcome. Maintain the trowel nearly flat throughout the above Step 3 process to ensure consistent pressure distribution and avoid digging into the surface.

Step 4: Level the Surface

- 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.
- **If sanding is required:** Follow the same process of dry sanding as the original finish method.
- **Reseal the area** using the same sealer as in the original application.

Finishing Notes

- **If the repair is under level:** Repeat the same process above.
- **If the repair spot is leveled but still visible** as a stain or there is a burn mark from over burnishing: **Wet sand the area using the following method:**
 1. **Saturate the Surface:**
 - Thoroughly wet the area with water and keep it wet throughout the sanding process.
 2. **Sand the Area:**
 - Use **220 or 600-grit wet/dry sandpaper**, use a palm sander. **Gently and without pressure**, sand the stain in circular motions, keeping the area consistently wet by spraying water while sanding. This will help generate a visible slurry during the process.
 3. **Rinse and Clean:**
 - After sanding, use a sponge and clean water to rinse away the slurry thoroughly. It's essential to remove all slurry to ensure the surface is completely clean. Dry the area with a rag to prevent haze or streaks.
 4. **Check the area** to ensure the stain is fully removed. If needed, repeat the sanding and cleaning process to achieve the desired result. Let it completely dry.
 5. **If the surface becomes overly shiny or a repair spot is still visible**, lightly dampen the surface (using **5 parts water and 1 part RPA**) and apply a **fair amount** of fresh material, overlapping the visible area. Aggressively massage the material into the surface in an even, circular motion using a rag, applying firm pressure. Continue working the entire area while wiping off all excess material during the circular massage.
 6. **Reapply Sealer:**
 - Apply additional coats of the same sealer. Ensure the surface is thoroughly saturated, wipe off immediately. Allowing at least two hours of dry time between coats.

Important Tips:

- **Water is Essential:** Keep the surface wet at all times while sanding to generate a slurry during the process.
- **Gentle Pressure:** Avoid pressing too hard, when sanding to prevent creating new imperfections.
 - **Thorough Cleanup:** Ensure all slurry is washed out completely to maintain the plaster's appearance.

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