

RES 300E

reFINE EIFS Procedures

Procedure for Repairing Cracks in EIFS

INTRODUCTION

Properly installed EIFS should not crack. When cracking is found, a root cause analysis is needed to determine the cause of cracking, otherwise repairs may not be effective. In some cases, EIFS installation deficiencies can be corrected. Where underlying substrate conditions or structural movement cause cracks to form, a more extensive repair may be needed.

Cracking caused by gaps between insulation boards and insufficient mesh overlap can be repaired using the procedure below.

EQUIPMENT

- Appropriate personal protective equipment
- Stainless steel trowel and margin trowel
- Plastic float
- Paint brush
- Scraper
- Coarse sandpaper and/or a hand-held grinder
- Scoring knife
- Drill and paddle mixer

MATERIALS

- Water-based paint remover
- Plastic pails
- Masking tape
- Finestone A/BC or A/BC 1-Step Base Coat
- Finestone Standard Reinforcing Mesh
- Color and texture matched Finestone Finish
- EPS slivers

PROCEDURE

1. Identify and mark the extent of cracking so that the entire cracked area is repaired. For aesthetic reasons, resurfacing should be terminated at an architectural break in the wall such as a reveal, change in plane or change in elevation. Doing this minimizes the contrast between resurfaced areas and adjacent finishes

2. If working in an area where dust control is needed, use of paint remover is recommended. Apply paint remover to the marked area and allow it to soften the finish. Use a scraper to remove the finish, and coarse sandpaper to remove base coat down to the reinforcing mesh. Alternately, a hand-held grinder can be used to remove both finish and base coat. Do not grind into reinforcing mesh; remove finish and base coat at least 3-inches in all directions surrounding the crack.
3. Assess the root cause of cracking.
 - If cracking is caused by excessive gap between insulation boards, remove base coat and mesh surrounding the crack. Fill the crack with EPS slivers. Do not fill gaps between insulation board with base coat. Shave or rasp foam flush with the surrounding insulation. Embed Finestone Standard Reinforcing Mesh in A/BC or A/BC 1-Step Base Coat over the repaired insulation board and extending at least 2.5-inches onto existing base coat and creating a smooth transition from existing base coat to new base coat.
 - If cracking is caused by excessive gap between insulation boards that has been filled with base coat, the base coat must be removed. Cut out surrounding EPS insulation and use the repair procedure for remediating puncture damage.
 - If cracking is caused by mesh that has insufficient or no overlap, embed Finestone Standard Reinforcing Mesh and Finestone A/BC or A/BC 1-Step Base Coat over the affected area and extending at least 2.5-inches onto existing base coat. Create a smooth transition from existing base coat to new base coat.
4. Apply masking tape around the area that has been repaired. Apply color-matched and texture-matched Finestone finish. Float the finish to match existing finish. Remove the masking tape and use a brush to blend the wet edge of the finish into existing finish, and allow to dry.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Consult Master Builders Solutions Technical Services Department at +1 (800) 589-1336 for specific recommendations concerning all other applications. Consult the Wall Systems website at finestone.master-builders-solutions.com/en, for additional information about products and systems and for updated literature.