TESS™ | Finish Repair Procedures

Repairs in a One Coat Stucco Application
Repairs in an EIFS Application

Introduction

In the event that repairs to finished walls are needed sometime in the unforeseeable future it is advisable, at the conclusion of a job, to permanently store a few bags of TESS Finish left over from the original batches. This practice secures repair material of the same color and lot as was used on your building during its construction. Stored properly, TESS Finish can last several years; see TESS data sheet for proper storage instructions.

Exterior wall repairs often result in color mismatches due to incorrect repair procedures, changes in batch lots used, and the natural weathering/fading differences which can distinguish old and newly repaired sections. Following recommended procedures can keep color differences to a minimum and if handled well, repairs should be barely discernible.

Damage to walls typically occurs in potentially three ways:

1. Efflorescence due to premature exposure of applied finish to rain or other water sources caused by improper or inadequate roof flashings, or lack of weather protection during initial set-up and curing
2. Release of unforeseen stresses resulting in surface cracks
3. Physical indentations caused by severe impact to the surface

Each type of damage requires a different corrective action and is also dependent upon the form of installation.

Repairs in a One Coat Stucco Application

Efflorescence

When TESS Finish is exposed to severe rain or water emersion within the first 48 hours, white streaks and stains can occur. This is known as efflorescence. Efflorescence is relatively benign and can be easily eliminated when addressed in a timely manner. Simply scrub the efflorescence off with a stiff bristle bush followed by a water rinse. Allow to dry but repeat this procedure as many times as necessary. DO NOT USE ANY CHEMICALS.

If the efflorescence is not noticed right away and is allowed to remain for longer periods of time, power washing may be necessary as these stains become more difficult to remove. AGAIN, DO NOT USE ANY CHEMICALS.

Surface Cracks

Surface cracks can be easily repaired by mixing some of the left over TESS Finish with the correct amount of water and applying the blended product over the crack with a brush or sponge to match the existing surface texture. Ensure the crack is filled with mixed TESS Finish. This is the key to fashioning unnoticeable repairs. In its wet, freshly mixed form TESS Finish will naturally appear darker in color than older, cured, existing sections. As it cures, the finish will lighten in color to blend into the existing section. Keep in mind, the older the wall the more faded or weathered the original color will be. Over time, with additional weathering, crack repairs will blend into the surrounding wall.

Indentations

Surface indentations can be repaired as in the Surface Cracks section above with the exception that multiple layers may be necessary if the surface depression is deep.

Repairs in an EIFS Application

Efflorescence

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Impact Damage

Clean the area around the damage. Apply a water-based gel type paint remover with a stiff brush to the TESS Finish in the immediate area surrounding the damage. Avoid contamination to areas not being repaired. Scrape off the soft finish. Take care not to damage the mesh layer. Remove a circular patch approximately 5 inches (130mm) in diameter from around the impact point rendering a sharp edge between the patch hole and the surrounding undamaged wall. Use coarse sand paper to remove the top layer of base coat as needed.

Now cut through the mesh and the EPS board creating an inner circle or plug directly over the impact area about 2½ inches (64mm) in diameter within the 5 inch diameter patch. The repair area should now appear as two concentric circles, one within the other with a small step between the two circles, with an approximate 2½ inches (64mm) wide band of intact base coat and mesh around the outer perimeter of the patch.

Now, applying a sharp knife to the inner circle, cut through the EPS board at a slight angle, cutting away enough board so that the cut-out plug is slightly larger than the damaged area. Cut down to the substrate and remove the old EPS board. Prepare a new piece of EPS board that is shaped like, but slightly larger than the hole to be plugged. Dry fit the hole with new EPS board checking for tightness; trim as necessary to ensure a snug fit. Back-butter the sheathing side of the EPS board plug and its perimeter with base coat. Next, press the plug firmly into place filling the hole. Make sure the new EPS plug is flush with or higher than the surface of the adjacent EPS board; rasp as necessary to obtain a flat, flush fit. Apply base coat and mesh to the patch in the normal manner and allow it to dry.

Finally, apply masking tape around and outside of the outer edge of the repair area to protect the undamaged wall areas. Lastly, apply TESS Finish to the patch in the normal manner and texture it attractively to blend with the surrounding area. Use a float trowel, brush or sponge to achieve the desired effect. Imperceptible repairs require care and some skill, and are as much art as they are science.

Formulated Solutions LLC • 25-44 Borough Place • Woodside, NY 11377 • Tel 1 718 267 6380 • www.tessfinishes.com