

BIG WALLY'S Helpful Hints

PART 1 – GENERAL

- A. When repairing plaster it is necessary to stabilize the plaster first. Until you stabilize it, no repair will last. There are 2 ways of stabilizing plaster: 1) flexible adhesives, and 2) screws and metal washers. Adhesives grip the plaster from the back, leaving nothing on the surface; metal washers are left in and need to be covered with multiple layers of material (leaving a visible bump). Adhesives attach across a wide area with a flexible bond. Screws and metal washers result in a narrow, rigid attachment point and are prone to crushing the plaster.

PART 2 – PRODUCTS

2.04 EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS

- A. Caulk Tube Cartridge Tip: Soft tips may be designed and fabricated to act as gaskets (such as sections of rubber tubing) that are slipped onto the opened end of a caulk tube cartridge to create a seal around holes, allowing re-adhesion materials to be more efficiently injected under pressure into holes, thus eliminating excess material from being deposited on surfaces.

PART 3 – EXECUTION

3.03 EXAMINATION

- A. Determine the extent of plaster detachment from its substrate by gently tapping surface for “hollow-sounding” areas. Establish whether there is any “give” that indicates voids or adhesion failure by gently pressing plaster surfaces on either side of crack, or within soft areas often indicated by bulging.

3.04 PREPARATION

- A. Debris Removal: Vacuuming may be used for debris removal. Removal of debris by vacuuming can be facilitated by slipping a cardboard tube over the end of a vacuum hose, forming the tube to fit gaps in the plaster, and inserting the tube into open areas and cracks.
- B. Bend 10-gauge metal wire, or metal coat hanger, to form a “hook” at a right angle or ninety (90) degrees. Insert wire hook into open areas and cracks in plaster to facilitate removal of debris.

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3.05 PRE-TREATMENT

A. Spray Conditioner:

1. When hand-held sprayers are used, hold spray nozzle flat against the drilled hole (do not hold at an angle) to facilitate application of conditioner.
2. Two (2) to three (3) handle squeezes per hole from a thirty-two (32) ounce spray bottle, or one (1) to two (2) seconds from a pump-style garden sprayer is sufficient to saturate the surfaces to be re-attached.

3.06 APPLICATION

A. Inject Adhesive: use a hand-operated caulk gun. Apply slight pressure so that the tip seats in the hole securely. One (1) to two (2) handle squeezes per hole typically releases a sufficient quantity of adhesive to properly fill the void between plaster and substrate. Less quantity can be sufficient if adhesive comes out of adjacent holes and cracks with one (1) handle squeeze per hole. Listen for the adhesive flowing behind the plaster.

C. Adequacy of injection processes can be determined by the following:

1. Degree to which adhesive overflow through cracks and adjacent drilled holes.
2. Sound of the flow of adhesive in void.
3. Resistance of the action of the caulking gun during injection.
4. Lessening of the hollow sound when the plaster surface is tapped.

END OF HELPFUL HINTS