



Dryvit Information Sheet – Dryvit External Wall Insulation Systems (EWI) System

Opening and repairing inspection holes

1. General

Sometimes it is necessary to undertake an obtrusive inspection on selected areas of the EWI System. This method enables the system to be sampled, inspected and safely repaired. The inspection should help to identify any potential issues and trace the root cause of why a problem exists.

2. Materials

The selection and compatibility of the repair and replacement materials is very important to ensure the correct materials for the relevant EWI System are used.

Information on suitable materials, mixing and application of the system is given in Dryvit's technical data sheets, material safety data sheets and application instructions. These documents and other repair procedures and guidance are available from Dryvit UK Ltd or in the Technical Literature section of our website www.dryvit.co.uk.

3. Procedure

- 3.1 To open an inspection hole, using a sharp utility knife, cut through and remove the lamina, exposing a neat uniform-sized area of insulation of a suitable size around the damaged area. Use a disk grinder or belt sander to remove the surrounding finish to expose the reinforced base coat approximately 75 mm all the way around inspection area to be removed. An aluminum oxide disc or belt with a P20 or P24 grit should be suitable.
- 3.2 Carefully cut out the insulation board and inspect the lamina and insulation to identify and potential issues or problems are present.
- 3.3 To repair the inspection hole, cut a piece of insulation board to fit tightly into the open inspection area.
- 3.4 Fasten the insulation board to the substrate using RapidPatch as an adhesive applied on the rear face of the insulation only. Make sure that the new insulation board sits flush with the face of the surrounding insulation boards.
- 3.5 Precisely mask the surrounding area with masking tape. Cut the reinforcing mesh (Standard Mesh) so that it will cover the repair area and overlap onto the previously exposed reinforced base coat a minimum of 65 mm.
- 3.6 Apply the base coat mixture or RapidPatch onto the face of the insulation board, taking particular care to keep the base material mixture off the surrounding original finish edge. Embed the reinforcing mesh in the wet base material mixture.

- 3.7 Using a small damp brush, smooth out irregularities and feather the edge of the base material mixture. The reinforcing mesh must be totally embedded in the wet mix and not pinned to the insulation. Ensure that the base coat between the existing and repair areas is flat and level. When completed, the base coat should be recessed to the same thickness as the finish coat. This will ensure that when applied, the new finish will be flush with the surrounding finish coat.
- 3.8 Before applying the primer or finish, allow sufficient time for the base coat to cure as detailed in the product datasheet.
- 3.9 If necessary, again, precisely mask the surrounding existing finish with masking tape.
- 3.10 Install the primer or new finish over the patch area and texture to match the surrounding finish. Where a primer is specified it must be allowed to dry prior to applying the finish.
- 3.11 Allow the finish to dry for a short period of time before removing the masking tape.
- 3.12 Feather the edges of the patch to blend inconspicuously with the surrounding texture. After the patch has dried, there may be a colour variation between the patch and the surrounding area. This should become less noticeable as environmental conditions blend the areas together. It may therefore be necessary to use Demandit or other Dryvit decorative coating as the final colour coat to achieve the closest match.
- 3.13 The Dryvit finish should be ordered to match the original lot number shipped to the job; however, exact matching cannot be guaranteed.
- 3.14 To completely hide unwanted texture variations, it is generally best to skim the surface to fill in the existing texture and reapply the textured finish to a natural break.
- 3.15 Environmental conditions, dirt and exposure will alter the existing colour slightly. A final coating of Demandit Smooth or other Dryvit decorative coating is recommended on the total wall surface to ensure colour uniformity between patched areas and existing finish coat. If patched areas are acceptable or Demandit Smooth coat not specified, then colour matching the existing finish coat is recommended.
- 3.16 To avoid a visible patch, the wall would need to be skimmed and refinished to a natural break.

4 Health and Safety

- 4.1 Always wear appropriate PPE for the task undertaken including the use of suitable protective clothing, dust mask and eye protection where specified.
- 4.2 Refer to individual product Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and application instructions for full information.

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