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

General method for crack repair

1. Introduction

Cracks sometime occur as a result of structural or thermal movement, water penetration, incorrect installation or poor workmanship. Repair involves identifying and addressing the root cause prior to the removal and replacement of materials in the affected area.

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. Using a sharp utility knife, cut through and remove the base coat, mesh and finish lamina, exposing a neat uniform-sized area of insulation a minimum 80 mm either side of the crack.

3.2. Use a disc grinder or belt sander (aluminum oxide disc or belt, P40 or P60 grit with fitted dust extractor) to grind off existing finish coat and expose a minimum 80 mm on each side of the cut-out section to expose the existing base coat layer. Do not cut into reinforcing mesh with grinder. The edges of the finish should be sharp, clean and should not taper from the finish down to the base coat layer.

3.3. If the crack does not extend into the insulation and the insulation is in good condition proceed to Section 3.6, otherwise continue to Section 3.4.

3.4. Cut into the insulation and down through to the substrate. With a margin trowel or similar tool, carefully remove the damaged section. Verify that the substrate is undamaged and structurally sound, if required and faults in the substrate must be further investigated and repair before proceeding.

3.5. Bond the new section of the insulation board to the substrate using the relevant adhesive, the adhesive is applied direct to the back of the board only, not to the substrate or side of the board. Make sure the face of the new insulation board is flush with the existing surrounding boards. Insert sliver of insulation board or use Dryvit Expanding Foam FF197 to fill any gaps between insulation the boards. Once cured cut the excess foam flush with a utility knife and lightly rasp the board to remove any surface irregularities. Do not use the cementitious base coat of adhesive to fill gaps between the insulation board joints.

3.6. Mask off the existing finish and apply the base coat at an approximate thickness of 1.5 mm over the exposed insulation board and approximately 1 mm over the adjacent exposed base coat. Fully embed the Standard Plus 150 reinforcing mesh in to the base coat and overlap onto the existing exposed reinforced base coat layer by a minimum 65 mm.

3.7. Confirm that the base coat applied to the boards is flat and smooth. Once completed the base coat should be recessed to the same thickness of the existing finish coat. This will ensure that the new finish will be flush with the existing finish coat.

3.8. Allow the base coat to dry for at least 24 hours, before precisely masking off the existing finish. If specified apply the appropriate primer to the hardened base coat.

3.9. Once the primer is dry, apply the new finish, texture and feather the edges to match the existing finish.

3.10. The Dryvit finish should be ordered to match the original lot number shipped to the job; however, exact matching cannot be guaranteed.

3.11. Allow the finish to dry for a short period of time and remove the masking tape before the finish has fully dried.

3.12. There may be a some colour variation between the patch and the surrounding area. This will become less pronounced over time.

3.13. To avoid a visible patch, it is generally best to skim the surface to fill in the existing texture and reapply the textured finish to a natural break

3.14. Environmental conditions, dirt and exposure will alter the existing colour slightly. A final application of a suitable Dryvit coating is recommended where a uniform colour is required across the whole elevation.

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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