



The Plasterers Inspection Process (part 2 in a 3 part series)

In the last edition (OTS 18 which is available at www.awci.org.au) we discussed what to look for when inspecting the painted decorated surface of plasterboard. In this edition we look at the plasterboard in accordance with AS/NZS 2589 with the default level 4 finish viewed at a distance of 1.5 to 1.8m.

When inspecting plastering work if you note any of the following, then they need to be addressed before handing over to the painter to complete the decorating process.

Pin holes – Usually meaning that you have applied wet on wet in too much of a hurry. Plaster compounds need sufficient time to dry, otherwise the moisture (humidity blisters) comes to the surface and causes defects which may not be noticed until the job has been painted as they are not visible when filled with sanding dust. Pin Holes are also known as pock marks.



Pin Holes

Over sanding and scratches – Generally are caused by using too coarse a grit and going outside the set compound areas. With softer compounds available now, it is wise to speak with your supplier and consider using finer grits in your abrasive selection.



Over Sanding



Scratches

Recess edge joints are unacceptable if –

- (a) the total joint width is less than 250 mm;
- (b) the joint is hollow, that is, light can be seen in the centre of the joint when viewed with a straight edge placed at right angles across the joint;
- (c) the joint is overbuilt, that is, the build-up of the joint exceeds 2 mm over the width of the joint;
- (d) the joint build is less than 2 mm over the width of the joint but the profile of the joint exhibits a distinct peak or ridge at the centre, that is, the joint does not have an even convex profile over its full width;
- (e) gouges, scratches, voids or pock marks are visible in the joint cement/compound;
- (f) the edges of the joint cement/compound have not been sanded correctly and feathered to the surface of the gypsum lining, that is, the edges show as an uneven line; and/or
- (g) in the case of gypsum plasterboard, the edges of the joint cement/compound have been over sanded, resulting in scuffing of the paper surface.

The Plasterers Inspection Process cont.



Butt joints are unacceptable if –

- (a) the total width of the joint is less than 250 mm for back-blocked butt joints or less than 500 mm for butt joints formed on framing;
- (b) on a ceiling, the butt joint has not been formed centrally between framing members and back-blocked to form a recess for jointing;
- (c) the joint build-up is less than 2 mm over the width of the joint but the profile of the joint exhibits a distinct peak or ridge at the centre, that is, the joint does not have an even convex profile over its full width;
- (d) gouges, scratches, voids or pock marks are visible in the joint cement/compound;
- (e) the edges of the joint cement have not been sanded correctly and feathered to the surface of the gypsum lining, that is, the edges show as an uneven line; and/or
- (f) in the case of gypsum plasterboard, the edges of the joint cement/compound have been over-sanded, resulting in scuffing of the paper surface.

External angles are unacceptable if –

- (a) they are not reinforced with a metal angle in positions subject to damage (see detail and options in Standard);
- (b) the angle is not plumb or straight;
- (c) the total joint width either side of the corner is less than 250 mm;
- (d) the build-up at the metal angle exceeds 3 mm over the width of the joint;
- (e) the joint build-up is less than 3 mm over the width of the joint but insufficient joint cement/compound has been applied to provide a gentle taper to the metal angle;

- (f) gouges, scratches, voids or pock marks are visible in the joint cement/compound;
- (g) the edges of the joint cement/compound have not been sanded correctly and feathered to the surface of the gypsum lining, that is, the edges show as an uneven line; and/or
- (h) in the case of gypsum plasterboard, the edges of the joint cement/compound have been over-sanded, resulting in scuffing of the paper surface.

Internal corners are unacceptable if –

- (a) the corer is not straight;
- (b) the total joint width either side of the corner is less than 75 mm;
- (c) the build-up at the corner exceeds 2 mm over the width of the joint;
- (d) the joint build-up is less than 2 mm over the width of the joint but insufficient joint cement/compound has been applied to provide a gentle taper from the corner to the surface of the gypsum lining;
- (e) gouges, scratches, voids or pock marks are visible in the joint cement/compound;
- (f) the edges of the joint cement have not been sanded correctly and feathered to the surface of the gypsum lining, that is, the edges show as an uneven line; and/or
- (g) in the case of gypsum plasterboard, the edges of the joint cement/compound have been over sanded, resulting in scuffing of the paper surface.

NOTES

This information does not cover installation, the effects of glancing light, control joints etc. but is given as an indicator of what to look for in the finished surface prior to painting.

The majority of this information is available in the AWCI Trade Guidelines and Information Booklet which is issued to AWCI members and another good reason to join the AWCI, see page 47 for the AWCI membership form.

Keep your eye out for the 3rd and final segment regarding the background and framing.

