

Check Cracking

“Check Cracks” or “Shrinkage Cracks”

“Check Cracks” or “Shrinkage Cracks” are inherent to some degree in all cement mortar mixes, and are not considered a material defect.

Accelerated drying causes these types of cracks, which can be attributed to weather conditions such as wind, temperature and humidity. According to the National Spa & Pool Institute Technology Performance Guidelines, “this is a normal occurrence and is not considered a deficiency”.

Commonly, “Check Cracks” or “Shrinkage Cracks” are minor surface cracks. It is virtually impossible, without draining the pool’s water and cutting out a sample of the plaster, to determine whether or not this is a structural crack in the concrete shell or just a normal shrinkage crack.

Structural cracks in the concrete shell may create cracks in the plaster that are beyond the control of the plasterer. Plaster is not designed to provide structural strength.



Repair of “Check Cracks” or “Shrinkage Cracks”

To repair minor “Check Cracks” or “Shrinkage Cracks” in the plaster, fill the pool with water and allow plaster to be submerged completely. In certain instances the minor voids due to the cracking will expand and become difficult to detect.

In some slight cases, polishing the pools finish may also reduce the visibility of these cracks. In a more severe case, using a concrete saw, make cuts approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ ” deep on either side of the crack. Keep the saw cuts as straight as possible while following the crack. Remove the plaster between the saw cuts carefully. Roughen the now exposed surface and fill this section with matching Diamond Brite.

Note: It is nearly impossible to match the color when patching plaster.