

Repairing Perma-Chink

Rips and Tears

Occasionally rips and tears form in Perma-Chink[®], especially in new homes that have been constructed with relatively green wood. Most of the time these tears appear on the top edge of the chink joint. That is because during the tooling process most people tend to pull product from the top to the bottom of the chink joint. The consequence is a thinner than recommended layer of chinking along the top edge. In addition, people forget to “push” the chinking up against the top edge resulting in inadequate adhesion. When the logs shrink, it puts a strain on the chinking causing the chinking to pull away from the wood. So, when working Perma-Chink[®], it is important to keep pushing the product towards the top of the joint.

Before making any repairs, you need to know if the chinking was properly applied. If you determine that the thickness all along the top edge is consistently less than 1/8” you may be faced with constant repairs. It will be better to cut out the chinking and start over. You will not be able to apply an additional layer of Perma-Chink[®], on top of the original chinking, to achieve the proper thickness. If you do, the added layer will probably develop blisters and pull away from the top edge.



Small Repairable Tear



Tear That's Too Long to Repair.

A rule of thumb is that if a tear is less than one foot long it can be repaired. If the tear is longer than one foot, the chinking should be cut out, the logs inspected for rot or decay and the chinking replaced. The reason is that with long tears, the chinking tends to lean forward becoming an entrance point for water. Start by repairing any rot or decay and ensure the area that you are repairing is clean. You do not want any dirt to interfere with the adhesion of the chinking. For small repairs, it will be easier to use a tube of chinking than scooping some out of a pail. Apply a bead of chinking along the tear making sure that there is good contact with all sides within the tear. Once applied, you can press the chinking into place with a tool or your finger. Now use a small, cheap paint brush with the bristles cut to about 2" long.

Dampen the bristles with water, then work the chinking smooth with the brush. This will help match the texture of the chinking repair with the surrounding cured chinking. In the case of older chinking in need of repair, the appearance of the new chinking will never match that of the old material. Apply Chink Paint, smooth or textured, in a way to match the color. In some instances, the only way to match the colors is to chink paint all the chinking. If you ever wanted to change the color of the chinking, this will be the perfect time.



*Chinking Applied Too Thin.
Cut Out and Replace.*

Blisters

There are several causes of blisters forming in uncured chinking. The first is whenever chinking is applied in hot, direct sunlight. The surface quickly skins over preventing the water vapor from the underlying material to escape. Another common cause of blisters is chinking over unsuitable backing materials or bare wood. This includes blue board, pink board and other colored EPS (expanded polystyrene) foam. These materials out-gas and can form blisters in the soft uncured chinking. Only backers recommended by Perma-Chink Systems should be used as backing materials. Never apply Perma-Chink[®] directly over bare wood or non-breathable substrates.



Examples of Blisters in Chinking

Some blisters can be directly attributed to the application process. If the chinking is troweled in by hand, small pockets of air can become entrapped during the process. It is very important to trowel out the chinking to work out the air. Entrapped air also occurs when you apply very small beads of chinking with a tube or a bulk load gun. When the tip is cut too small compared to the size of the joint, air can be trapped between the beads during the smoothing process. It is important to work the chinking to eliminate air pockets. Although most people are hesitant to do this since chinking tends to pull during the process as the chinking begins to adhere to the trowel. A light mist of water on the surface of the chinking or trowel will help prevent the pulling. Never flood the surface of the chinking with water, a very light mist is all that is needed.



*Blister Formed by Entrapped Air
or If Chinking Was Applied
in Hot Sunlight.*



*Blister Formed When Thin Layer Was
Applied Over Improper Backing,
In This Case Bare Wood*

There is no satisfactory way to repair a blister other than to completely cut out the blistered sections and re-chink the entire joint. If you try to cut out and fill in the blisters you will end up with visible depressions along the chink joint. Once the blistered section is removed be sure to check the backing material. If it is the wrong material, replace it with the correct material or if it is bare wood, cover it with breathable masking tape. If you do not use the correct backing material, you run the risk of blisters reappearing in the repaired sections.