



Checking (Cracking)

Description

Checking is cracking in the paint film due to excessive stresses in it. Checking comprises fine cracks which do not penetrate the top coat and are distributed over the surface giving the semblance of small patterns.

Cause

- Inadequate mixing of paints;
- Insufficient thinner, wrong or poor quality thinner;
- Excessive film thickness;
- Coat applied over inadequately dry or too thick undercoat;
- Insufficient flash off time between coats;
- New coat is incompatible with previous paint;

Prevention

- Ensure that new paint work is compatible with old substrate;
- Apply paint in medium coats, not in heavy ones;
- Allow sufficient flash off and drying time between coats;
- Mix paint thoroughly;
- Use only recommended thinners and hardeners;
- Carefully follow recommendations in the Technical Data Sheets;

Rectification

- Sand the affected area to sound condition and repaint;
- If cracking cannot be removed by sanding, remove all layers to bare metal and repair;