

TROUBLESHOOTING

PAINT DEFECT/ISSUE:

CRACKING

APPEARANCE:

Paint film contains cracks of random size and degree characteristic of the wrinkles on a reptile's skin. Also called checking, crazing, wrinkling or splitting.

CULPRITS:

There are several reasons why the checking, cracking, crazing, wrinkling and splitting of a paint film occur. They are:

Excessive film thickness: Piling on too much material in full wet coats, either in the topcoat or undercoat material.

Improper choice in reducer or hardener: It is important to follow a manufacturer's suggestions on the specific type of reducers and hardeners to use with each paint. Improper or low-quality materials may have an adverse effect on the finished dry paint film.

Incorrect mixing ratio: If too much activator/hardener is used, or if the correct ratio is not properly mixed, defects may appear in the finished dried paint film.

Extreme conditions: Excessive heat and/or humidity during and immediately following the application process can cause surface imperfections such as cracking, wrinkling, etc.

Lifting of substrate: When the wrong reducer is used in a top-coat, or when certain materials are top-coated before achieving full cure, the undercoat may lift in a way that appears like cracking.

Insufficient surface preparation: Cracking or other imperfections, if present on the substrate or existing finish, should be removed before the new material is applied.

TO FIX:

Allow paint film to cure completely, then sand out any imperfections and reapply material having made any necessary adjustments to avoid future cracking, checking, crazing, wrinkling or splitting.