

DRYWALL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA

DCAN-SW

Representing Nevada, Arizona, and California

The Industry has spent considerable time and resources researching the best available repair methods for Joint Ridging or Centerline Cracking. In every instance, it is best to wait one complete heating and cooling cycle prior to making repairs. It is not recommended to make any repair until the AC or Heat have been turned on for at least 48 hours.

Following is a list of repair options that have been proven successful, in order of success rate.

1. Hang Another Layer of 1/2" Drywall Over Existing.

Please check with your engineer regarding the weight of the new layer of board and the truss assembly. Hang the new layer of drywall in the opposite direction. New layer of board must be laminated to the original base layer with joint compound or liquid nails per manufacturer recommendations, in addition to mechanical screw attachment to framing members. To date, we have not seen a re-occurrence when this repair is used.

2. Install RC over existing ceiling with another layer of board, or remove drywall and install RC and new drywall. These options are usually more expensive and not as effective as option #1 above.
3. Back block with 2" x 6" wood blocks or 6" 20 gauge metal flat straps along drywall joints running perpendicular to trusses. Blocks are attached between the trusses or framing members with screws and must also be laminated with liquid nails or joint compound to the drywall. Blocking should be applied to the entire length of the cracked (or ridged) joint if possible. Additionally, the joint on either side should be blocked as well. Back blocking in a repair application involves going up in the crawlspace above the ceiling (if there is access) or removing some sheets of drywall (if no access). DCAN has detailed information with pictures if this repair method is selected.
4. Repair with joint tape / joint compound only.

This is obviously the fastest and most cost effective repair, however it is the most likely to re-occur if the home continues to move after the repair is complete. To maximize your chance using this method, DCAN suggests using a product like 6" Crack Tape made by Straight Flex with Westpac Ultra Fill to embed the tape and first coat, then conventional joint compound for finish coat.

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