DRYWALL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA

DCAN-SW

Representing Nevada, Arizona, and California

Ridging and Centerline Joint Cracking

Points to consider when looking for this condition

1. **When was the home framed?**

Homes framed in the summer are likely to crack when it gets cold. Homes framed in the winter are likely to ridge when it gets warm.

2. **When did the problem begin appearing?**

Typically, the problem develops after the homeowner moves in and the home is subjected to temperature and humidity extremes during change of seasons.

3. **When did the homeowner turn on the air conditioning or heat?**

In many instances, the problems develop when the ac or heat is turned on.

4. **Is the problem continuing to worsen over time?**

Normally, the ridges and cracks grow and worsen during the 1st year of occupancy. Draw a pencil line on the ceiling where the problem terminates and come back in a couple of weeks to see if the problem is worsening.

5. **Are the ridges or cracks appearing primarily in large spanning areas?**

Typically, this problem is encountered on large spanning (15' or more) ceilings and walls, however it has been seen in smaller walls and ceilings also.

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6. What direction are the trusses running?

Usually, the ridges or cracks will run along the factory tape joints perpendicular to the trusses.

7. Do the trusses change directions on the ceiling?

Truss changes in the same lid have been problematic.

8. If cracks are appearing is the drywall tape torn?

Cut a sample piece out around the crack or visually inspect the crack to determine if the drywall tape has torn through.

9. If ridges are appearing, are the joints level?

Use a 24” level and place it perpendicular to the ridge to determine if the board has been pushed out and is no longer flat.

10. Allow the homeowner the option of waiting one complete heating and cooling cycle.

This is consistent with all industry recommendations and will prevent multiple repairs of the same problems.

If you have any questions, please contact the DCAN offices.

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