



## DARK AND LIGHT BANDS

Probably the most perplexing problems encountered on textured ceilings are those of dark or light bands over the joints of the wallboard surface. This condition, in the language of the trade, is commonly referred to as “photographing”. The terms “Burning”, “Flashing”, “Banding”, “Bleeding”, and “Shadowing”, are also used to describe the color variation.

Although photographing is used as the major descriptive term, there are actually three conditions which occur and are frequently confused.

1. Actual color differential between joints and the field of the wallboard.
2. Texture pattern differential between the joints and the field of the wallboard resulting in a variance of the degree of light reflection.
3. Joints which are not finished to the plane of the wallboard surface known as “humped” or “starved” joints which result in shadowing.

There are several variables of these three basic conditions with different causes, solutions and methods of repair. The following are the more common problems along with our recommendations to avoid them, or to repair them should they occur.

### White Bands Over Ceiling Joints

#### Cause:

1. Discoloring agents leaching out of the wallboard face paper and migrating to the surface of the texture. This phenomenon is influenced by the age of the paper, heat and humidity.
2. Texture pattern differential over joints.

#### Prevention:

Completely seal entire ceiling surface prior to application of texture.

#### Repair:

Seal surface and “fog” with wall texture or alkyd flat paint.

Respraying with ceiling texture may be necessary when correcting a pattern differential.

### Dark Bands Over Ceiling Joints

#### Cause:

There are several potential causes of this condition.

1. “Starved” or “humped” joints, resulting in shadowing.
2. Variance in texture pattern due to suction differential between board and joint. This results in a lower light reflectance over the joint and appears darker.
3. Joints not completely dry.
4. Application of texture over joint compound before it has completely dried.
5. Application of texture over “chemically hardening” or “setting” type joint compounds.
6. Over thinning texture mix.
7. Allowing bacterial buildup in spray equipment.



**Prevention:**

1. Finish joint as close to plane of the wallboard as possible.
2. and 5. Seal Surface prior to application of texture.
3. and 4. Adjust job schedule to weather conditions. Allow adequate drying time. Provide temporary heating, if necessary.
6. Mix texture to heavy consistency.
7. Keep equipment clean and disinfect periodically or at first indication of odor, discoloration or foaming.

**Repair:**

1. Scrape off texture. "Fill" or "feather" joint as required, seal and re-texture.
2. Sweep edges of joints with ordinary kitchen broom. If texture pattern is not suitable, seal and "fog" with second coat of ceiling texture.
3. and 4. Allow joints to dry completely. Maintain 55 degree F minimum job temperature and allow adequate ventilation.
5. Seal entire area and "fog" with wall texture.
6. Seal and "fog" with second coat of ceiling texture.
7. Seal and apply second coat of ceiling texture. (In extreme cases additional treatment may be required. Contact our office or local representative if this condition persists.)

Note: It is a common job practice to treat this problem with the spray application of a 50 per cent bleach/water solution. Although this practice is normally successful, we can not recommend the procedure due to the health hazards of spraying the solution and the possible damage to the ceiling texture and other materials.

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In addition to the conditions and problems outlined in the preceding, there are several other coloration problems which may be encountered. For additional information, please see the following technical bulletins:

- Bacteria, The Spray Mans Nemesis
- Respraying – Common Questions - Simple Answers
- Seasonal Adjustments – Problem Savers