



Cast stone is a concrete product and concrete generally shrinks.

How we fill the joint will determine the longevity system. Mortar in cast stone joints will likely fail, or separate from the cast stone, due to the shrinkage...

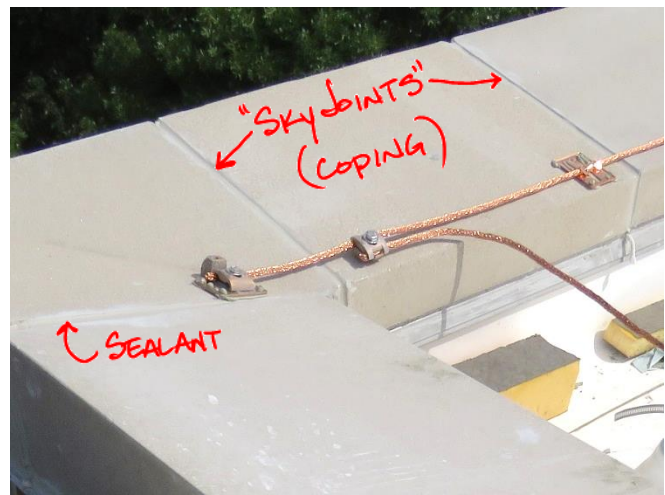
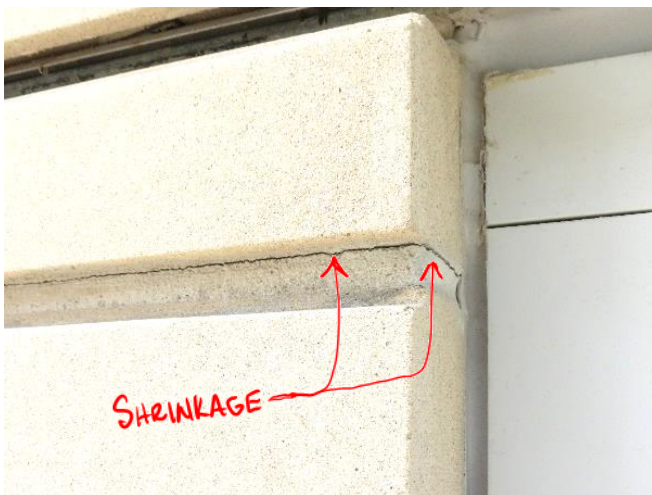
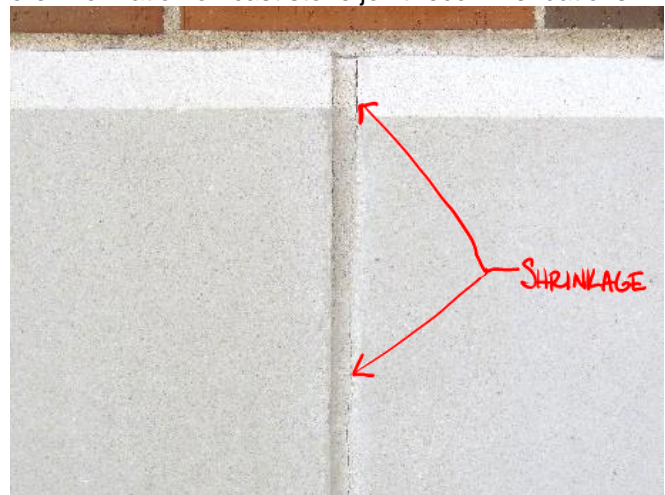
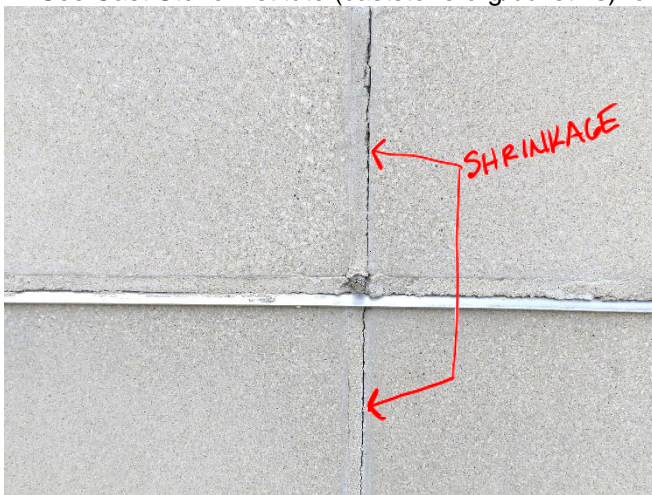
**Rake back mortar 1", install backer rod, and a 2-part polyurethane or silicone sealant is better. This will allow for the cast stone to move without failure of the joint.**

Some specifications have the mason raking back the mortar and tuck-pointing back the mortar in lifts. This will help compress the outer layer of mortar and make it a bit more durable, however, it will not stop the joint from separating from the cast stone.

Cracking or joint separation will likely happen within a few weeks to a few months.

**Grinding the joint and re-installing mortar will not correct the condition.**

See Cast Stone Institute ([caststone.org/bulletins](http://caststone.org/bulletins)) for more information on cast stone joint recommendations



*Note that "sky" joints or joints that are exposed to the sky will get more rain and UV. This joint, when cracked, will allow more moisture into the system, which is why it is even more important that the joint have backer rod & sealant.*

**Review your specifications and discuss with your project team the concern.**