

GRC PLANTER REPAIR

Chipping, cracking, scratching, or superficial marking can happen to GRC planters and, although they will generally not have any impact on the structural integrity of the planters, they can diminish the planters' aesthetic appeal. If any damage to planters occurs prior to delivery to site, the customer may be eligible for a warranty claim. If the damage occurs after delivery to site (usually during installation), the responsibility for any remedial action will be the responsibility of the customer. In either case, the damage will generally need to be repaired.

■ Damage Prevention

Satu Bumi has implemented the following precautionary steps to prevent their CityScope commercial grade planters from being damaged: -

- Satu Bumi uses a very strong "commercial grade" concrete mix to provide general strength protection.
- Satu Bumi's planters have very strong packaging to protect them during transport to site.
- Satu Bumi's planters come with heavy-duty rim protectors to prevent damage to their top rims during installation and planting.
- Satu Bumi provides the option of including embedded certified lifting lugs to assist in positioning heavy planters during their installation with lifting equipment.

■ Preliminary Repair Work

It is recommended that prior to the commencement of any repair work to GRC planters, the following should be done: -

- The planters should be washed down with warm soapy water. This will remove any dirt and enable you to clearly identify the areas where damage repair will be required.
- After the planters have dried, any remaining scuff marks or staining should be removed with the use of a very light sandpapering. For aesthetic purposes, GRC planters have a relatively thin face coat of around two to three millimetres. Therefore, you want to avoid heavy sandpapering that would remove the face coat.
- After you have lightly sandpapered off the marks, you will have also sandpapered off the planters' sealant. Therefore, the areas that have been sandpapered will need to be re-sealed. Otherwise, the areas where the sealant has been removed will absorb moisture which may cause dark patches, and over time may enable unsightly algae growth.

Materials Required

The following materials will generally be required for repairing GRC planters: -

- Patching mortar – most concrete-patching specific mortars can be used and can be easily sourced from any Bunnings store.
- Paint – this is where a bit of artistic flair may be required. Concrete (and GRC is a form of concrete) curing is highly dependent on the environment (mostly weather conditions), and the colour shade of concrete is highly dependent on the curing process. Therefore, depending on how close you need to match the patching colour with the rest of a planter, you may need to manually mix different shades of the same colour paint together on site to come up with the exact colour shade required.
To obtain a colour sample, order a colour swatch from Satu Bumi or take a surface chip from the planter-to-be-patched of around one and a half times the size of a 20-cent piece. Take the colour sample to a paint store to colour match the paint required.
- Sponge-based paint brush – these work better when applying paint to smaller areas than a traditional paint brush.
- Sealant – Satu Bumi uses Sure Seal Easy As 1-2-3 or Sure Seal Graffiti Shield for sealing the outside of GRC planters, which are both water-based sealants, and we would recommend using the same sealants for repairs. Contact Sure Seal on 03 9561 8899 to find out the best way to source this sealant within the geographical area you are located.

The Patching Process

- Mixing, application and curing of the patching mortar should be done in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the damage being repaired is a narrow crack, you should use a metal spatula (or similar) to scratch along the crack line to make the top of the crack large enough to hold the patching material. In other words, make the crack wider. Otherwise the patching material will not have enough area to hold it in.
- Smooth off the patched area before the patching mortar hardens so that there is not a lot of sanding required to avoid removing too much of the planter's face coat or sealant around the patched area.
- Once the patching mortar has dried, carefully sand off the patched area and dust off the sanding residue.
- If the area to be coloured is quite large, apply the paint with a spray can. Care needs to be taken to blend the colour with the rest of the planter.
- If the area to be coloured is small, apply the paint with a sponge-based paint brush.

- Apply very light coats of paint until the repaired area is fully covered and the colour is blended with the surrounding GRC. This can be a delicate process, so you need to be careful.
- Once the paint is dry, apply the Sure Seal Easy As 1-2-3 sealant, or the Sure Seal Graffiti Sealant to match what was originally used on the planters, to the patched area in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

■ Warranty Claims

Satu Bumi's standard four-year extended product warranty relates specifically to the structural integrity of Satu Bumi's products and any damage caused to the products up to the point of delivery to the customer. It does not cover damage caused to the products post-delivery and during the installation process. For additional information regarding Satu Bumi's "Extended Product Warranty", or Satu Bumi's suggestions on "Installation & Product Care", refer to the following web page: <https://www.satubumi.com.au/commercialgrc/installation-care-warranty>.

■ Disclaimer

The information in this document is provided in good faith. However, Satu Bumi assumes no responsibility for the results of the practical application of this information unless the application is provided directly by Satu Bumi employees or parties contracted directly by Satu Bumi.

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