



# Fixing small cracks in your concrete

**ARMCON**  
CERTAINTY: IN CONCRETE

Sometimes cracks appear in your concrete, and this can mean that you end up with a big bill, or replacing the concrete.

So here is a way to fix the cracks in the concrete:

## How to Fill Small Cracks in Concrete:

Filling small cracks in concrete keeps them from turning into big holes. If you know how to fill small cracks in concrete, you'll restore your concrete to a smooth finish. This technique will work for cracks smaller than 3/8 inch wide in the sidewalk, driveway, garage floor, basement, or steps.

For this project you'll need a 10-ounce tube of latex, epoxy, or vinyl concrete patch; a caulking gun; a wire brush; and a wet rag.



1. Clean the crack of all debris — dirt, particles of concrete, or pebbles. Use a vacuum cleaner or soft brush after you've cleaned out larger particles with a wire brush.



2. Dry the crack thoroughly.  
If the crack is wet, let it dry or use a hair dryer.



3. Put the concrete patch tube in a caulking gun.  
You can put a tube of patching compound into a caulk gun.



4. Squeeze the patch into the crack  
Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions when squeeze the patch into the crack.

**Tip:** If the crack is deep, fill the crack in layers. Give the product time to cure (dry) between applications.

5. Wipe excess patch off the crack with a wet rag.  
You want the patch to finish with a smooth surface.



6. Let the patch cure.  
If you want to paint the concrete, you'll need to wait about a month. It takes a long time for concrete patches to completely cure. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the optimum cure time.

To repair a small crack, follow these steps:

1. Clean the area and get rid of any loose chips.

For cracks wider than 1/8 inch, use a small sledgehammer and a cold chisel to chip away loose material.

2. Mix the concrete patch to the consistency of a thin paste.

Mix the dry patch powder with latex instead of water to give the product some added elasticity and adhesion. Also, mix only a small amount of paste at a time because most products tend to dry pretty quickly.

3. Mist the crack with water and then trowel the patching paste into the crack.

Wetting the crack with water before installing a patching product prevents the moisture in the patch material from being drawn out by dry concrete, which causes the patch material to crack and not form a solid bond.

4. Use a trowel to scrape away any excess paste and create a smooth and uniform finish.

If the existing concrete surrounding the patch is rough, you can match the finish by sweeping it with a broom.

5. Clean up your tools and buckets immediately to avoid the patching compound drying in and on them.

With thanks to Gary Hedstrom, Peg Hedstrom, and Judy Ondrla Tremore from How to Fix Everything For Dummies