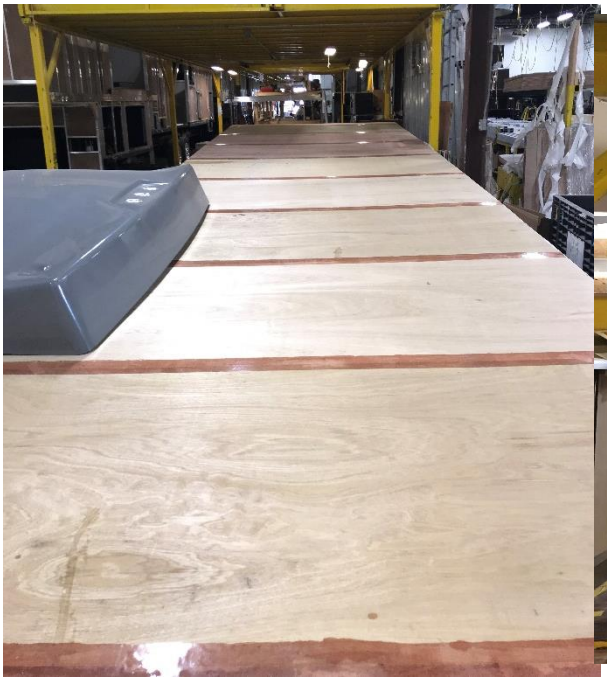
Technical Repair Guide

ADHESION LOSS

Example Model: RiverStone 39RKFB

HUNG WALL CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW.

Keep in mind, RiverStone units have a hung wall construction, so none of our walls are laminated. What you are seeing in this bubble is an area where one of two things happened in production. Either the residential wool insulation overlapped the glue between the fiberglass and the aluminum stud, or there was an air bubble in the tube of glue and the amount of glue applied to the stud appeared to be thicker than it actually was.



One advantage to the hung wall constructions vs lamination; they aren't laminated, so delamination is not possible. If you see a bubble in the gel coat, which looks very similar to the bubble, which would indicate a delamination in a laminated wall, it is actually just an area where the sheet of gel coat did not adhere to the aluminum stud. That being said, we can remove the interior wall panel to access the inside of the wall and re-glue it in lieu of being required to replace the wall, as would be required in the case of a laminated wall's delamination.

Repair Instructions

1. **CREATE AREAS WHERE YOU CAN SECURE BRACING SO THAT IT WILL NOT DAMAGE PAINT.**
    a. Remove awning arms.
    b. Remove speakers

2. **ACCESS THE ALUMINUM STRUCTURE FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE UNIT.**
    a. Remove master bathroom mirror to access interior wall panel.

    b. Cut a rectangle in the wall panel and remove it. Make your rectangle cut out 6” inside the perimeter of where the mirror would be so when you reinstall the mirror it is hidden.

3. IDENTIFY THE AFFECTED AREA.

a. Remove the insulation packed between the studs.
b. Once the wall panel is removed, you should be able to push on the inside of the gel coat and identify the problem area.
    i. Keep in mind, these are 3” walls, so if the area runs beneath the cabinet, you should be able to reach it from the hole you cut.

4. ONCE IDENTIFIED, CUT THE GLUE OFF OF THE STUD.

a. Depending on the location, a Dremel tool may be your best tool.
b. Heating a beveled metal putty knife with a blow torch can also be used to remove the bad glue.

5. REGLUE THE STUD

a. Once the stud has been cleaned apply a generous amount of SikaFlex to the stud. Apply it between the aluminum stud and the gel coat as much as you can, but some you may not be able to squeeze it in some areas.

6. BRACE TO CURE

a. Wrap a couple of 2 X 4 wood studs with carpet.
    i. *Use as straight of a stud as you can find.*
b. Screw one end into the area that will be covered by the speaker shroud, and the other end into the wall where the awning arm was located
    i. *So when you reinstall the awning arm, it covers the screw holes.*

Note: The intentions of this step is to apply pressure to the affected area. If the studs get too flimsy due to length, you may need to reinforce or cross brace the studs.

7. ADD MORE GLUE

a. Once you have braced the exterior, go back inside and confirm that your bracing pushed the gel coat against the studs as intended.
    i. *If the gel coat is not snug against the stud still, check your bracing and brace it so it does*.
b. Add another generous bead to both sides all of the visible studs to ensure permanent adhesion.

8. KEEP THE GEL COAT BRACED TO CURE OVERNIGHT.

NOTE: SikaFlex cures best at room temperature. Cold temperatures can slow the process.

9. CLEAN UP

a. Confirm that the Sika Flex has cured and is now rubbery to touch.
b. Remove bracing and then go inside and confirm that the bubble is no longer present.
c. Replace any insulation you may have lost.
d. Replace or reinstall and overlay the paneling that you removed from behind the mirror.
    Note: The mirror will cover the hole, so it does not have to be absolutely perfect, the only reason we're really even reinstalling the panel is for insulation.
e. Reinstall the mirror.
f. Reinstall exterior speaker and awning arm.