City of Sacramento Temporary Sidewalk Patching Criteria

When a City inspector investigates a complaint of an unsafe or inaccessible sidewalk and identifies a defect that warrants a temporary repair, they mark the area with white paint and request a City crew be dispatched within 72 hours to place a temporary asphalt patch (If weather does not permit or the resources to complete the repair are not available, it may take longer to complete). The patch is intended to temporarily alleviate the defect and allow the City time to complete the property owner notification process and permanently reconstruct the sidewalk. Here are some common techniques used to complete the temporary repairs by City of Sacramento crews:

**Wedging:** Entails the placement of a larger temporary asphalt patch to provide an improved walking surface over the defective sidewalk panels.

This photo shows a wedge that has been placed over a defective area to alleviate the defect caused by a raised sidewalk slab.

**Patching:** This is an effective temporary asphalt patch when small sidewalk corners have broken off or minor gaps have formed between sidewalk panels.

In this photo, missing areas of concrete have been marked for Temporary Patching.

Here, the areas have been temporarily patched with asphalt material.
Temporary asphalt patches are not appropriate in every situation. Vertical displacements of less than 3/4” are usually not suitable for temporary asphalt patches, since experience has found they don’t provide enough contact area to sufficiently bind the asphalt patching material in place. The fact is that temporary repairs in this situation can actually pose an increased likelihood of risk for accidental injury if the material fails to bind and crumbles, creating an unstable/uneven walking surface. Each defect must be individually evaluated by the inspector to determine suitability for a temporary patch.