



## SEALANT RESTORATION GUIDE



Tremco is proud to provide you with this updated version of the Sealant Restoration Guide. The purpose of this guide is to identify key considerations and provide assistance regarding proper joint sealant restoration for those installing sealant materials in construction projects.

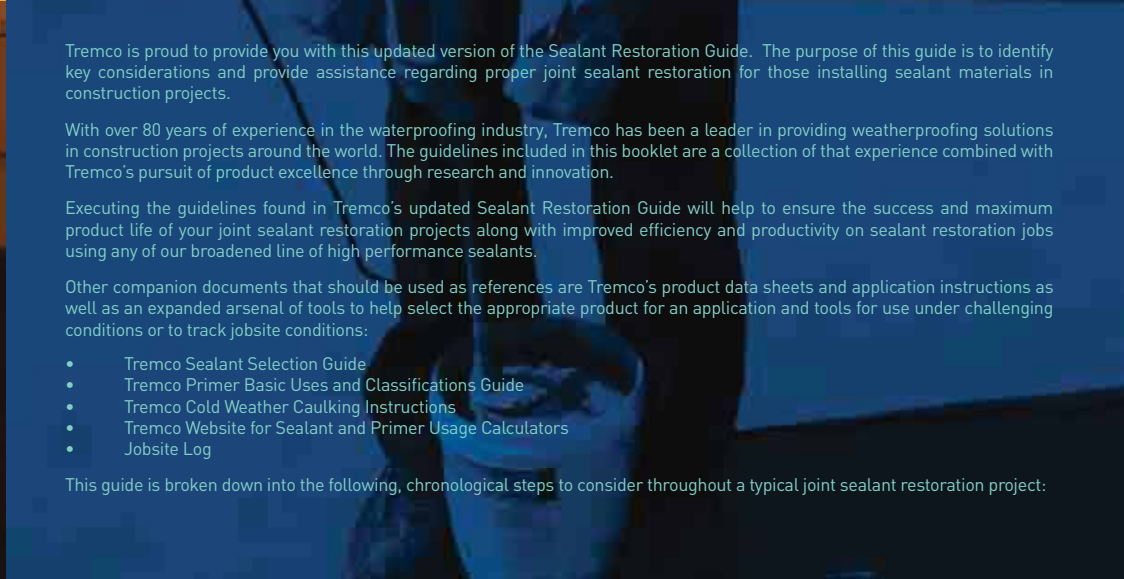
With over 80 years of experience in the waterproofing industry, Tremco has been a leader in providing weatherproofing solutions in construction projects around the world. The guidelines included in this booklet are a collection of that experience combined with Tremco's pursuit of product excellence through research and innovation.

Executing the guidelines found in Tremco's updated Sealant Restoration Guide will help to ensure the success and maximum product life of your joint sealant restoration projects along with improved efficiency and productivity on sealant restoration jobs using any of our broadened line of high performance sealants.

Other companion documents that should be used as references are Tremco's product data sheets and application instructions as well as an expanded arsenal of tools to help select the appropriate product for an application and tools for use under challenging conditions or to track jobsite conditions:

- Tremco Sealant Selection Guide
- Tremco Primer Basic Uses and Classifications Guide
- Tremco Cold Weather Caulking Instructions
- Tremco Website for Sealant and Primer Usage Calculators
- Jobsite Log

This guide is broken down into the following, chronological steps to consider throughout a typical joint sealant restoration project:



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Section 1 describes the jobsite log and recommended field adhesion testing procedures. Documenting the procedures in this section helps to ensure product consistency and performance throughout the project.

## 1 DOCUMENTING PERFORMANCE

### SECTION 1 – DOCUMENTING PERFORMANCE

Tremco strives to maintain consistency in the manufacturing of its products, which is why we are ISO 9001 certified. This commitment to consistency can be easily extended to the jobsite.

Regardless of the motivation for the restoration work, the existing condition of the building joint seals and the overall wall system should be documented. Documentation of the existing building conditions allows for a reference point and gives a better basis for potential troubleshooting. By documenting the project, you also develop a project background you can use for future restoration projects.

A visual inspection or survey of the building joints should be conducted. This may require the use of specialty construction materials, such as a swing stage, man lift, boatswain chairs, or other similar types of equipment. The extent of the survey needs to be decided upon before starting the project. It may be decided that a partial survey, such as one drop per elevation, will provide enough information to proceed.

#### JOBSITE LOG

It is recommended that the sealant applicator maintain a jobsite log or record. An example of a Jobsite Log can be found in the pocket of this document. The log chronicles the daily progression of the project and is invaluable should troubleshooting be necessary and need to be investigated. The daily log should include the following information:

- Date and description of the weather conditions, including average air temperature
- Location(s) of the joints that were sealed that day
- Record of the crew(s) and where they worked that day
- Batch numbers of the sealant and primer (if required) used in each location
- Notes of any unusual conditions encountered that day
- A record of checking the previous work completed for quality and performance

A field adhesion test log should be maintained as well. The following paragraph, VERIFYING SEALANT ADHESION, will explain this process further. The field adhesion log should record:

- Date and location of the adhesion test
- Installed age of sealant
- Test results
- Type of failure that occurs upon full extension of the sealant, cohesive or adhesive
- Percent extension of sealant prior to cohesive or adhesive failure
- Sealant configuration (width and depth)

## VERIFYING SEALANT ADHESION

The field adhesion test is a valuable tool for verifying the installed quality of the joint seal. Performing this test prior to the application allows for early detection of problems, which can help to minimize the cost associated with sealant restoration projects. Potential problems that could be detected using this field adhesion test include:

- Contaminated or expired shelf life sealant or primer
- Improper substrate cleaning
- Incorrect primer selection
- Improper joint configuration
- Poor priming techniques
- Three-sided adhesion (i.e. absence of or improper installation of backing material)
- Excessive substrate movement
- Presence of bond breaking material(s) at bond lines (i.e. moisture, frost, incompatible coatings, etc.)

The field adhesion test is simply a hand pull test of a cut area of joint sealant (Figure 1.1). The testing procedure can be found in Appendix X.I of ASTM C 1193, Standard Guide for Use of Joint Sealants. It is a very useful tool for evaluating the effects of various cleaning methods and primers. It is also a good indicator of the fundamental adhesive properties of a sealant on a particular substrate. It is most important to verify adhesion and joint configuration at the start of the project for the various construction materials that may come in contact with the sealant(s) used. We recommend that one adhesion test be performed every 100 linear feet of joint over the first 1,000 linear feet of install sealant as soon as the sealant has fully cured.



FIGURE 1.1 – ADHESION PULL TEST

If good results are obtained from the tests of the first 1,000 linear feet, future field adhesion testing should proceed at a lesser rate of:

1. One test per 1,000 linear feet
2. One test per floor per elevation
3. One test per week per installation crew

If poor results are obtained in a field adhesion test, work should be stopped to verify the root and magnitude of the problem. Once the problem is identified, corrective measures can be implemented. The area yielding the poor results should be identified by additional, more frequent field adhesion tests in the affected area(s). The daily log should be analyzed to see if there is anything unique about the poor results area. Good results are defined as meeting the standards for adhesion and joint configuration established in the mock-up application. Conversely, poor results are not meeting these established standards.

## REPAIR OF THE FIELD ADHESION TEST AREA

The field adhesion test is a destructive test that should be repaired immediately. This will help to maintain the weatherproofing integrity of the repaired area. In most cases, it is simply a matter of gunning in new sealant to replace the cut area. Ensure that the original sealant surfaces are clean and that the new sealant fully wets out all contact areas. Refer to the sealant data sheet or contact your local Tremco Representative for correct tie-in procedures.

## SECTION 2 – YOUR TREMCO REPRESENTATIVE

Tremco is committed to providing you with support personnel to help with every step of your joint sealant restoration project. The Tremco Technical Services Group and the Tremco Research and Development Center support your fully qualified Tremco Representative. Together, their knowledge and experience provides you with the expertise to ensure that your joint sealant restoration project delivers the desired results. Your local Tremco Representative is available to assist you with:

- Initial jobsite inspections
- Identification of the joint sealant restoration options
- Planning, execution, and evaluation of the site mock-up application
- Preparation of project specifications
- Pre-installation meetings
- On-site contractor instruction
- Document periodic observation of the work in progress with a field report
- Ongoing post application observation(s) of the completed work
- Consultation of problem areas and the resolution options available

Your Tremco Support Personnel provide total coordination from the drawing board through job completion. To contact your Tremco Representative, call Tremco Customer Service at 1.800.321.7906 (U.S.A.) or 1.800.363.3213 (Canada). Tremco Representative names, phone numbers, and email addresses are also available on our website at [www.tremcosealants.com](http://www.tremcosealants.com).

Section 2 explains the valuable tools and services available when you utilize your Tremco Representative.

## 2 YOUR TREMCO REPRESENTATIVE

Section 3 describes the procedure for evaluating your restoration options. It includes a description of substrate types, recommended joint configuration, joint movement, and some of the issues that contribute to joint seal failure.

## 3 IDENTIFYING THE REASONS FOR JOINT SEALANT RESTORATION

## SECTION 3 – IDENTIFYING THE REASONS FOR JOINT SEALANT RESTORATION

Sealants should not be used to simply hide an underlying waterproofing or related moisture problem. A thorough evaluation of the existing conditions prior to starting the job will help to ensure the proper sealant is used and the sealant's service life is reached or exceeded. In addition to a thorough evaluation of the existing conditions, one should have a clear understanding of the reasons for sealant restoration. Joint sealants are typically restored for one or more of the following reasons:

- An existing seal has been breached and allows water and/or air leakage
- As preventative maintenance to avoid the costs and inconvenience of future seal failures
- For sealant that is or seems close to the end of its service life
- As part of a general building maintenance package

As mentioned in SECTION 1 – DOCUMENTING PERFORMANCE, the existing condition of the building joint seals and overall wall system should be documented. A visual inspection or survey of the building joints should be undertaken. This may require the use of a swing stage, man lift, boatswain chair, or other similar types of equipment. The extent of the survey needs to be decided upon before starting the project. It may be decided that a partial survey, such as one drop per elevation, will provide enough information to proceed. The survey should document the following information:

- 1) The joint substrate types. Appendix A (SECTION 8) gives a description of common building materials where sealants may be applied. The substrate type is required input for joint movement calculations. It is also a consideration when selecting replacement sealant products.
- 2) The joint locations, spacing, approximate linear footage, and joint configuration (width and depth). Also record the expected temperature range for that region. Typical and non-typical details should be sketched. Note location of non-typical areas.
- 3) The general condition of the substrate and existing joint sealant. This includes noting the location and the amount of linear footage.
- 4) The general state of the building's exterior and specific areas of structural or waterproofing concern. When making general observations, take particular note of:
  - Evidence of water leakage or efflorescence
  - Wall cracking patterns and locations (See figure 3.1)
  - Wall panel relative positions - sound and in-line?
  - Evidence of previous maintenance or repairs
  - Existing deficiencies in the wall system

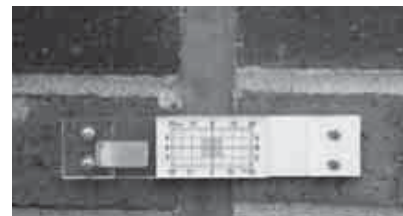


FIGURE 3.1 – WALL CRACKING PATTERNS

The joint configuration, sealant width and depth, should be determined by cutting out samples in representative areas and measuring the sealant profile. There are four basic types of joint configurations listed below [refer to figures 3.2 to 3.5]:

- 1) Butt Joint (Figure 3.2)
- 2) Fillet or Angle Joint (Figure 3.3)
- 3) Lap Joint (Figure 3.4)
- 4) Bridge Joint (Figure 3.5)

In the cut out areas, the condition of the joint backing should be noted, including type and size. Check joint backing for moisture retention. Does it appear dry or wet? Is there staining on the backer rod? Include any observations made on any abnormal conditions of the wall interior and/or traces of water. Note if the substrates are in need of repair.

Joint sealants are required to accommodate normal building movement while still maintaining a seal. This movement combined with weathering effects can cause a gradual reduction in the sealant performance properties. The samples that are cut from the existing joint should be examined to determine joint configuration. Comment on the sealant appearance (both on the surface and within the bead), brittleness, and elastomeric properties should be noted. It is ideal to determine the age of the sealant if possible from the construction or maintenance records. You will also want to document the type of joint seal failures. A description of three main types of joint seal failures and their possible root causes is as follows:

A) Sealant Adhesive Bond Loss (Figure 3.6a&b) – Sealant adhesive bond loss is when the sealant has separated cleanly from the surface of the substrate. A gap may appear between the sealant and substrate.

Possible Root Cause – Sealant adhesive bond loss can be caused by improper substrate preparation, substrate contamination, or improper sealant installation. Sealant performance is very dependent on substrate preparation. Asking the following questions may help to pinpoint the root cause of a sealant failure:

- Upon inspection, is there evidence that dirt, oil, form release agents, or other contaminants are within the areas of bond loss?
- If a primer was used, was it applied properly?
- Is there evidence of excessive amounts or primer, insufficient or no primer, use of the wrong primer or primer contamination?
- Was the sealant installed properly?
- Is the bead width to depth ratio correct?
- Does it have the desired hourglass shape?
- Is three-sided adhesion occurring?

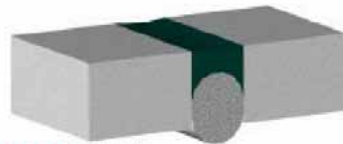


FIGURE 3.2 - BUTT JOINT

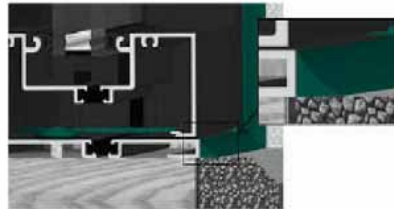


FIGURE 3.3 - FILLET OR ANGLE JOINT



FIGURE 3.4 - LAP JOINT



FIGURE 3.5 - BRIDGE JOINT

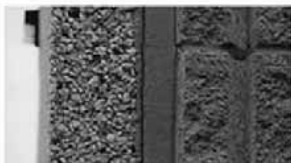


FIGURE 3.6a - SEALANT ADHESIVE BOND LOSS



FIGURE 3.6b - SEALANT ADHESIVE BOND LOSS



FIGURE 3.7 - SEALANT COHESIVE TEARING

Sealant-substrate incompatibility may show itself as sealant adhesive bond loss. Sealants do not necessarily bond to all materials equally well. For example, a sealant that bonds well to glass may not bond well to granite. If all sealant bond loss is occurring on one substrate, an inherently weak bond may be causing the problem.

B) Sealant Cohesive Tearing (Figure 3.7) – Sealant cohesive tearing is when a split or tear occurs within the body of the sealant bead. The split may go all the way through or just a portion of the bead. Generally the split is parallel to the length of the joint. This type of failure is due to excessive or restrictive movement.

Possible Root Cause – Sealant cohesive tearing usually results from joint movement being greater than the movement capability of the sealant or from improperly installed sealant. Excessive movement can be the result of poor joint design, improper sealant selection, or as-built joint widths that did not meet the design specifications.

To determine whether or not the joint movement exceeds the capability of the sealant, the following information should be considered:

i) The existing sealant's joint design ratio. Sealant movement capability (a +/- percentage) alone is not the joint design ratio; other factors such as construction tolerances and installation inconsistencies should be included in this figuring process. This information may not be readily available. The product's joint design ratio is normally stated on the manufacturers' product literature. The typical industry standard for joint design is 4 times the anticipated joint movement. For example, if the anticipated movement in a joint is 1/4 in. (6mm) of expansion/contraction, the recommended joint width would be 1 in. (25mm). This is because a general, high-performance sealant would be able to accommodate at least 25% movement, or in the case of a 1 in. (25mm) joint, the sealant could accept the 1/4 in. (6mm) of expansion/contraction.

ii) The actual joint movement. It is possible to measure actual joint movement with the use of scratch gauges or other methods [See figure 3.10]. This approach can produce valid movement dimensions provided the gauges are allowed to record movement over an annual cycle. Another approach is to calculate the theoretical joint thermal movement using the method described in SECTION 8, Appendix B.

If the actual joint movement exceeds the joint design ratio, cohesive tearing may occur. Another common cause of cohesive tearing is improper sealant application. Bead profiles that are too thin have a tendency to easily tear or split. Bead profiles that are too thick increase bond line stress, decreasing movement capability, resulting in tears and splits.

C) Substrate cohesive failure (Figure 3.8) is when the substrate ruptures or degrades at or near the sealant bond line. The sealant remains adhered to the substrate, but the substrate separates from itself.

Possible Root Cause - In order for the substrate to fail, the adhesive and cohesive strength of the sealant must be greater than the cohesive strength of the substrate. Joint failures of this type usually appear at first glance to be sealant adhesive bond loss. Close examination of the bond line shows that the substrate is embedded in the sealant surface. Prolonged water exposure and/or freeze thaw can often be the cause of this condition.

Joint seal failures are not necessarily apparent by visual inspection alone. A common technique for evaluating joint seal problems is to probe the joint seal during the inspection. Probing is simply applying a localized force at the center of the joint sealant, using a blunt instrument (Figure 3.9). This will simulate extension of the joint. It is important that care should be taken not to over-extend the joint by use of excessive force. Probing should be done during the inspection on a defined, repetitive basis. A typical approach is to probe every 3 to 5 linear feet of seal if no failures are observed. Failure areas should be probed on a continual basis until no failure is observed.

#### INDIRECT FAILURE ROOT CAUSES

Not all joint seal failures are directly related to poor sealant application or performance. Quite often, poor design, poor performance, or failures within the wall or roof components lead to building joint failures.

Poor quality windows that leak infiltrated water into a wall system may appear to be sealant problems. Building settlement or other one-time movement such as seismic racking often cause joints to move much more than anticipated.

Joint seal failures resulting from indirect root causes in most cases will not be corrected by replacing the joint sealant alone. Any problem solving process must identify the root cause and correct it to truly resolve the problem. If leaky windows are causing sealant adhesive bond loss in joints below them, the window leaks need to be stopped first. Any seal failures identified during the survey should be repaired. The result of the survey assessment is an understanding of the extent of the repair required.



FIGURE 3.8 – SUBSTRATE COHESIVE FAILURE



FIGURE 3.9 – SEALANT ADHESION PROBE TEST

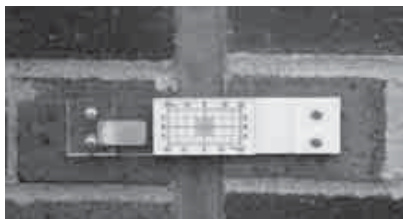


FIGURE 3.10 – SCRATCH GAUGE

#### ASSESSING THE EXISTING CONDITIONS

With the survey completed, a general picture of the existing conditions can be visualized. If a partial survey was undertaken, the first assessment is to decide if further inspection is required. Are the majority of the observed problems occurring on one elevation or are they concentrated in one general area? It might be useful to perform an extensive inspection if the problems are not isolated.

#### ASSESSING FAILURES

Making a sketch of the building elevations may be very helpful in assessing the existing conditions. The sketch should identify the joint seal failure locations along with the other areas of concern such as substrate cracking patterns.

The drawings and sketches should be reviewed to identify any patterns. Consider questions like: Are all joint failures of one type? Do they occur only in one repetitive area such as at the window corners? Has one time building movement caused a problem? Are there cracking patterns that show this? It is here that the assessor uses his building envelope knowledge and experience to truly understand the root cause of the problem(s).

#### THE SURVEY SUMMARY

The results of the survey should be summarized to aid in choosing the appropriate joint seal restoration option. The summary should include the following information:

- The approximate linear feet, type, and age of the current joint sealant
- The type, location, number, and approximate linear feet of detected joint seal failures
- A description of the root cause(s) of the detected seal failures, including indirect causes

Doing a systematic, existing condition survey with a thorough assessment of the observations make choosing the restoration approach much easier.

## SECTION 4 - CHOOSING FROM THE JOINT SEALANT RESTORATION OPTIONS

At this point, you have enough information to choose from the joint seal restoration options. There are three options to choose from:

1) Do nothing. The inspection may have revealed that the problems being investigated were not related to the building joint seals. Often interior water damage is caused by condensation or faulty mechanical equipment. In these cases, correcting the problem will not involve joint sealant restoration.

2) Spot repair. The spot repair approach addresses the areas of failure only. In this case, it is deemed that the most economical solution is to deal with the immediate problem only. This approach is often used when the majority of the joint seals are in good condition.

3) Total restoration. Total restoration involves renewing all building joint seals. In some cases, upgrading of glazing seals is done as well. The inspection may have revealed that along with failure, the general condition of the sealant is towards the end of its service life and the best economic approach is to restore all building joint seals.

Joint sealants, like other building envelope components such as the roofing system or windows, do not have an infinite service life. In addition to the rigors of directly facing the elements, the joint sealant must withstand building movement as well. For this reason, building seals should be approached as a preventative maintenance item, just like the approach taken on a well-maintained roofing system. Annual inspections of the building envelope should be done to enable early detection and correction of localized problems, thereby maximizing the service life of all components.

At the point when it is determined that localized repair will not prevent the possibility of further failure, total building joint seal restoration should be undertaken. The total restoration approach might also make sense on buildings where the sealant is approaching the end of its service life and where repeated repairs to failures must be made. This is especially true on buildings where the cost of sealant application is high. Often the costs of mobilization (special staging, placing safety barriers, etc.) are a very significant part of the project cost. If in the foreseeable future total restoration will be required, it may make economic sense to undertake it now with the required failure repair. This avoids paying the cost of mobilization twice.

Section 4 describes the key considerations in choosing the project approach. It identifies the various restoration options typically available for a joint sealant restoration project. This section also includes a description of spot repair, total removal, replacement, and the bridge joint approach.

## CHOOSING FROM THE JOINT SEALANT RESTORATION OPTIONS

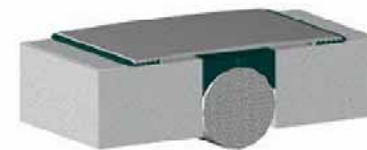


FIGURE 4.1 - BRIDGE JOINT - SPECTREM SIMPLE SEAL



FIGURE 4.2 - BRIDGE JOINT

Sealant life expectancy is the result of a number of variables. These variables include type and quality of sealant, quality of sealant application, building design, movement, location, maintenance, and environmental exposures. There is no definitive answer on sealant life expectancy, as it will vary with the conditions that surround it. This is why the owners and design professionals must again use their knowledge and experience to judge whether total restoration is the best approach.

There are two possible approaches to total joint seal restoration. The joint sealant can 1) be completely removed and replaced or 2) new sealant can be applied over the existing sealant. In most cases, leaving the original sealant in place results in a much larger width of sealant across the joint. This must be weighed against the cost savings resulting from not having to remove the old sealant. Often this approach is rejected due to aesthetic concerns. Jobsite mock-ups, which are discussed in SECTION 6, are helpful in visualizing the results of the two approaches. The approach of installing new sealant over the old sealant is acceptable provided it is done according to the sealant manufacturer's recommendations. Installing a very thin film of sealant over the old material is not a reliable application, as it will inhibit the sealant's ability to perform as it was designed. The service life of this application is shortened extensively because the new, thin film of sealant will not be able to properly accept thermal or structural expansion. For more information on sealant performance capabilities, see the Sealant Selector Guide Insert, or review the product data sheet(s).

Leaving the old sealant in place involves isolating the old sealant from the new sealant to prevent three-sided adhesion. This can be accomplished by the use of a bond breaker tape. In restoration of a fillet joint where additional material is placed over top of the old material, a bond breaker tape may also be required. The required backing material is dependent on joint design and movement requirements.

In applications where it is not feasible to completely remove the existing butt joint material(s) and the substrate cannot be restored to like-new conditions, a bridge joint can be applied. For bridge joint applications, Tremco offers Spectrem® Simple Seal. Spectrem Simple Seal is installed over top of the old joint (Figure 4.1) with the new joint adhering to the face of the building (Figure 4.2). This detail is explained further in the Appendix, SECTION 8-D.

After evaluating the sealant restoration options, you need to decide whether spot repair or total joint restoration is ideal for your application(s). Once you've determined which restoration option is best for your conditions, you can begin considering the sealant choices available for your restoration project.

## SECTION 5 – SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE PRODUCTS

The inspection and analysis of the observations have determined the restoration approach as well as the project performance requirements. The key project performance requirements are:

- Substrate type and color
- Joint width(s) and configuration
- Joint movement
- The joint restoration approach (i.e. spot repair or total replacement)
- Sealant choice and performance properties

With these requirements established, an appropriate sealant can be selected. Tremco manufactures a complete line of high performance sealants and glazing tapes, as well as firestopping, residential, and specialty sealants. Your Tremco Representative is available to help you select the sealant(s) that are right for the project at hand.

### TREMCO SEALANTS

Selecting the correct sealant for the application may appear to be difficult. There are many products to choose from, along with the different sealant technologies such as urethanes, silicones, kraytons, butyls, and polysulfides. Included in the packet insert is a chart titled, "Tremco Sealants – Basic Uses and Classifications", to assist you in selecting a sealant. This chart summarizes the main characteristics and typical uses of each sealant, in addition to listing the applicable third party specifications it conforms to. The sealants are listed for the application and, generally, there may be more than one sealant choice for any particular application. Further information can be obtained from the product data sheets.

### SEALANT COLOR

Careful attention should be given to selecting an appropriate sealant color on any joint sealant restoration project. Often the building substrates and/or the existing joint sealant's color has changed from that originally installed due to normal weathering and various other factors. Selecting the original joint sealant color may not be the most appropriate choice. A custom color, matched to the existing color of the substrate or the existing joint sealant, may create more desirable aesthetics.

Tremco's multi-component sealants, Dymeric® 240, Dymeric 240FC, THC 900, and THC 901, use a separate Color Pak along with a separate curative container making these sealants a three-component system. Tremco's Spectrem 4-TS silicone sealant uses a separate Color Pak additive (like the one used with the above products), making it a two-component, field-tintable, moisture-curing silicone sealant option.

Section 5 explains the product selection process for various conditions. It describes key points in choosing the appropriate sealant



### SEALANT STAINING AND DIRT PICK-UP

Sealant staining and dirt pick-up are potential issues that could affect the aesthetics of a restoration project. Plasticizer migration is generally considered the primary cause of staining, streaking, and dirt pick-up problems. While there are laboratory tests that can be conducted, they do not conclusively determine a sealant's propensity to stain any given façade material. Tremco recommends performing testing to investigate possible staining.

### SEALANT ADHESION AND COMPATIBILITY

The product data sheet gives typical guidelines on adhesion to most common substrates. Materials are considered compatible when objects that come into contact with each other exhibit neither adverse reactions nor loss of performance properties. The majority of common construction substrates are compatible with most Tremco sealants; however we recommend that you check before proceeding, as primers or special preparation may be required. Unusual substrates can be reviewed with your Tremco Representative or our Technical Services Group.

### JOINT MOVEMENT

As part of the investigation work described earlier, joint movement was either estimated or calculated. In addition, actual joint widths were measured. Make sure the selected sealant has an adequate movement capability and accommodates the actual joint widths. In extreme cases, it might be necessary to widen the joint so that the selected sealant can accommodate the expected range of movement. Widening the joint reduces the movement percentage to within the capability of the sealant design. Reference Appendix 8B, Calculating Joint Movement, for a complete description.

### SELECTING THE SEALANT(S) FOR YOUR PROJECT

Typically, there is more than one Tremco sealant that can meet the primary performance requirements of the particular project. The primary performance requirements include adhesion and compatibility with the substrates and/or existing sealants involved, accommodating actual joint movements, and delivering the required aesthetics over the expected service life of the sealant. The enclosed chart, Tremco Sealants – Basic Uses and Classifications, gives general descriptions, uses and performance characteristics. Any questions can be directed to your Tremco Representative or the Tremco Technical Services Group.



## FINAL SEALANT SELECTION

The final sealant selection may be based on one predominant sealant characteristic. As a general guideline, silicone sealants should be used to repair or replace silicone sealants. Urethanes should be replaced with urethanes. Contact your local Tremco representative whenever a switch to another sealant polymer family is desired, as there may be compatibility issues between different sealant polymers. A multi-component urethane is usually preferred on a small project requiring a custom color. A project may require silicone for cap beading and a urethane for sealing porous substrate joints. Each portion of the project needs to be addressed individually. Tremco's extensive sealant product line ensures that the unique requirements of each restoration project can be met.

Complete product information, including data sheets, MSDSs, and AutoCAD details are immediately available on our website at [www.tremcosealants.com](http://www.tremcosealants.com). Additional product inquiries and problems can be directed to your Tremco Representative or the Tremco Technical Services Group. The Tremco Technical Services Group can be reached at 866.209.2404.

Section 6 gives details about the potential sealant removal, substrate preparation techniques, mock-up approach, and field evaluation.

## 6 DETERMINING JOINT PREPARATION APPROACH



FIGURE 6.1 – USING A PORTABLE GRINDER



FIGURE 6.2 - USING A RAZOR KNIFE

## SECTION 6 – DETERMINING JOINT PREPARATION APPROACH

Selecting the right sealant for a joint sealant restoration project does not guarantee a successful outcome. Equally important is to ensure that the joints are properly prepared for sealant application. This includes existing sealant removal, substrate cleaning, and priming (if required). Establishing the most effective application procedure can be done by using a site mock-up (field trial) approach to evaluate the various options. This section describes the chronological steps taken to perform the site mock-up (field trial) procedure.

### EXISTING SEALANT REMOVAL

A technique and quality standard should be established for projects requiring sealant removal. The removal technique is usually dependent on the existing sealant type and the substrate type. In most cases the existing sealant should be removed completely. Most sealants, including relatively hard thermoplastic sealants such as putty, oil-based caulks or solvent-based acrylics, can be removed by using an abrasive grinding wheel (Figure 6.1). On porous substrates it is necessary to remove a fine layer of substrate to ensure a fresh, clean surface. If a grinding wheel cannot be used due to joint configuration, the sealant must be removed with another abrasive material. The sealant is first removed by cutting it out with a razor knife (Figure 6.2). The use of an abrasive pad (Scotch Brite) soaked with an appropriate solvent on non-porous substrates, such as aluminum, is usually required for complete removal. The abrasive pads are available in various grits, similar to sandpaper. The abrasive pad should remove the sealant without damaging the substrate. In cases where the existing sealant cannot be removed completely, compatibility between the existing and new sealant must be taken into consideration. Call Technical Services for details.

Elastomeric sealants are typically removed by first cutting as close as possible to the substrate without damaging it. Only a very thin film of sealant should remain. Depending on the joint configuration, removing the remaining sealant on a porous substrate can be accomplished by grinding. On non-porous substrates grinding is usually not feasible (as stated earlier, you can use the abrasive pad with solvent technique to remove the remaining sealant in these cases). An alternate to cutting out the sealant by hand with a razor knife is to use a power oscillating blade cutter (See Figure 6.3). This can improve efficiencies on larger jobs.

On occasion, it may not be necessary to completely remove the existing sealant. Partial removal is sometimes done when the replacement sealant is the same type as the existing sealant and the existing sealant is still well bonded. In these cases, a 1/16 in. (1.5mm) to a 1/8 in. (3mm) thickness of old sealant is left at the bond line (Figure 6.4).

## SUBSTRATE CLEANING

In each of these cases and in cases where the existing sealant will not be removed, the surface to which the replacement sealant will be applied must be clean, dry, and contaminant-free. The substrates should be structurally sound and free of defects. This can usually be accomplished by using one or more of the following techniques:

- 1) Wire Brush – Certain types of porous substrates such as concrete, stone, and brick have loose particles on the surface. Using a wire brush to prepare these types of surfaces will remove the loose particles.
- 2) Compressed Air – Blow out the joints with dry, oil free compressed air to remove dust and contaminants.
- 3) Solvent Wipe – Cleaning with an appropriate solvent using the “Two-Cloth” method will remove oil and dirt contaminants from the surface.

### THE “TWO-CLOTH” METHOD

Solvent cleaning requires the use of the “Two-Cloth” method (Figure 6.5). To effectively use this preparation method, follow these guidelines:

- Always use fresh, clean solvent and be sure to use the solvent type recommended for the particular surfaces to which it will be applied.
- Always consult and follow the instructions on the solvent material safety data sheet.
- Use clean, lint-free cloths. White cloths are preferred.
- Use one cloth soaked with solvent to clean the substrate and a second dry cloth to wipe the substrate dry immediately afterwards.
- Do not allow the solvent wiped surface to dry before wiping it with the second dry cloth.
- The cleaning action must be vigorous and with pressure.
- Clean only as much area as can be primed or sealed within four hours.
- If cleaned areas are exposed to rain, dust, or other contaminants, the surface must be re-cleaned.
- Continuously rotate the cloth to lift off and remove the surface contaminants loosened by the solvent.
- Always pour the solvent on the rag being used. Never dip the rag in the cleaning solvent as this contaminates the solvent.
- Change cloths frequently as they become soiled.



FIGURE 6.3 – POWER OSCILLATING BLADE CUTTER

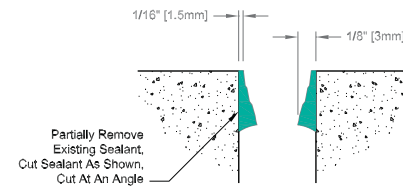


FIGURE 6.4 – PARTIAL SEALANT REMOVAL



FIGURE 6.5 – “TWO-CLOTH” METHOD

## PRIMING

Some sealants require a primer application to obtain strong and consistent adhesion to the substrate and/or to the old sealant. Priming does not replace or eliminate the requirement for substrate cleaning. Most sealants generally have good unprimed adhesion to most substrates but may require a primer to particular substrates. Check the sealant data sheet or contact Tremco Technical Service for specific instructions. Apply primers using the following guidelines:

- Apply where sealant will contact the surface only. Mask if required to avoid staining non-sealant contact surfaces.
- Use only fresh primer. Dispense into a separate container for daily use. Changes in primer appearance may indicate contamination or an expired shelf life. If a change in primer appearance occurs, do not use.
- Keep primer containers sealed. Reseal immediately after use, as some primers are moisture sensitive and can be deactivated by extended exposure to moist air.
- Prime only as much area as you can prime and seal within the same day or as specified on the primer data sheet.
- Properly discard any left over primer in the daily use container at the end of each day.

### THE SITE MOCK-UP

It is Tremco’s best recommendation that a site mock-up or field trial application be performed on any substantial building joint restoration project. This will allow for evaluation of the following options:

- Old sealant removal
- Substrate cleaning method
- Sealant selection
- Priming requirements
- Sealant bead configuration and appearance

Create a list of the potential options to be evaluated in the trial installation. Some of the options to be considered are listed below:

- Verify complete removal vs. partial removal vs. applying sealant over the top of existing material
- Various primers vs. no primer
- Various sealant types
- Diamond tipped vs. Carborundum grinding
- Test all the different substrate surfaces on the building such as, aluminum, brick, concrete, etc.
- Dry brush vs. solvent wipe

Trial installations should include each potential option that you are considering using. Select an area of the project where at least three to five linear feet of each option can be installed on each substrate type. The area should be easily accessible, since further checks of adhesion and visual appearance are required after cure. The trial installation should be used to determine the bead configuration and size. Good sealant bead configurations allow the sealant to perform as designed. Poor bead configuration can lead to premature failure of the joint sealant.

#### EVALUATING THE SITE MOCK-UP

Once the trial application sealant(s) have fully cured (usually within 7 to 21 days) their adhesion should be checked and documented. The data should be recorded in a jobsite log, which ideally lists each sealant-substrate option. Perform a field adhesion test on each joint and note the results in the Jobsite Log sheet found in the back pocket.

#### FIELD ADHESION TEST

The field adhesion test is simply a hand pull test of a cut area of joint sealant (Figure 6.6). It is a very useful tool for evaluating the effects of various cleaning methods and primers. It is also a good indicator of the fundamental adhesive properties of a sealant on a particular substrate. The field adhesion test procedures, according to ASTM C 1193 Standard Guide for Use of Joint Sealants are as follows:

- 1) Cut through the sealant across the joint width
- 2) Cut 3 in. (76mm) along the substrate/sealant interface on both sides
- 3) Grasp the sealant tab 1 in. (25mm) from its bonded surface
- 4) Pull the tab of sealant at a 90° angle
- 5) Record the type of failure that occurs upon full extension to failure and the degree of force required (little or much)
- 6) Record the percent extension of the sealant tab at full extension prior to any failure

Use the field adhesion test results to eliminate any options that gave poor adhesion.



FIGURE 6.6 - FIELD ADHESION TEST

#### TRIAL INSTALLATION RESULTS

Based on evaluating the trial installation, in addition to confirming the initial performance of the selected sealant(s), several project operating procedures and standards are established. All parties involved with the job should agree on:

- 1) The old sealant removal technique (if applicable) and acceptable results
- 2) Substrate cleaning technique and acceptable results
- 3) Primers (if any) to be used
- 4) Appearance including color of the sealant
- 5) Typical sealant bead configuration and dimensions

#### TIMING OF THE TRIAL APPLICATION

Ideally the trial application should be completed prior to specifying and bidding the project. Doing this enables the Restoration Contractor to quote on a very specific basis. For complete sealant replacement projects, if the trial application cannot be completed first, make sure tenders have allowed for the potential costs of priming.

## SECTION 7 – PRODUCT INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Installation of a joint sealant can be broken down into four (4) main steps:

- 1) Preparing the substrate, which includes
  - Removal of the old sealant
  - Cleaning the substrate
  - Priming the surface (if required)
- 2) Installing the joint backing material
- 3) Gunning the sealant
- 4) Tooling the sealant

Section 6 of this guide outlines the requirements for Step 1 – Preparing the joint substrate. Steps 2-4 will be discussed below.

### JOINT BACKING MATERIALS

The backing material is required for proper joint configuration and to prevent three-sided adhesion. If three-sided adhesion occurs in a moving joint, the sealant is likely to fail due to the restricted movement ability created by the third bond. Backer rod must also support the sealant as it is gunned into the joint under pressure and during the tooling process. Tooling forces the uncured sealant to flow throughout the joint substrate to ensure full wet-out and ultimately proper adhesion of the sealant.

The most common joint backing product is Backer Rod (Figure 7.1). Backer rod is available in three generic types:

- Open cell
- Closed cell
- Soft (hybrid) type

Selecting a backing material that meets the need of your project and the selected sealant is essential to a successful sealant installation. Soft or closed cell are the preferred type due to their resistance to moisture penetration, however, it is possible to use other bond breaking materials such as open cell backer rod or bond breaking tapes.

Open cell backer rod is easily compressible and allows air to pass through it. Its sponge-like nature allows it to absorb and retain water within the pores of the material. However, constant water absorption of the backer rod is detrimental to the performance and longevity of both the sealant and substrate material, which is why it is not recommended for immersed conditions. Open cell backer rod can only be used in certain applications. Check with your local Tremco Representative or contact Tremco Technical Services before using.

Section 7 summarizes the recommended sealant installation, including joint backing materials, and procedures for a typical joint sealant restoration project.

## 7 PRODUCT INSTALLATION GUIDELINES



FIGURE 7.1 – INSERTING BACKER ROD

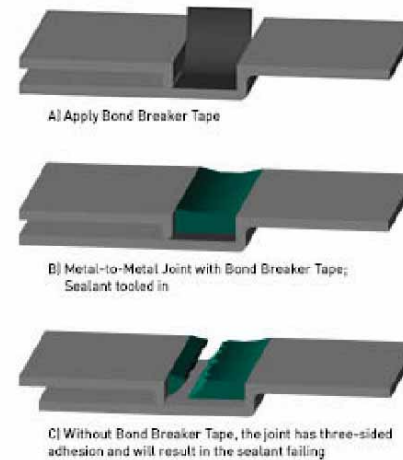


FIGURE 7.2 - APPLYING BOND BREAKER TAPE

Closed cell backer rod is a foam material with closed pores or cells and has a tough plastic skin. It does not absorb water; however, it may release a gas if punctured during installation, often causing blisters in the sealant surface. It is also more difficult to compress, yielding a more snug fit. Closed cell backer rod is the recommended backer rod to use and can be used in most sealant applications.

The soft (hybrid) type backer rod is intended to combine the benefits of closed and open cell rod. It has an interior core of open cell foam surrounded by an outer core of closed cell foam with tough plastic skin. It is easily compressible and will not release a gas if punctured.

Generally closed cell backer rod can be substituted for both open cell and the soft type. The soft backer material can be generally substituted for open cell and closed cell backer rod. However, open cell cannot be substituted for closed cell or the soft type. Closed cell or soft type rod is the preferred type for exterior insulation finishing system (EIFS) joints and cavity wall joints. Closed cell backer rod should be used in all horizontal joints, below grade, and submerged applications.

When backer rod cannot be installed due to the joint configuration, three-sided adhesion of the joint sealant must be prevented by other means. This is typically accomplished using a bond breaker tape (Figure 7.2). An adhesive backed polyethylene tape can be used for this purpose. The primary purpose of the tape is to prevent sealant adhesion to the topside of the tape.

### BACKER ROD INSTALLATION

Select an approved backer rod and size by following the directions on its data sheet to ensure proper compression of the rod. Install the rod direct from the reel or after pre-cutting to the required length. With a blunt instrument or roller, uniformly install rod at the required depth to obtain required sealant bead profile. It is recommended that backer rod be installed before priming, but it is acceptable to install the bond breaker after priming. The concern with installing the backing material after priming is the risk of primer contamination during the installation. Generally the depth of the sealant bead will equal half its width. Depth of backer rod is measured at the high point of the rod or center portion. See the sealant data page for specific requirements. Avoid puncturing, stretching, over-compression, and under-compression of the backer rod.

## SEALANT INSTALLATION

Sealant installation should only be performed under acceptable environmental conditions. Industry standards for sealant installation call for a minimum substrate temperature of 40°F (4°C). The maximum substrate temperature Tremco recommends for urethanes is typically 100°F (37°C). The maximum substrate temperature Tremco recommends for silicones is typically 120°F (49°C).

When temperatures drop below 40°F (4°C), condensation, frost, or ice can readily develop. Effective caulking work can still be conducted in temperatures below 40°F (4°C); however, there are certain precautions that should be considered. Temperatures less than 40°F (4°C) may make the sealant more difficult to gun and tool, as well as affect the sealant's ability to properly wet the substrate surface. If sealant restoration must be conducted in temperatures below 40°F (4°C), please reference Tremco's Cold Weather Application Guidelines, which can be found on Tremco's website at [www.tremcosealants.com](http://www.tremcosealants.com).

For application of sealants in wet conditions, refer to the Sealant Selection Guide. In addition to the threat of condensation and frost formation, cold weather conditions also increase the time required for the sealant to cure. Some sealants use a catalyst to speed up their cure and may be ideal for low temperature applications. Slower curing sealants may require protection during the longer cure period.

Sealants should be gunned into the joint under pressure to ensure an intimate bond between the sealant and the substrate. The joint should be completely filled with all air displaced leaving no voids. The proper width, depth and configuration must be maintained on a continuous basis to eliminate localized problems.

## TOOLING

Tooling refers to smoothing down and shaping the outer surface of the applied sealant using a wood or plastic tooling stick or metal spatula. Tooling forces the sealant against the joint backing and substrate to ensure wet-out and no voids. It also allows the applicator to form the sealant surface into a slightly concave profile, which is preferable in a dynamic joint. Tooling also smoothes the surface for enhanced project aesthetics. It should be done immediately after sealant application to ensure a workable sealant bead. Dry tooling is always recommended (Figure 7.1), as wet tooling may contaminate the substrate surface, deterring proper sealant adhesion.



FIGURE 7.1 - DRY TOOLING

## MASKING

In order to prevent sealant smears, the application of masking tape along the sides of the joint is sometimes necessary. Masking tape is especially useful on surfaces where the clean up of excess sealant may be difficult. Apply the masking tape before primer application and remove it immediately after tooling the joint. This will create clean sealant lines, which yield an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

## CLEAN UP

Immediately remove all excess sealant and smears adjacent to the joint using an approved solvent cleaner. In most cases, xylene solvent will work well for sealant removal, although it may be possible to use other solvents such as MEK, Toluene, or similar mineral spirits. At times, it may also be possible to use soap & water. Avoid further contact with the sealant bead until it has completely cured. Access to these areas may need to be restricted until the product has fully cured (i.e. areas involving pedestrian/vehicular traffic, etc).

## SPECIAL PRODUCT INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Consult and follow the instructions on product data sheets. Some products have special requirements that must be followed or product failures could occur.

## SECTION 8 – APPENDIX

### APPENDIX 8A – TYPES OF SUBSTRATES

The use of building materials throughout the ages was typically based on available technology, aesthetics, proximity to the source and specific characteristics of the material. While this is still true today, the limitations posed by location are much reduced. This section will focus on the “recognition” aspects in identifying some of the materials that will be encountered during restoration, as well as generic precautions to be exercised once identification is complete. Specific procedures on these materials should be established with the assistance of a Tremco Field Representative. This will maximize success in dealing with this broad range of sensitive substrates.

#### MASONRY MATERIALS

##### NATURAL STONE

Natural stone has experienced a resurgence of usage as an exterior building element since the late seventies. Technology assisted in the development of machinery, which was able to slice the stone in thinner pieces, producing more square footage per unit volume, hence reducing costs.

All natural stones will weather. Weathering is both the decomposition and the physical disintegration of stone. The thinner the stone is sliced, the greater the impact of weathering. Simply put, it is possible to diminish the interlocking process of coarse-grained stone by slicing the minerals too thin.

Natural stone is porous in nature and generally requires the use of a sealer before a sealant can be applied. Primers for sealants are usually required to promote a seamless bond due to the porosity at the bond line. Removal of old sealant from stone substrates usually requires grinding of the surface to get back to an uncontaminated, fresh material.

Certain types of stone, such as polished marble, are more susceptible to weathering than other natural stone products. Polished marble will not remain polished when exposed to the elements. Marble is technically defined as recrystallized limestone, for this reason it is vulnerable to mild solutions of acid from the atmosphere.

Granite is a very common material found on medium to large commercial projects. The exterior face of the granite is available in a polished or textured (rough face) finish. Sealant adhesion may vary from face to edge of panel and from polished to textured areas in the same panel.

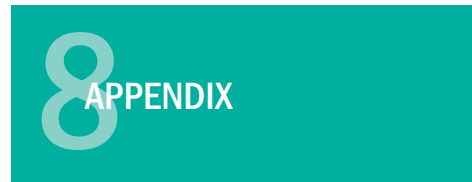
[8A. Types of substrates](#)

[8B. Calculating joint movement](#)

[8C. Sealant joint design](#)

[8D. Sealant joint profiles](#)

[8E. Joint sealant guide specification](#)



#### BRICK, BLOCK, & CONCRETE MATERIALS

Brick and concrete blocks are man-made stone substitutes. They are designed as modular materials, lighter and easier to use than natural stone. The materials used in masonry construction may be highly porous and may absorb water moisture. This moisture must be controlled to prevent damage to the building, interior and exterior. Prolonged moisture in masonry may also have a detrimental effect on the bond line adhesion of the sealant. Primers may be required on highly porous masonry. Removal of old sealant from masonry substrates usually requires grinding of the surface to get back to an uncontaminated, fresh material.

Variables Which Affect Sealant Adhesion Characteristics:

- Density and type of concrete aggregate
- Surface treatment - masonry sealers
- Glazed and unglazed finishes
- Type of mortar
- Composition of brick, type of mixture
- Magnesium phosphate patches will not accept sealants
- Release agents used on concrete forms may contaminate the sides of the joint

#### LIGHTWEIGHT STONE VENEERS

Modern technology allows us to slice stone very thin into a veneer laminated over a lightweight structural backing. The lightweight backing typically consists of a honeycomb pattern of a thin fibrous or metal weave material. We have seen very thin veneers, as thin as 3/16 in. (5mm), which may pose problems in restoration. It may not be possible to use a grinder to remove old sealant material from a thin veneer or the veneer panel could be damaged. Also, the thickness of the veneer may prevent you from obtaining a proper bite to the side of the joint.

#### ARCHITECTURAL METALS

##### COPPER

When copper is new or properly cleaned, its color resembles that of a penny in mint condition. Age and environment quickly change the appearance through oxidation. Oxidation can change the surface color(s) to a coppery brown, brownish green, green, or light green. Usually all of these shades will be present, with variations seen by exposure to rain concentrations and the degree of exposure. Protected areas of the copper tend to stay in the coppery brown color range, where as copper exposed to heavy weathering in industrial locals generally exhibit a greenish color. Aesthetically all shades can be appealing depending on the application and desired patina. Substrate detection can be done by scraping away this oxidation in a discreet, non-critical spot, which should reveal the new-like, polished appearance. Typical uses are roofing, flashing, gutters and other drainage areas. Virgin material is needed at the reseal area to ensure sealant adhesion. Aged or oxidized copper may inhibit sealant adhesion due to contaminants at the bond line.

## **BRONZE**

Bronze is an alloy of tin and copper (mostly copper). As it is more resistant to corrosion than pure copper, it tends to weather as more of a golden brown color, with a touch of green in the most severe exposures. It is harder and more durable than copper. It is used in ornamental work, banisters and railings, storefronts and entries. The virgin metal is a muted copper tone, with a lighter and softer golden color. A fresh, clean bronze surface is required at the reseal area to ensure sealant adhesion.

## **LEAD-COATED COPPER & TERNE**

This material is recognized by a much more uniform oxidized appearance. Lead coated copper is almost always dull and generally has a slightly metallic, medium gray color. The uses are the same as with copper, but dispenses with the variable patina appearance. Check for the presence of solder joints, they may adversely affect adhesion. When lead is alloyed with tin, it can also be applied over steel sheeting, which is known as TERNE metal. Appearance-wise, the two are quite similar. Snipping a swatch through the base metal will reveal the steel "core" of the terne metal. This metal bonding configuration offers greater strength in typical gutter and drainage applications. Virgin topcoat metal is required for resealing.

## **STEEL**

Being mostly iron, steel readily oxidizes. It is a poor sealant substrate, because of the continued oxidation that takes place, especially in corrosive urban and industrial environments. Tremco does not recommend sealing to uncoated steel because of the oxidation involved. The steel should be treated with a protective film, such as paint, to prevent oxidation. The oxidation process in steel is easily recognized by the "rust" we are all familiar with on the surface of the metal.

A limited exception to the continued oxidation problem that steel exhibits is Corten steel, which became popular in the 70's. It will oxidize and rust as carbon steel, but at a much slower rate. It is difficult to distinguish from standard steel except in typical uses as exposed, ornamental or structural steel.

## **STAINLESS STEEL**

This material retains its reflective, silvery, metallic appearance due to the nickel and other alloying elements it's composed of. Because of its high strength, it can be used in an endless variety of applications. Its major uses are in flashing, closures and ornamental work. Stainless steel is available in a variety of finishes from a satin finish to a high polished/mirror finish.

## **GALVANIZED STEEL**

This material overcomes the problems of uncontrolled oxidation seen in common carbon steel, by the application of a thin zinc overcoat. The zinc separates the iron in the steel from the oxygen, preventing oxidation. It also prevents oxidation via the mechanism of galvanic action, in which ions of zinc are lost in corrosion prior to underlying or adjacent iron ions. In addition, the material is often painted for increased protection.

In its basic form, it is found as a light dull gray, with a fine, crystalline surface appearance. If the outer surface of zinc is compromised, then the steel below will rust. Due to its strength, it is used in many panel, roofing, and siding applications.

## **PORCELAINIZED METAL**

Many metals can be coated with porcelain, which is simply ground glass that fuses to form a continuous coating on the surface of the metal. It provides color and corrosion resistance to structural metals like steel and aluminum. It is very hard, brittle and long lasting unless cracked. The substrate can be detected by a surface not easily scratched with a knife.

## **ALUMINUM FINISHES**

Aluminum finishes include anodized aluminum, painted aluminum, and mill finish aluminum.

Anodized finishes are created through anodizing, which is a method of accelerating and controlling the formation of an oxide coating. The anodized coating is created from the metal, rather than being applied to it, which makes it integral. It will not chip, peel or blister. Standard colors are clear (silver gray), bronze (light, medium, dark) and black. A few special colors can be made by adding dyes during the anodizing process. The finish can be detected by a translucent sheen of the anodic coating.

A major drawback of the anodizing process is the inability of the process to make reproducible tint matches in a specific color range. Anodizing is a chemical process that may vary from batch to batch and piece to piece. Because of process variation, some sealants may have difficulties in obtaining adhesion to certain types or batches of anodized aluminum.

Painted finishes may include fluoropolymers, acrylic enamel, enamel, siliconized polyester, and urethane enamel. The critical performance elements of a painted finish are:

- The adhesion of the paint to the base substrate
- The ability to not chip or fade
- The ability of the paint to shed dirt/prevent staining

Some coatings that limit staining may also create adhesion problems for the sealant. Painted finishes can be detected by the slight imperfections on the surface made by dust particles during the spraying process.

Mill finish aluminum is a misnomer because it is aluminum material directly from the extrusion mill and has no type of surface finishing done to the material. The material must be thoroughly cleaned to remove dirt and grime from the surface. In place material will have evidence of oxidation as seen by a dull gray surface and pitted texture.

Another finish sometimes seen when working with aluminum is a conversion coating. A conversion coating is usually a finish that results when only some steps utilized in other finishing methods are used. The finish usually has a clear metallic appearance with a slight yellowish green cast.

### ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION SUBSTRATES

#### WOOD

Wood can be categorized into two areas, treated and untreated lumber. Treated lumber will have some type of coating applied to the exterior surface. Exterior coatings usually consist of some type of surface water repellent coating. The sealant may or may not adhere to the coating, depending on the type. A primer may be required to attain adhesion.

Untreated wood has neither a coating nor a penetrating sealer applied to the surface. Certain types of woods may leach out resins or oils. These resins or oils may bleed to the surface and can affect adhesion of sealant to the wood surface. An important criteria in applying sealant to wood is to make sure that the wood is dry where the sealant bond line occurs. Tremco does not recommend sealing to any unfinished wood surface, including pressure treated lumber, in an exterior application.

#### GLASS

Glass is commonly identified by a clear, hard smooth surface and is used in fenestration areas. This typical application is compounded with options such as tints, coatings, and applied frits. Coatings may be of a metallic type, for reflective glass or painted for spandrel glass. Sealant adhesion may vary dependent upon the coating.

Because the major ingredient in glass is silica, silicone sealants exhibit good adhesion to clear and tinted glass surfaces. Silicone sealants are used extensively in glazing applications such as cap, heel or toe beads. Current available urethane sealants are not recommended for these applications because ultraviolet rays may eventually break down the adhesive bond line of the urethane sealant if used in contact with the glass surface.

Certain sealant types should not be used adjacent to an insulating glass unit. The by products emitted during the cure stage or the base chemistry of the sealant may damage the primary or secondary seals of the unit.

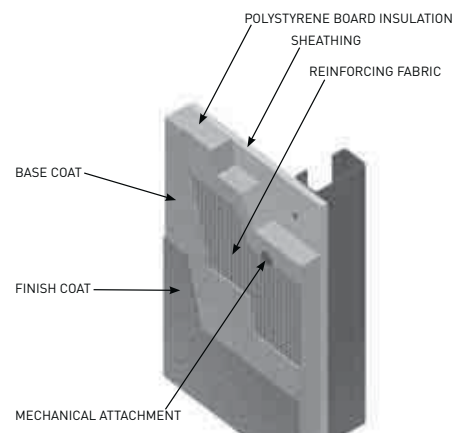


FIGURE 8.1 – TYPICAL EIFS WALL CONSTRUCTION

#### PLASTIC

The main types of plastic, found mostly in glazing applications, are acrylic, polycarbonate, and reinforced fiberglass. They can be used in sheet form or in pre-molded shapes. A problem with using these materials as a glazing material is that their coefficient of thermal expansion is much greater than the adjacent aluminum framing materials. A designer must take into account the movement of the material due to thermal expansion and contraction.

If a sealant is in contact with the plastic glazing material then the joint design must allow for the movement without restricting the sealant or the plastic sheet. A bridge joint may be required in certain applications to provide for the movement.

Vinyl, PVC, and other plastics may be used as the structural framing material for residential and light commercial windows. Like all other glazing applications, thermal and structural movement relative to adjacent substrates should be considered.

#### EXTERIOR INSULATION FINISHING SYSTEM (EIFS)

EIFS (Figure 8.1) is a composite system that combines the function of finish, structure, and insulation, which gives the appearance of stucco or light aggregate finish. This material can be identified by its lightweight structure. It produces a light, deadened sound when tapping on the surface.

Sealant concerns revolve around the finish and base coats in this built up system. Susceptibility of these coatings to damage will affect sealant removal efforts. Consideration for finding a balance between complete sealant removal and maintaining the integrity of the system makes remediation of this substrate complex. Substrate repairs may be required prior to recaulking. Contact Tremco Technical Services for complete details.

#### APPENDIX 8B – CALCULATING JOINT MOVEMENT

In most Joint Restoration Projects, joint movement is a result of substrate temperature change and its subsequent thermal expansion and contraction. Other potential sources of joint movement, such as creep and moisture-induced movements, are typically assumed to be zero. If live load deflections are deemed significant on a particular project they must be added to the calculated thermal movement.

In order to calculate joint movement, the substrate type, its anchoring pattern and design must be known. From this it can be determined how each element of the building will move in relation to each other. The amount of movement depends on the substrate type, its length that is free to move as well as the temperature it is exposed to.



Linear Substrate Movement (LSM) can be calculated using this formula:  $LSM = \Delta T \times L \times CLE$

Where:

- LSM is linear joint movement (in inches)
- $\Delta T$  is the maximum substrate temperature range during the year (in °F)
- L is the length of unrestrained substrate (in inches)
- CLE is the substrate coefficient of linear expansion

EXAMPLE:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta T &= 180^\circ\text{F} (82^\circ\text{C}) \\ L &= 11'1'' = 156 \text{ inches} \\ CLE &= 0.0000132 \text{ (aluminum)} \\ 180 \times 156 \times 0.0000132 &= 0.373'' = 3/8'' \\ \text{Linear Substrate Movement} &= 0.373'' \end{aligned}$$

See Table 2 for a list of substrate coefficients of linear expansion and their average values. Wherever possible, the specific substrate coefficient of linear expansion should be established and used in the calculation.

#### MAXIMUM SUBSTRATE TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE

The maximum substrate temperature difference is a simple subtraction of the lowest temperature the substrate will exhibit from its highest temperature over the course of a year. The actual temperature extremes are dependent on geographic location, substrate type, color and exposure. As a rule of thumb, northern climates exhibit highs in the order of 150°F (66°C) (substrate temperature) and lows in the order of -30°F (-34°C). Southern climates see highs in the order of 170°F (77°C) (substrate temperature) and lows in the order of -10°F (-23°C).

#### DIRECTIONAL JOINT MOVEMENT

Joint movement generally does not occur in one direction only. A portion of the movement may occur as expansion with the remaining portion as contraction. The actual thermal movement the sealant will experience depends on the substrate temperature and the joint width at the time of sealant installation. Building expansion joints will be widest during the winter months and narrowest during the summer months. Sealant applied in the summer must typically absorb more expansion than contraction.

On joint sealant restoration projects it is possible to calculate the linear directional joint movement (the joint movement in expansion and in compression). This should be done if excessive joint movement is anticipated. However it is best to confer with an engineer to verify the actual movement due to load combinations and thermal considerations.

Substrate	$C_{LE} \times 10^{-6}$ (in./in./°F)	$C_{LE} \times 10^{-6}$ (mm./mm./°C)
Aluminum	13.2	23.8
Brass	10.4	18.7
Bronze	10.0-11.6	18.0-
20.9		
<u>Clay Masonry:</u>		
Clay or shale brick	3.6	6.5
Fire clay brick	2.5	4.5
Clay or shale tile	3.3	5.9
<u>Concrete Masonry:</u>		
Dense aggregate	5.2	9.4
Lightweight aggregate	4.3	7.7
<u>Concrete:</u>		
Calcareous aggregate	5.0	9.0
Quartzite aggregate	7.0	12.6
Copper	9.4	16.9
Glass	4.9	8.8
<u>Iron:</u>		
Cast, grey	5.9	10.6
Wrought	6.7	12.1
Lead	15.9	28.6
Magnesium	16.0	28.8
<u>Plaster, gypsum:</u>		
Sand aggregate	6.5-6.75	11.7-12.2
Perlite aggregate	7.3-7.35	13.1-13.2
Vermiculite aggregate	8.4-8.6	15.1-15.5
<u>Plastic:</u>		
Acrylic sheet	41.0	74.0
Polycarbonate sheet	38.0	68.4
Steel, carbon	6.7	12.1
<u>Steel, stainless:</u>		
300 alloys	9.4-9.6	16.0-17.3
400 alloys	5.8-6.1	10.4-11.0
<u>Stone:</u>		
Granite	2.8-6.1	5.0-11.0
Limestone	2.2-6.7	4.0-12.0
Marble	3.7-12.3	6.7-12.1
Sandstone	4.4-6.7	8.0-12.0
Slate	4.4-5.6	8.0-10.0
Travertine	3.3-5.6	6.0-10.0
<u>Wood:</u>		
Parallel to fiber	2.1-3.6	3.8-6.5
Perpendicular to fiber	18.0-32.0	32.4-57.6

TABLE 2 - COEFFICIENTS OF LINEAR EXPANSION

#### APPENDIX 8C – SEALANT JOINT DESIGN

Sealant joint design is one of many key considerations in a carefully conceived building exterior. Effective treatment of sealant joints is a crucial factor in the ultimate success and longevity of the building envelope. Improperly designed joints will not perform correctly. The result may be a moisture infiltration problem, which defeats the original purpose of the building's exterior skin.

Sealant joints are theoretically designed to a nominal dimension. However, tolerances exist in both the manufacturing and the installation of the substrate materials. These tolerances will increase or decrease the width of the nominal joint dimension.

Joints that become smaller, due to construction tolerances, are of greater concern in joint design. When construction tolerances are not provided for, the resulting narrow joints are more prone to failure. When a narrow joint occurs, the anticipated joint movement remains the same. However, the narrow joint can no longer accommodate the same amount of movement that the larger joint can accommodate.

Construction tolerances may not be stated, yet joint design must account for them. For this reason the joint design ratio of a sealant is different than the movement capability of the sealant. If a sealant has maximum movement capability of ±50% and the joint movement is 1/4 in. (6mm), a 1/2 in. (13mm) wide joint design theoretically would be correct, however, it does not take into account any construction tolerances. If the joint width necks down an 1/8 in. (3mm) to a joint width of 3/8 in. (10mm), the sealant can no longer accommodate the 1/4 in. (6mm) movement. For these reasons, joint design for a sealant that has ±50% movement is a 4 to 1 ratio. If the movement across the joint, is 1/4 in. (6mm), the joint width is 4 times that amount, hence 1/4 x 4 = 1 in. (25mm). The minimum industry standard for joint design ratio is 4 to 1. The 4 to 1 ratio usually takes into account construction tolerances and other miscellaneous items that affect performance. In applications where the movement capability of the sealant is less than ±50%, the joint design ratio may be increased to a 6 to 1 ratio or an 8 to 1 ratio, depending on the sealant used.

The replacement sealant's joint design ratio can be obtained from the data sheet. Calculate the total joint movement for each typical joint on the project at hand. Multiply the expected joint movement by the joint design ratio to obtain the proper joint width.

## APPENDIX 8D – SEALANT JOINT PROFILES

There are four basic shapes of sealant joints:

### BUTT JOINT (Figure 8.2)

The butt joint is the most common type of joint used. It consists of a gap or joint between similar or dissimilar materials. The gap may be either a control joint or an expansion joint. Expansion joints are generally designed to accommodate more movement than a control joint.

It is recommended that for joints 1/4in. (6mm) to 7/16 in. (11mm), the sealant bead width (A) to depth (B) ratio be equal. For joints 1/2 in. (13mm) wide to 1 in. (25mm) for single components (or 2 in. (51mm) for multi-component sealants), the sealant bead depth should remain at 1/2 in. (13mm). For example, if the joint is 1 in. (25mm) wide, the depth (at the top of the backer rod) should be 1/2 in. (13mm). Likewise, if the joint is 1-1/2 in. (38mm) wide for a multi-component material, the sealant depth (at the top of the backer rod) should be 1/2 in. (13mm).

### FILLET JOINT (Figure 8.3)

This type of joint is best described as a joint in an inside 90° corner. The two substrates are approximately perpendicular to each other. There may or may not be a gap between the two substrates. If a gap exists between the substrates, a backer rod should be inserted with the top portion sticking out. If there is no gap and a backer rod cannot be inserted, then bond breaker tape should be applied into the corner. This will prevent three-sided adhesion of the sealant. Installed sealant should exhibit a minimum surface contact area of 1/4 in. (6mm) onto each substrate.

### LAP JOINT (Figure 8.4)

A lap joint is either fixed, mechanically attached, or is a moving (slip) joint. The fixed lap joint application is typically retained by mechanical fasteners penetrating the two metal sheets. In this application with little or no gap between the two sheets, a non curing material such as Tremco Curtain Wall Sealant should be used. If a curable sealant is used, then the two metal sheet products should have a 1/4 in. (6mm) or larger gap between the two to allow for backer rod and sealant.

### BRIDGE JOINT (Figure 8.5)

The term bridge joint is very definitive of the type of joint seal. This joint will span across two substrates with adhesion of the sealant to the outward face as opposed to the sides for a typical butt joint. In most applications, the bridge joint spans across an old sealant joint. In some applications, it is more practical to install a bridge joint in lieu of cut out and replacement of the old material. Bond breaker tape is placed at the center of the joint and defines the joint width for movement calculations.

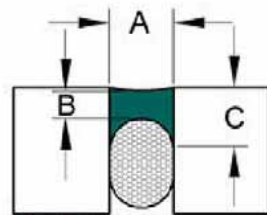


FIGURE 8.2 - BUTT JOINT

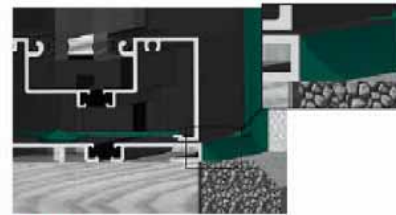


FIGURE 8.3 - FILLET JOINT



FIGURE 8.4 - LAP JOINT

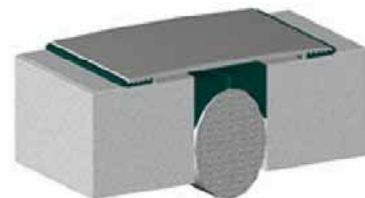


FIGURE 8.5 - BRIDGE JOINT

## APPENDIX 8E – JOINT SEALANT GUIDE SPECIFICATION

Section 07 9200

### PART 1 – GENERAL

#### 1.1 Description

- A. Contract and General Requirements shall govern the work of this section.
- B. Contractor shall supply all materials, labor, tools, plant and equipment required to complete all caulking work as shown on the Drawings, described in the Specifications and following the sealant manufacturer's written project recommendations.

#### 1.2 Qualifications

- A. Use adequate numbers of skilled workmen thoroughly trained and experienced in the necessary crafts and completely familiar with the specified requirements and methods needed for proper performance of the work of this Section.
- B. Applicator qualifications:
  1. Applicator shall have at least three years experience in installing materials of types specified and shall have successfully completed at least three projects of similar scope and complexity.
  2. Applicator shall designate a single individual as project foreman who shall be on site at all times during construction.
- C. Single-source responsibility for joint sealants:
  1. Obtain joint sealants from single manufacturer for each different product required to ensure compatibility.
- D. Manufacturer shall instruct applicator in procedures for intersecting sealants.
- E. Field adhesion testing (to be performed before job start up).
  1. Conduct field tests for adhesion of joint sealants to actual joint substrates using joint preparation methods recommended by manufacturer.
  2. Conduct tests for each type of sealant and substrate.
  3. Locate field test joints where inconspicuous or at approved locations.
  4. Test method: Use manufacturer's standard field adhesion test methods required by sealant manufacturer. Methods should verify priming and substrate preparation techniques required to obtain optimum adhesion.
  5. Sealant manufacturer to evaluate and report results of field adhesion testing.
  6. Do not use joint preparation methods or sealants that produce less than satisfactory adhesion to joint substrates during testing.
- F. Schedule applications of waterproofing, water repellents and preservative finishes after sealant installation. Ensure that sealant is fully cured before subsequent applications.

#### 1.3 Jobsite Inspections

- A. Contractor shall visit the site prior to bidding to examine and determine the conditions under which the work of this section will be performed.
- B. Contractor shall arrange for the sealant manufacturer's representative to inspect the site and provide written project recommendations.

#### 1.4 Submittals

- A. Prior to starting the work, contractor shall submit:
  1. List of materials to be provided under this section.
  2. Manufacturer's product data and specifications for each joint sealer and joint filler product required.
  3. Sealant manufacturer's project recommendations stating proper surface preparation for each substrate, type of primer if required, and sealant(s) to be used.
- B. At owners' request, submit samples of materials to be used on the project.
- C. At owners' request, submit substrate samples to sealant manufacturer for adhesion testing and surface preparation recommendations.

#### 1.5 Delivery, Storage and Handling

- A. Deliver all materials to the jobsite in their original unopened containers, with all labels intact.
- B. Store materials in strict accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

#### 1.6 Project Conditions

- A. Environmental Conditions: Do not proceed with installation of joint sealers under the following conditions:
  - 1. When ambient and substrate temperature conditions are outside the limits permitted by joint sealer manufacturer.
  - 2. When joint substrates are wet due to rain, frost, condensation or other causes.
- B. Joint Width Conditions: Do not proceed with installation of joint sealers where joint widths are less than allowed by joint sealer manufacturer for application intended.
- C. Joint Substrate Conditions: Do not proceed with installation of joint sealers until contaminants capable of interfering with their adhesion are removed from joint substrates.

#### 1.7 Mock-up

- A. Construct mock-ups where directed to demonstrate:
  - 1. Old sealant removal and surface preparation prior to new sealant installation.
  - 2. Location, size, shape, color and depth of joints complete with back-up material, primer and new sealant. Mock-up may be part of finished work.
- B. Notify owner's representative of mock-up completion and allow 24 hours for visual inspection of mock-up before proceeding with work. Sealant adhesion performance can be evaluated after sealant has achieved full cure.

### PART 2 – PRODUCTS

#### 2.1 Materials

- A. Color: Sealant color to be selected by the owner from the range of manufacturer's standard colors.
- B. Primer: Provide type recommended by joint sealer manufacturer where required for adhesion of sealant to joint substrates indicated, as determined from preconstruction joint sealer substrate tests and field adhesion tests.
- C. Joint Backing Material:
  - 1. Closed cell or soft hybrid type polyethylene foam on vertical surfaces (excluding EIFS)
  - 2. Closed cell polyethylene foam on vertical, horizontal, below grade, submerged conditions and all EIFS surfaces.
- D. Bond Breaker Tape: where joint configuration does not allow for proper depth/width ratio [see Section 3.2.5] - a pressure sensitive polyethylene tape, which will not bond to the sealant such as 3M #226 or #481 or Valley Industries #40 shall be placed at the back of the joint.

#### 2.2 Schedule- Sealant Joints

##### A. Exterior Sealant Joint:

- 1. Applications:
  - a. Control and expansion joints in cast-in-place concrete.
  - b. Joints between [architectural] [structural] precast concrete units.
  - c. Control and expansion joints in unit masonry.
  - d. Control and expansion joints in stone masonry.
  - e. Butt joints between metal panels.
  - f. Joints between different materials listed above.
  - g. Perimeter joints between materials listed above and frames of doors, windows, storefronts, louvers and similar openings.
  - h. Control and expansion joints in soffits and overhead surfaces.
  - i. Other exterior joints in vertical surfaces and non-traffic horizontal surfaces for which no other sealant is specified.

##### 2. Single Component Silicone Sealants:

- a. Spectrem 1
- b. Spectrem 2
- c. Spectrem 3

##### 3. Multi-Component Silicone Sealants:

- a. Spectrem 4-TS

##### 4. Single Component Urethane Sealants:

- a. Dymonic FC
- b. Dymonic
- c. Vulkem 116

##### 5. Multi-Component Urethane Sealants:

- a. Dymeric 240
- b. Dymeric 240FC

##### B. EIFS Sealant Joint:

###### 1. Applications:

- a. Control and expansion joints.
- b. Butt joints between prefabricated panels.
- c. Joints between EIFS and other materials.
- d. Perimeter joints between EIFS and frames of doors, windows, storefronts, louvers and similar openings.
- e. Other joints within or abutting EIFS materials.

**Specifier Note:** Dryvit will offer compound system warranty for EIFS systems when Tremco Spectrem 1, 3, or 4-TS silicone sealants are used for Dryvit joints.

##### 2. Single Component Silicone Sealants:

- a. Spectrem 1
- b. Spectrem 3

##### 3. Multi-Component Silicone Sealants:

- a. Spectrem 4-TS

##### 4. Single Component Urethane Sealants:

- a. Dymonic FC
- b. Dymonic

##### 5. Multi-Component Urethane Sealants:

- a. Dymeric 240
- b. Dymeric 240FC

##### C. Interior Sealant Joint:

###### 1. Applications:

- a. Control and expansion joints on exposed interior surfaces of exterior walls.
- b. Perimeter joints on exposed interior surfaces of exterior openings.
- c. Joints on precast beams and planks.
- d. Perimeter joints between interior wall surfaces and frames of interior doors, windows, storefronts, louvers, elevator entrances and similar openings.
- e. Other interior joints in vertical surfaces and non-traffic horizontal surfaces subject to movement for which no other sealant is specified.

###### 2. Acrylic Latex Sealants:

- a. Tremflex 834

###### 3. Multi-Component Urethane Sealants:

- a. Dymeric 240
- b. Dymeric 240FC

###### 4. Single Component Urethane Sealants:

- a. Dymonic
- b. Dymonic FC

- 5. Single Component Silicone Sealants:
  - a. Spectrem 1
  - b. Spectrem 2
  - c. Spectrem 3
- 6. Multi-Component Silicone Sealants:
  - a. Spectrem 4-TS
- D. Traffic Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Control, expansion and isolation joints in cast-in-place concrete.
    - b. Control, expansion and isolation joints in structural precast concrete units.
    - c. Joints between architectural precast concrete paving units.
    - d. Tile control and expansion joints.
    - e. Joints between different materials listed above.
    - f. Other interior and exterior traffic bearing joints in horizontal and sloped traffic surfaces
  - 2. Multi-Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. THC 900/901, self-leveling
    - b. Vulkem 45 SSL with quick cure catalyst.
  - 3. Single Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. Vulkem 45, self-leveling
    - b. Vulkem 45 SSL, self-leveling
  - 4. Single Component Silicone Sealants:
    - a. Spectrem 800
    - b. Spectrem 900
- E. Interior Indirect Food Contact Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Joints in kitchen counter tops, work surfaces, and other joints where only indirect food contact may occur.
    - b. Joints between food service equipment and surrounding construction.
  - 2. Single Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. Dymonic FC
  - 3. Single Component Silicone Sealants:
    - a. Proglaze
    - b. Tremsil 200
    - c. Tremsil 600
    - d. Spectrem 1
    - e. Spectrem 2
    - f. Spectrem 3
- F. Interior Sanitary Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Joints in toilet room and bathroom counter tops.
    - b. Joints between plumbing fixtures and adjacent materials.
    - c. Joints between locker room lockers and adjacent materials.
    - d. Joints between food service equipment and surrounding construction.
    - e. Other interior joints in wet areas where needed to limit mold and mildew growth.
  - 2. Single Component Silicone Sealants:
    - a. Tremsil 200
- G. Immersed Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Joints in fountains, reflecting pools and other non-chlorinated water features.
  - 2. Multi-Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. Dymeric 240
    - b. Dymeric 240FC
    - b. Vulkem 45 SSL with quick cure catalyst

- 3. Single Component Urethane Sealants:
  - a. Vulkem 45 SSL
  - b. Vulkem 116
- H. Highway and Airfield Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Joints in concrete highways.
    - b. Joints in concrete runways.
    - c. Joints in concrete refueling aprons.
    - d. Other joints in horizontal concrete surfaces subject to petroleum fuel spillage
  - 2. Multi-Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. Vulkem 45 SSL with quick cure catalyst
  - 3. Single Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. Vulkem 45 SSL
    - b. Vulkem 116
  - 4. Single Component Silicone Sealants
    - a. Spectrem 900SL
- I. Concealed Metal Lap Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Concealed lap and hook joints in sheet metal flashing and trim.
  - 2. Single Component Sealants:
    - a. Tremco Butyl Sealant
    - b. Tremco Acoustical Sealant
    - c. Tremco TRS-600
- J. Concealed Bedding Sealant Joint:
  - 1. Applications:
    - a. Bedding joints under metal thresholds and saddles.
    - b. Bedding joints between sheet metal flashing and other materials.
  - 2. Single Component Urethane Sealants:
    - a. Dymonic
    - b. Dymonic FC
  - 3. Single Component Silicone Sealants:
    - a. Proglaze
    - b. Spectrem 2
    - c. Spectrem 3
  - 4. Single Component Sealants:
    - a. Tremco Butyl Sealant
    - b. Tremco Acoustical Sealant
    - c. Tremco TRS-600

## PART 3 – EXECUTION

### 3.1 Examination

- A. Examine the areas and conditions under which the work will be performed. Review planned operating procedures with owner's representative. Do not proceed with work until any unsatisfactory conditions are corrected in a manner acceptable to both owner and contractor.
- B. Verify that specified environmental conditions exist before commencing work.
- C. Contractor shall arrange for the sealant manufacturer's representative to visit the site to approve surface preparation and installation procedures at the start of the work.

### 3.2 Preparation

- A. Consult and follow sealant manufacturer's project recommendations.
- B. Substrate Surface Preparation:
  - 1. Remove existing sealant and joint backer by mechanical . Surface shall be clean, dry and free of contaminants.
  - 2. Remove oil, grease and other coatings with approved cleaning solvent using two cloth method.
- C. Examine joint sizes and correct as required to allow for anticipated joint movement and to achieve proper width/depth ratio per manufacturer's recommendations for specified sealant.
- D. Install joint backing material or apply bond breaker tape to achieve correct joint depth.
- E. Where necessary to protect adjacent surfaces, mask adjacent surfaces with tape prior to priming and/or caulking.

### 3.3 Priming

- A. Prime sides of joint in accordance with manufacturer's directions, immediately prior to caulking.
- B. Primers which require application by the wipe of a clean soft cloth, shall be poured onto the cloth. Do not dip the cloth into the primer container.
- C. Prime only as much area as can be sealed in the same day.

### 3.4 Installation of Back-up Material

- A. Install backer rod without stretching, twisting, braiding or puncturing its outer skin.
- B. Use an approved installation tool that is blunt surfaced and designed to accurately place the backer rod.
- C. Using a blunt (approved) tool, one which will not puncture the backer rod, smoothly and uniformly place the backer rod to the recommended joint depth and rod compression.

### 3.5 Application

- A. Apply sealants in accordance with manufacturer's instructions ensuring to fill voids and joints completely.
- B. Neatly dry tool sealants in a manner that forces sealant against back of joint, ensures firm, full contact at joint interfaces and leaves a finish that is semi smooth, uniform and free of ridges, wrinkles, sags, air pockets and embedded impurities.
  - 1. Dry tooling is recommended.
  - 2. Provide concave tooled joints unless otherwise indicated to provide flush tooling or recessed tooling.
  - 3. Provide recessed tooled joints where the outer face of the substrate is irregular.
- C. Clean adjacent surfaces immediately and leave work neat and clean. Remove excess sealant and/or primer and droppings using recommended cleaners as work progresses. Remove masking tape immediately after tooling of joints.
- D. Protect joint sealants from contact with contaminating substances and from damage. Cut out and remove and replace contaminated sealants immediately, so that they are without contamination or damage at time of substantial completion.

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[www.tremcosealants.com](http://www.tremcosealants.com)

