

GENERAL **Description:**

Elastoflex Sealants are high quality, single component, hot applied joint and crack sealants formulated with the latest sealant technologies. These sealants are supplied in a solid state and are self-leveling at application temperatures. When properly applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations, the in-place sealant forms a resilient and adhesive bond that seals joints and cracks against the intrusion of water and foreign materials reducing pavement and sub-base deterioration.

Melting:

The sealant shall be melted using either a jacketed double boiler type melting unit with heat transfer oil, or a controlled flow heat transfer oil circulating system type melter. Do not melt these sealants in a direct-fired melting unit. The melter must be equipped with an agitator. The sealant shall be agitated as soon as possible during the melting process and continuously during the pouring process including travel time to and from the jobsite. **CAUTION: The agitator should be stopped when loading blocks of sealant into the melter to avoid splashing hot sealant on the operator.**

Application Temperatures:

See Individual Data Sheet for Each Product.

Pavement Temperatures:

At the time of placing sealant, the pavement temperature should be a minimum of 40° F. Application at lower temperatures may result in less adhesion due to the possible presence of excess moisture. If the surface temperature is less than 40° F, and the sealant must be applied (asphalt pavements only), a heat lance or other appropriate means can be used to warm and dry the asphalt crack. If it is necessary to apply the sealant at lower than 40° F, care should be taken to insure the cracks are clean and dry and that the necessary adhesion is obtained.

CRACK PREPARATION

Asphalt:

Cracks should be opened to a minimum width of 3/8 inch, which is necessary to provide an adequate reservoir for the sealant, allowing for expansion and contraction of the surface and crack. A variety of equipment including routers, random crack saws, and power brushes can be used to open up and clean cracks. Care should be taken to insure that bonding surfaces are free from oil, dirt, dust, moisture and any other contaminants that would inhibit good bonding of the sealant to the asphalt. All weeds should be removed and cracks sterilized, if necessary, to prevent weed growth through the sealant. The above specifications should be viewed as a guideline and may be modified according to specific project specifications.

In areas that do not have a build-up of oil, dirt or other residue, preparation may be accomplished by using high-powered, oil-free compressed air or a heat lance. When using a heat lance, care should be taken that the asphalt is not overheated, causing a separation of the asphalt and aggregate.

Concrete:

Concrete joints shall be sawn, sandblasted or water blasted on each side of the bonding surface to remove all foreign material and moisture. On old construction, all of the old joint sealant should be removed by sawing, plowing or other means acceptable to the project engineer. The joints and cracks must be free of water, dust, residue and any other contamination.

A closed cell, non-absorbing, heat resistant bond breaker, at least 1/8 inch larger in diameter than the joint width shall be installed. The bond breaker should be placed such that a recess of at least 1/8 inch shall exist below the surface of the concrete after installation of the sealant or as specified by the joint design. Oil-free compressed air shall be used to clean the joint immediately prior to sealant installation.



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The following safety precautions should be taken to prevent injury when working with hot pour sealants.

1. Always wear gloves with wristlets and proper clothing that will cover arms and legs.
2. Wear safety glasses or goggles to protect the eyes.
3. Only use hoses approved for hot applied crack sealing. Inspect hoses regularly for wear or cuts and replace any damaged or worn hoses immediately.
4. Take care when loading the melter. Turn off the agitation and only introduce blocks into the melter in a manner that will prevent splashing of the sealant onto the operator.
5. Take care to avoid breathing the sealant fumes.
6. Use proper traffic control procedures to provide adequate safety from moving vehicle traffic when crack sealing on roads and highways.
7. Use measures meeting or exceeding local regulatory requirements to prevent pedestrian or other traffic from gaining access to the work area while sealant is still in the uncured or molten state.
8. If compressed air is used to clean out lines in kettles after sealing is finished, take care to secure melter lids and hoses so molten material is not sprayed or splashed on personnel. Carefully follow the melter manufacturer's clean out procedures.

HANDLING OF MATERIALS

Care should be taken when placing blocks of sealant into the kettle to make sure hot melted sealant from inside the kettle does not splash on the operator.

POT LIFE OF SEALANT

These sealants have been developed using the latest technology allowing an extended pot life at application temperature. When the sealant is being drawn out of the kettle during the application process, care should be taken to maintain the pouring temperature especially when adding new sealant to the kettle. The sealant may be reheated after initial heat-up if new blocks of sealant are added during the heat-up process.

If sealant has been overheated or exceeded the pot life it will get stringy and begin to gel. At this point the material should be removed from the melter and discarded.

EQUIPMENT CLEAN UP

Follow the melter manufacturer's guidelines for properly cleaning your equipment after each use of the machine, making sure all flames are extinguished before starting the clean up procedure. The sealant can be cleaned from equipment with petroleum-based or citrus-based solvents. Caution should be taken that the solvent does not contaminate the sealant. Solvents must be disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.

STORAGE OF SEALANT

Elastoflex sealants are shipped with a weatherproof wrapping; the top cover is treated to prevent deterioration of the plastic from ultraviolet light. Pallets should be kept wrapped until used and should not be left in the sun for long periods of time after the wrapping has been removed, as some boxes will have a tendency to fall off the pallets when they get soft in the sun. If pallets are to be stored for a period of time greater than six months, they should be covered with a tarp to protect the plastic from sunlight.

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