

Soft Backer Rod

Joint Forming, Pliable, Non-gassing, Polyethylene Foam Backer Rod

Basic Use:

Soft Backer Rod is a soft, grey, pliable, non-gassing backup material inserted into an expansion or contraction joint to:

- Control sealant depth
- Create a backstop to allow proper sealant tooling
- Ensure sealant adhesion to joint surfaces only
- And yield a proper bond break between backup material and sealant.

It can also be used as a temporary joint seal.

Specific Uses:

Particularly suited for specialty applications where standard backer rods are not appropriate. Ideal in irregular joint applications particularly where self-leveling, flowable sealants are employed. Also recommended with sealants where bubbling concerns are critical. May also be used in place of most standard backer rod applications.

Compatibility:

Soft Backer Rod is virtually an inert composition and therefore compatible with all known cold applied sealants including butyl, polysulfide, acrylic, polyurethane, and silicone.

Composition and Material:

Soft Backer Rod is a polyethylene foam consisting of both open and closed cells on the inside with a skin-like outer texture. It is highly flexible, pliable, and compressible for easy installation. This material is available in a wide variety of diameters.

Technical Data:

Soft Backer Rod is chemically inert and will resist oil, Gasoline, and most other solvents. This material will not stain nor adhere to sealant materials and is non-exuding.

Soft Backer Rod meets or exceeds the requirements of ASTM-C-1330 Type B.

Installation:

Joint or opening must be clean, dry, and free of obstructions. Using the "Size-to-Joint Width" table, select proper rod diameter and cut to length or use directly from spool. With a blunt instrument or roller, uniformly install rod at the level recommended by the sealant manufacturer, specifier, or architect involved. Generally, the depth of the joint after the backer rod is installed is one half the width. Very large or very small joints vary in terms of this depth to width ratio. Avoid puncturing, stretching, or over compression.

Stock Sizes Available				
Rod Diameter:	Shipping Format	Feet/Carton	Metric Size	Meters/Carton
*3/8"	1 Spool	2100	9mm	640
5/8"	2 Spools	1550	15mm	472
7/8"	1 Spool	850	22mm	259
1 1/8"	1 Spool	500	29mm	152
1 1/2"	6' Lengths	396	38mm	121
2"	6' Lengths	228	50mm	70
2 1/2"	6' Lengths	144	63mm	44
3"	6' Lengths	102	76mm	31
4"	6' Lengths	48	101mm	15

•Rectangular cartons are ideal for warehousing and handling.
 •All cartons have convenient hand holes for carrying ease.
 •UPS and most other package express services will accept cartons for reshipment.
 •Truckload quantities furnished on pallets and may be warehoused two pallets high to maximize space.

Physical Property Analysis		
Property	Value	Test Method
Density (Nominal)	2 lbs/cu. Ft.	ASTM-D-1622
Tensile Strength	50 PSI minimum	ASTM-D-1623
Compression Deflection @ 50%	5 PSI maximum	ASTM-D-1621
Water Absorption	0.05 gm/cc	² ASTM-C-1016
Compression Recovery @ 50%	95% minimum	ITP
Out-Gassing	None	ASTM-C 1253
Temperature Range	-90°F to 210°F	—
Classification	Type 3	ASTM-D-249-92

Size-to-Joint Width	
Joint Width	Rod Diameter
3/16"-1/4"	3/8"
3/8"-1/2"	5/8"
1/2" -3/4"	7/8"
3/4"-7/8"	1 1/8"
7/8"-1 1/4"	1 1/2"
1 1/4"-1 1/2"	2"
1 1/2"-2"	2 1/2"
2"-2 1/2"	3"
2 1/2"-3"	4"

As with all Soft Type Backer Rod, diameter should be approximately 25% larger than joint width.

²: "Determination of water absorption by sealant (joint filler) materials." Prior to ASTM-C-509 standard applicable to gasket and sealing. Material no longer appropriate in evaluating "sealant (joint filler) materials."