

CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD AND SOFT BACKER-ROD

Joint filler and backing material for Sonneborn® sealants

PRODUCT DATA

7 07920

Joint Sealants

Description

Sonolastic® Closed-Cell Backer-Rod is a closed-cell, polyethylene foam joint-filler and backing for elastomeric sealants. Its resilience accommodates dynamic joints.

Sonolastic® Soft Backer-Rod is a reticulated closed-cell polyethylene foam joint-filler and backing for sealants. It compresses easily to accommodate joints of varying widths.

CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD

Yield

See page 3 for chart.

Packaging

Sizes 1/4 – 1-1/4" (6 – 32 mm) are wound on reels and packaged in cartons, weighing about 15 lbs (6.8 kg) per carton.

The 1-1/2 – 4" (38 – 102 mm) sizes are packaged in 7 ft (2.1 m) lengths and packaged in cartons, weighing about 35 lbs (15.89 kg) per carton.

Color

Gray

Features

CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD

- Closed-cell polyethylene foam
- Lightweight
- Resilient
- Nonimpregnated, nonstaining, and nonbleeding
- Inert
- Round
- Nonadhering to sealants

SOFT BACKER-ROD

- Nongassing when punctured
- Reticulated closed-cell polyethylene foam
- Nonimpregnated, nonstaining, and nonbleeding
- Highly resilient
- Nonadhering to sealants

SOFT BACKER-ROD

Yield

See page 3 for chart.

Packaging

Sizes 3/8 – 1-1/8" (10 – 29 mm) are wound on reels and packaged in cartons, weighing about 15 lbs (6.8 kg) per carton.

The 1-1/2 – 4" (38 – 102 mm) sizes are packaged in 6 ft (1.8 m) lengths and packaged in cartons, weighing about 18 lbs (8.1 kg) per carton.

Color

Gray

Benefits

- Low moisture absorption
- Installs easily and quickly
- Accepts joint movement
- Will not discolor sealants or substrates
- Compatible with cold-applied sealants
- Gives proper shape to sealant for effective function
- Requires no additional bondbreaker

Eliminates bubbling of sealant

Low moisture absorption

Will not discolor sealants or substrates

Conforms to irregular joints; installs easily and quickly

Requires no additional bondbreaker

Where to Use

APPLICATION

- Backing for sealants
- Precast panel joints
- Expansion joints
- Window-and door-frame perimeters
- Coping joints
- Glazing joints
- Isolation joints
- Control joints

Technical Data

CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD

Composition

Closed-Cell Backer-Rod is closed-cell polyethylene foam.

Compliances

- ASTM C 1330, Type C

SOFT BACKER-ROD

Composition

Soft Backer-Rod is reticulated polyethylene foam with a continuous outer skin.

Compliances

- ASTM C 1330, Type B

Test Data

CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD

PROPERTY	RESULTS	TEST METHODS
Water absorption , oz/in ³ (g/cc)	< 0.017 (< 0.03)	ASTM C 1016
Density , lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	1.50 – 3.0 (24 – 48)	ASTM D 1622
Compression recovery , %	> 90	ASTM D 5249
Compression deflection , psi (KPa)	> 2.97 (>20.5)	ASTM D 5249
Tensile strength , psi (KPa)	> 29.0 (>200)	ASTM D 1623
Service temperature , ° F (° C)	-45 to 160 (-43 to 71)	

Test results are typical values obtained under laboratory conditions. Reasonable variations can be expected.

SOFT BACKER-ROD

PROPERTY	RESULTS	TEST METHODS
Water absorption , oz/in ³ (g/cc)	0.058 (0.10)	ASTM C 1016
Density , lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	1.50 – 3.0 (24 – 48)	ASTM D 1622
Compression recovery , %	> 90	ASTM D 5249
Compression deflection , psi (KPa)	> 2.97 (> 20.5)	ASTM D 5249
Tensile strength , psi (Kpa)	> 29.0 (> 200)	ASTM D 1623
Service temperature , ° F (° C)	-45 to 160 (-43 to 71)	

Test results are typical values obtained under laboratory conditions. Reasonable variations can be expected.

How to Apply

Application

1. Joint fillers have three major functions:
 - to control the depth of the sealant in proper relation to joint width
 - to provide a backing against which the sealant is applied, forcing the sealant to the sides of the joint
 - to prevent 3-sided bonding, ensuring proper functioning of the joint sealant
2. To install, compress backer-rod into the joint before sealants are applied.
3. Install backer-rod using a blunt probe or a plain-faced roller to force the rod to the desired depth.
4. A template or roller gauge may be used to control the depth at which the rod is placed.
5. DO NOT stretch backer-rod during installation but gently force into the joint so that the backer-rod fits tight against the sides of the joint.

Appropriate Backer-Rod Size

SIZING CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD

1. For joint widths up to 3/4" (19 mm), the diameter of the rod should be 1/8" (3 mm) larger than the width of the joint.
2. For 3/4" (19 mm) wide joints, use 1" (25 mm) diameter rod.

SIZING SOFT BACKER-ROD

Select a backer-rod diameter that is approximately 25% larger than the width of the joint.

See the yield table on the next page for both Closed-Cell and Soft Backer-Rods.

Joint sealing

1. Follow suggestions for joint-sealant application as directed by sealant manufacturer.
2. Where priming of the joint is necessary, primer should be applied only to the joint surfaces and allowed to dry before Backer-Rod is placed. DO NOT prime Backer-Rod.

For Best Performance

- Do not puncture, fold, stretch, or crease Closed-Cell Backer-Rod.
- Follow sealant manufacturer's suggestions for joint sealant width-to-depth ratio.
- Do not use with hot applied sealants.
- For joints subject to puncture by high heels or umbrella points, a stiffer or higher density backup material is required. Cork or non-impregnated cane-fiber joint fillers are suitable. Separate materials from the sealant by a nonadhering, bondbreaker (polyethylene tape).
- Make certain the most current versions of product data sheet and MSDS are being used; call Customer Service (1-800-433-9517) to verify the most current versions.
- Proper application is the responsibility of the user. Field visits by Degussa personnel are for the purpose of making technical recommendations only and not for supervising or providing quality control on the jobsite.

Yield

ESTIMATING CLOSED-CELL BACKER-ROD REQUIREMENTS

ROD DIAMETER IN (MM)	LINEAR FT PER CARTON (METERS PER CARTON)
1/4 (6)	6,400 (1,951)*
3/8 (10)	3,600 (1,097)**
1/2 (13)	2,500 (762)
5/8 (16)	1,550 (472)
3/4 (19)	1,100 (335)
1 (25)	550 (168)
1-1/4 (32)	400 (122)
1-1/2 (38)	552 (168)***
2 (51)	360 (110)***
2-1/2 (64)	240 (73)***
3 (76)	144 (43.9)***
4 (102)	90 (27.4)***

* Supplied as two 3,200 ft (975 m) reels

** Supplied as two 1,800 ft (549 m) reels

*** Supplied as 7 ft (2.1 m) lengths

ESTIMATING SOFT BACKER-ROD REQUIREMENTS

ROD DIAMETER IN (MM)	LINEAR FT PER CARTON (METERS PER CARTON)
3/8 (10)	3,600 (1097.3)*
5/8 (16)	1,550 (472)
7/8 (22)	850 (259.1)
1-1/8 (29)	500 (152.4)
1-1/2 (38)	552 (168.2)**
2 (51)	360 (109.7)**
2-1/2 (64)	240 (73.2)**
3 (76)	144 (43.9)**
4 (102)	90 (27.4)**

* Supplied as two 1,800 ft (549 m) reels

** Supplied as 6 ft (1.8 m) lengths

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