

GRAYDAZE CONTRACTING

Nationwide Coatings
&
Sealant Installations

APRON/PAVING JOINT SEALANTS

Why? There are two types of joints in every truck apron; control (saw) joints and construction joints. Adequately designed and constructed, these joints serve to eliminate unsightly random surface cracks by gathering, distributing and dissipating stress forces resulting from temperature and moisture variations. Saw joints are added after the concrete is poured and construction joints are formed after each separate lift or concrete pour. While both of these joints are necessary, they can also allow water and debris to find its way underneath the slab and cause extensive and expensive damage. The only way to prevent this from happening is to use a flexible material to seal the joints.

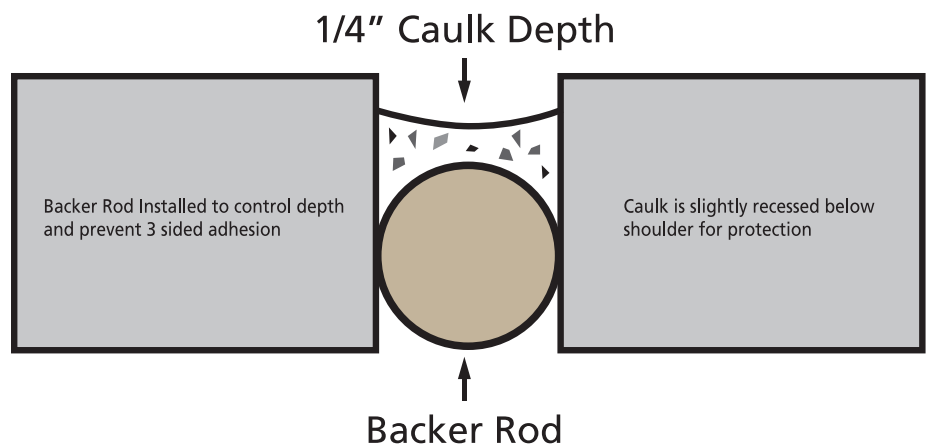
When? Once the concrete is poured at least 30 days of curing time is needed before installing apron sealants. Caulking any quicker will result in the joints failing because of the concrete's natural contraction in the curing process. Nearly 30% of concrete's expected shrinkage occurs in the first 30 days following a pour.

How? The joints are first cleaned thoroughly and backer rod is inserted at the proper depth allowing for the sealant to be recessed slightly below the surface of the concrete to prevent damaged from vehicular traffic. Then the specified sealant is used to fill the joint which is commonly composed of silicone or urethane. Graydaze follows the guidelines set forth by ASTM C 1193 and has extensive experience installing sealants from numerous manufacturers.

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Existing Problem: Maintenance is the biggest concern once you have your joint sealant already in place. Not only will you have 30% of concrete's expected shrinkage in the first 30 days but another 50-60% occurs over the next 11 months. That means within a year your concrete will have accomplished 80-90% of its expected shrinkage and the remainder will take many years to occur. The joint that was initially 1/8" wide has now become 1/4" wide (often more) and stretching the sealant beyond its expansion capabilities.

The Solution: After the first year has passed and the majority of shrinkage has occurred assess the apron and determine which areas are bearing the majority of the load. Graydaze can assist you in determining which areas will need to be replaced and can also assist you in developing a annual budget for regular maintenance. The first step in the replacement process is removing existing sealants and re-cleaning the walls of the joint to promote adhesion. Once a proper profile is achieved, the new backer rod is inserted in the joint leaving enough room for the recess and the sealant. Lastly, the new sealant is applied in the joint. Depending on the amount of traffic the area is subjected to daily, the new sealant will have an average life span of approximately three years and should be reviewed annually for maintenance.



Graydaze, your single source for all sealant and painting nationwide.