

Expandafoam

Medium density, closed cell polyethylene backing rod range

USES

- Expansion joints between all common building materials
- As a bond breaker/joint profile former to support elastomeric sealants

ADVANTAGES

- Compatible with all elastomeric sealants
- Readily compressible
- Low load transfer
- Non gassing
- No water absorption
- CFC free

DESCRIPTION

Expandafoam is a closed cell polyethylene foam rod supplied in circular section cords of varying diameters. Expandafoam is primarily used in expansion joints but is also suitable for use in any joint system requiring a readily compressible joint filler containing no migratory chemicals which could adversely affect joint sealants.

PROPERTIES

Data quoted are typical for this product, but do not constitute a specification.

Form:	Cross linked, compressible, closed cell foam rod
Colour:	White
Weathering test:	No disintegration
Water absorption:	Negligible by volume
Effects of fire:	Being a thermoplastic material, Expandafoam will melt. It is combustible but rate of flame spread will be reduced when confined within a joint
Nominal density:	25 kg/m ³

DESIGN CRITERIA

Expandafoam should always be installed into a joint under compression to ensure that applying the joint sealant will not displace the foam. This is achieved by compressing Expandafoam by 25% when installing into a joint (or by using foam 1/3 larger than the joint size). As a guide, use sizes noted on the chart below:

Expandafoam diameter selection guide:

Joint width	Expandafoam diameter
4 to 5 mm	6 mm
6 to 8 mm	10 mm
9 to 11 mm	13 mm
12 to 13 mm	15 mm
14 to 17 mm	20 mm
18 to 20 mm	25 mm
21 to 27 mm	30 mm
28 to 35 mm	40 mm
36 to 45 mm	50 mm

Sealant depth must be a minimum of 6 mm at the thinnest section of the sealant bead (above the centre of the Expandafoam), with a minimum bonding depth at the joint face of 6 mm on smooth glass and metal surfaces, and 12 mm on porous or rough surfaces. For larger joints, the depth of the joint face should normally be half the joint width. For any systems with dimensions not meeting these requirements consult your local Parchem sales office.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION

When used as an expansion or isolation joint filler, Expandafoam should be positioned to provide for a surface sealing slot of required dimensions, ensuring that the sealing slot is free from mortar droppings, slurry, etc.

When used as a backing strip, Expandafoam is simply push fitted back into the joint. The cord diameter used should be 20 to 30% greater than the joint width. The

circular section of Expandafoam provides a convex face to ensure that applied elastomeric sealants are given optimum shape for minimum strain as the joint moves. Do not use sharp objects when fitting Expandafoam, as any damage to joint backing may allow air voids to be formed in sealant.

Note: Correct fitting will result in an oval cross section, with depth of Expandafoam being greater than the nominal joint width, so care must be taken to ensure that correct sealant dimensions are maintained after fitting Expandafoam.

ROADS, BRIDGES, ROOF JOINTS

Expandafoam is used as a backing strip for non traffic-bearing expansion joints.

EXTERNAL WALLING AND CLADDING

Expandafoam is used as a backing strip for expansion joints, as a gap filler for any open joints prior to application of any cold applied joint sealant and as a readily compressible, low load transfer joint filler in joints surrounding brick infill panel walling.

GLAZING

Expandafoam is used as a gap filler and backing strip to support perimeter sealing around frames and sub-frames.

INTERNAL FINISHES

Expandafoam is used as a gap filler and backing strip to provide support to sealants in partition joints and around work tops, baths and other internal finishes and fittings.

ESTIMATING

PACKAGING

Available in the following sizes and roll lengths:

Size	Metres per roll
6 mm	250
10 mm	200
13 mm	100
15 mm	100
20 mm	60
25 mm	50
30 mm	50
40 mm	2 metre strip
50 mm	2 metre strip

Other sizes may be available upon application.

LIMITATIONS

Expandafoam, as with other foam backing rods, is not suitable for use with hot pour sealants. Applications where joint backing must provide continual support for the joint sealant e.g. water retaining structures or floor joints subject to traffic, Hydrocell, a semi rigid filler should be used.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Parchem provides complementary products including:

- concrete repair – cementitious and epoxy
- grouts and anchors – cementitious and epoxy
- waterproofing membranes – liquid applied, cementitious and bituminous sheet membranes
- waterstops – pvc and swellable
- joint sealants – building, civil and chemical resistant
- industrial flooring systems – cementitious and epoxy
- architectural coatings
- filler boards – swellable cork, bituminous and backing rod
- ancillary products

For further information on any of the above, please consult with your local Parchem sales office.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and Technical Data Sheet (TDS) are available from the Parchem website or upon request from the nearest Parchem sales office. Read the MSDS and TDS carefully prior to use as application or performance data may change from time to time. In emergency, contact any Poisons Information Centre (phone 13 11 26 within Australia) or a doctor for advice.

PRODUCT DISCLAIMER

This Technical Data Sheet (TDS) summarises our best knowledge of the product, including how to use and apply the product based on the information available at the time. You should read this TDS carefully and consider the information in the context of how the product will be used, including in conjunction with any other product and the type of surfaces to, and the manner in which, the product will be applied. Our responsibility for products sold is subject to our standard terms and conditions of sale. Parchem does not accept any liability either directly or indirectly for any losses suffered in connection with the use or application of the product whether or not in accordance with any advice, specification, recommendation or information given by it.

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