

Filling Joints in Treated & Covered Floors

Semi-rigid fillers are often installed in floors that will receive a treatment or a covering. This technical bulletin provides guidelines for proper installation procedures, and cautions of potential problems which might develop.

1. Liquid Hardeners/Sealers/Densifiers (Penetrating)

Liquid hardeners/sealers/densifiers are often applied to concrete surfaces to provide additional protection against abrasion and wear, dusting, tire marking, etc. These products are typically water-based, penetrating liquids with a sodium or lithium content that do not leave a surface film. They may be applied prior to the filler installation, after the installation, or both.

If applied prior to joint filling, care must be taken to remove any film or rinse residue left on the inner walls of joints. If residue is left in place it can compromise filler adhesion. Liquid hardeners can also convert saw laitance at the bottom of the joint into a hard, concrete-like substance. Removal must be accomplished by mechanical means, such as running a saw along the joint walls. The saw blade should reach the depth of the base of the saw cut.

When applied after filling, they will not negatively affect the performance of any Metzger/McGuire filler.

2. Curing Compounds (Film-Building)

These products are seldom used anymore, but when used can compromise filler adhesion. They must be thoroughly removed from joint walls by sawing as outlined above. Application over previously installed Metzger/McGuire joint fillers will not negatively affect the filler.

3. Coatings & Sealers (Film-Building)

These products will compromise filler adhesion and must be thoroughly removed by sawing prior to the filler installation. If used after the filling operation, the application should be delayed until the filler has a minimum 48 hour cure. A longer delay is best.

4. Tile, VCT, Toppings, Etc.

It is our general recommendation that semi-rigid fillers not be used under impervious floor coverings. The primary reason for this is the potential for future joint filler protrusion/bulging as described in *Technical Bulletin T13*.

If a semi-rigid filler must be used to protect the floor covering from damage imposed by loading or hard wheeled material handling vehicles, contact a Metzger/McGuire technical representative to discuss material and procedural recommendations.