

# Sealants: A Sticky Situation





# The Dog Photos







Marcy Tyler

*Director of Building Science*





# Building Envelopes Today



- Building Envelope Failure generally occurs within three percent of the total enclosure
- Building envelope repair and replacement in North America remains a multi-billion dollar expenditure
- Most of the problems are moisture-related and caused either by air leakage or exterior moisture penetration and occur within the terminations and transition detailing

# Lack of Performance

There is no single source of responsibility for:

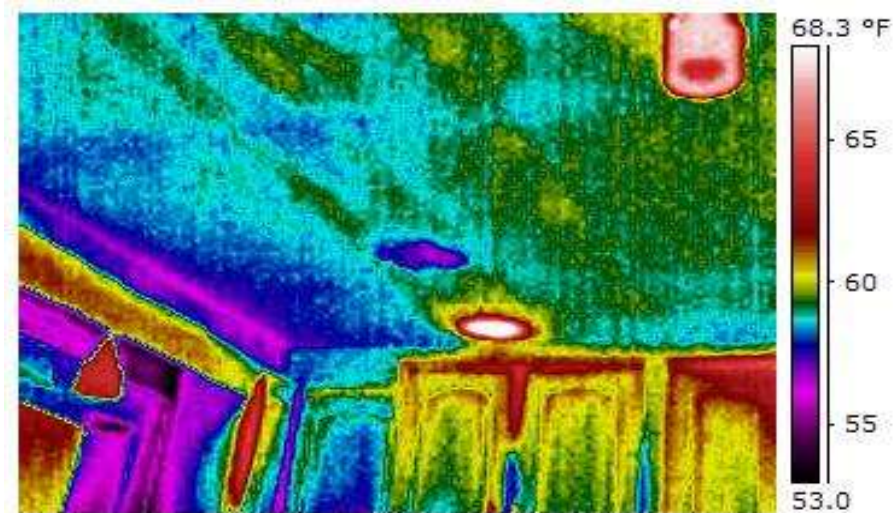
- Quality control
- Spec enforcement
- Building envelope integrity
- Lowest price, technically acceptable
- **“BY OTHERS”**

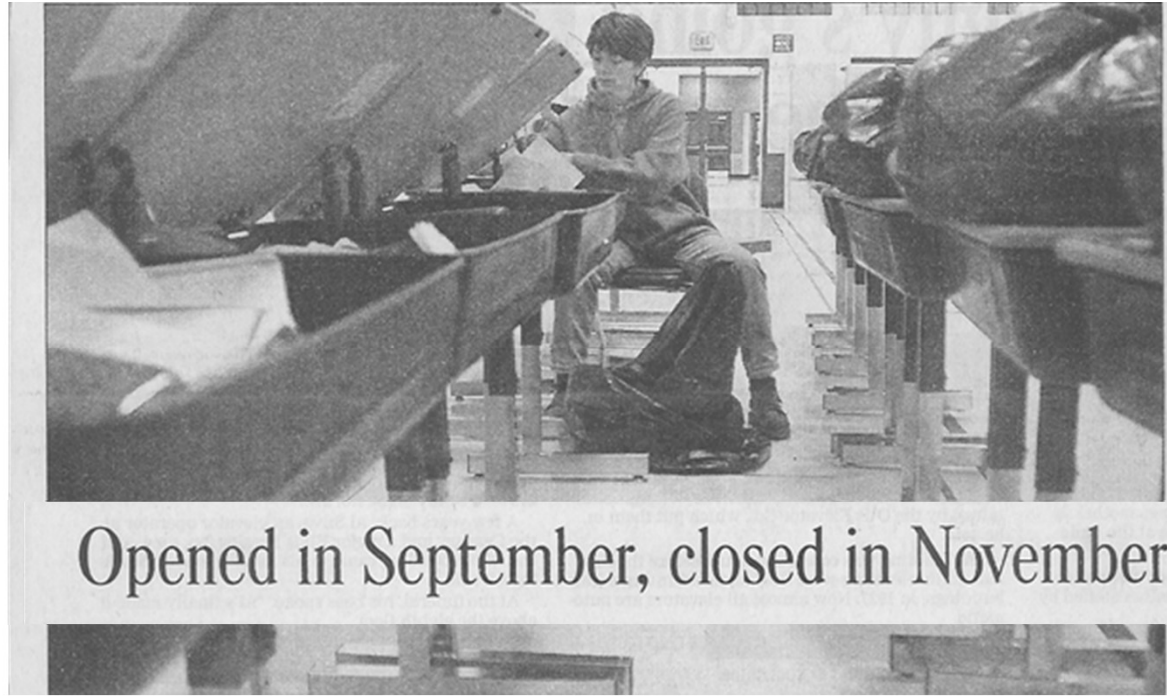




# Lack of Energy Efficiency

Moisture and energy leaks are common despite everything we know about the importance of a system approach to the building enclosure





Opened in September, closed in November

## Lack of Resiliency

- 90% of the time, it comes down to the transitions and terminations
- A failure in one component can and does affect other components in the building

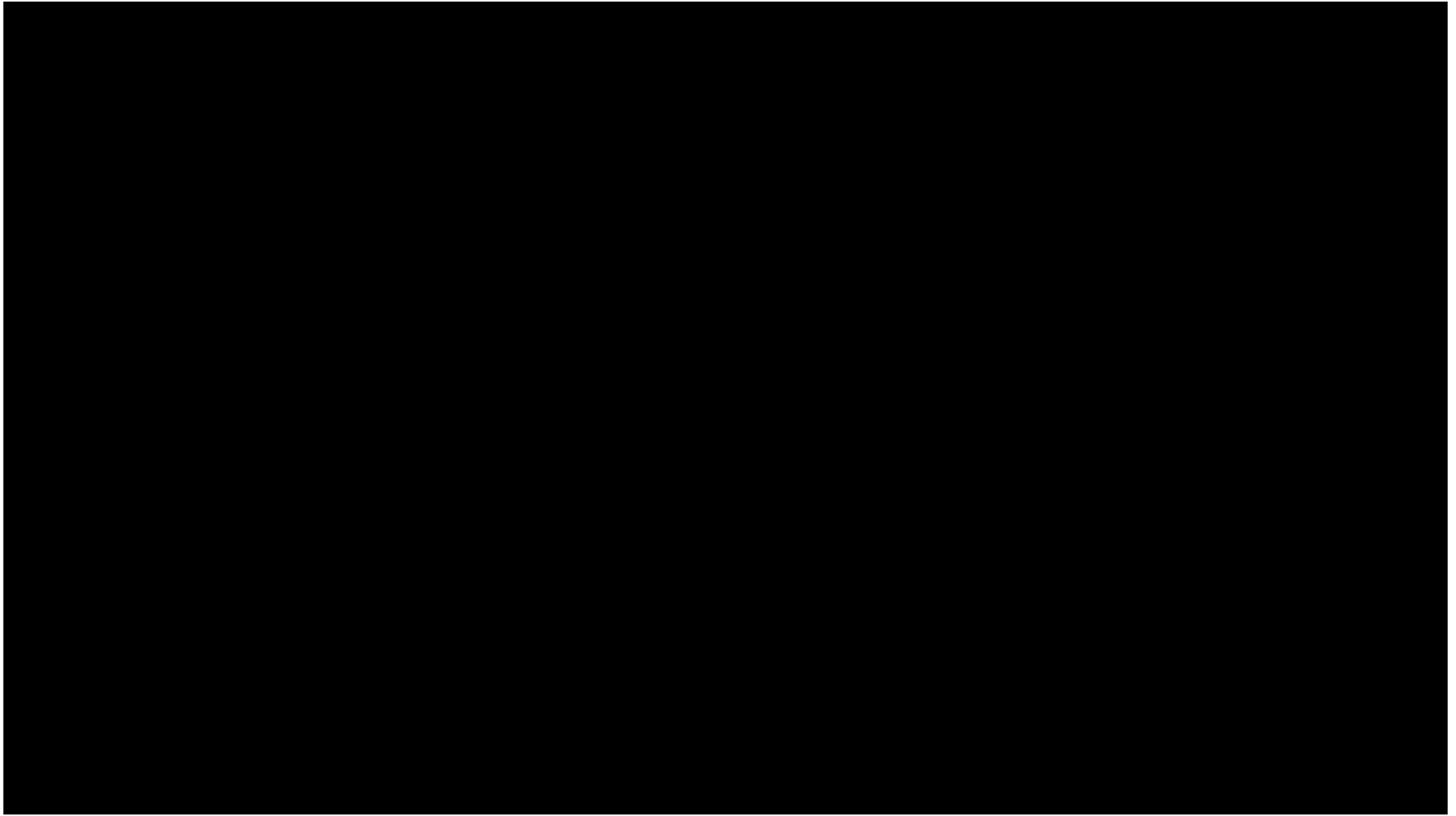


## What Role Does Sealant Play?

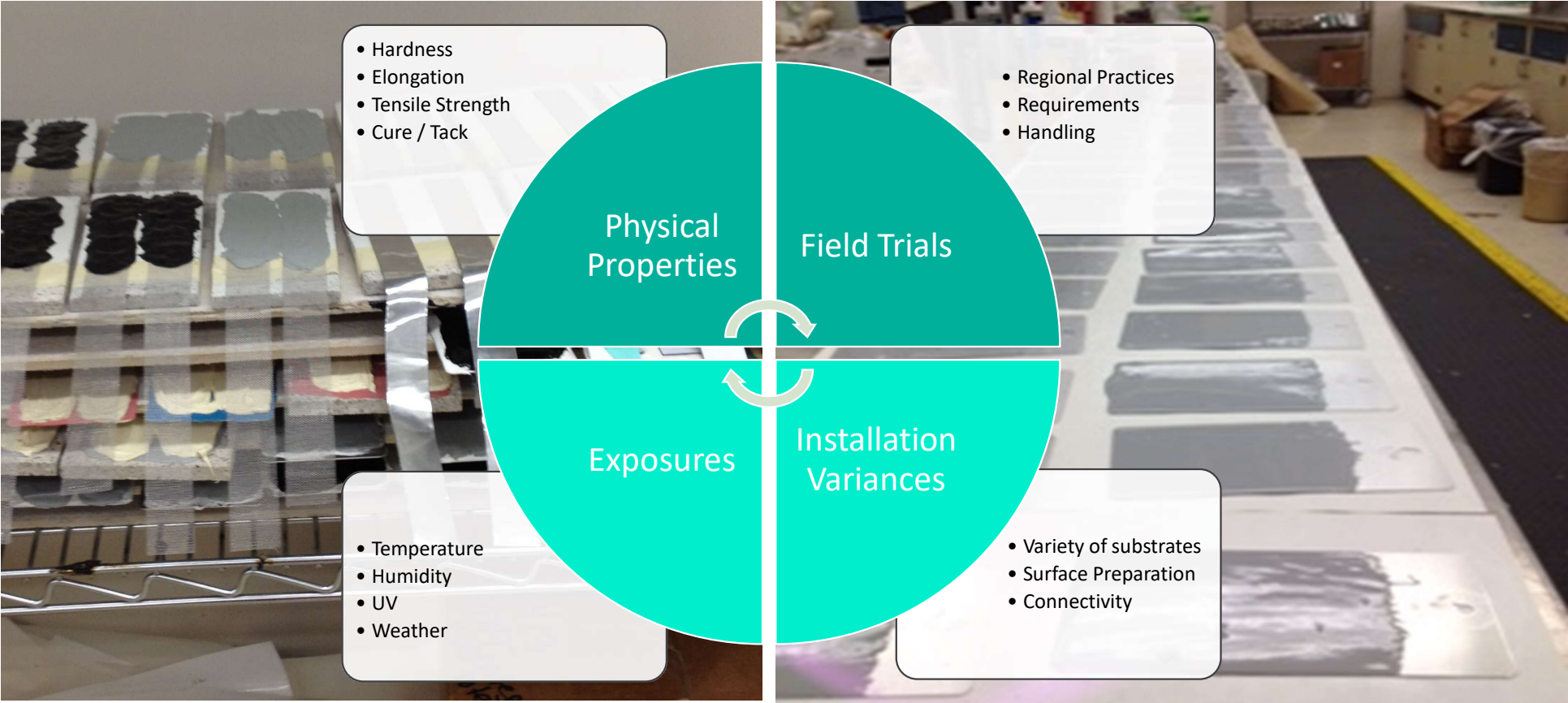
- Protection: Air & Water Infiltration
- Thermal management
- Sound dampening
- Firestopping
- Dynamic joints
- Transitions
- Detailing
- Aesthetics

# Learning Objectives

- Follow the path of sealant development to understand the importance of exposure and installation requirements
- Review performance testing of different chemistries and the part they play in sealant selection.
- Gain knowledge of a variety of questions that need to be answered to choose the right product for the right application
- Examine the importance of proper installation and how to troubleshoot potential issues



# Sealant Journey



# Driving factors

- What does the specification (spec) require?
- What is the application?
- What are the substrates?
- What kind of movement is expected?
- Experienced applicator?
- Is Priming required?
- Will the sealant be painted?
- Warranty expectations?
- Color requirements?



# Chemistry & Technology



## Silicones

- Can't be coated over with anything but silicones
- High temperature & UV resistance

## Polyurethanes

- Can be coated over, but need to verify compatibility
- Verify temperature and UV resistance

## Hybrids

- Some can be coated over, but need to verify compatibility
- Verify temperature and UV resistance

## Acrylics

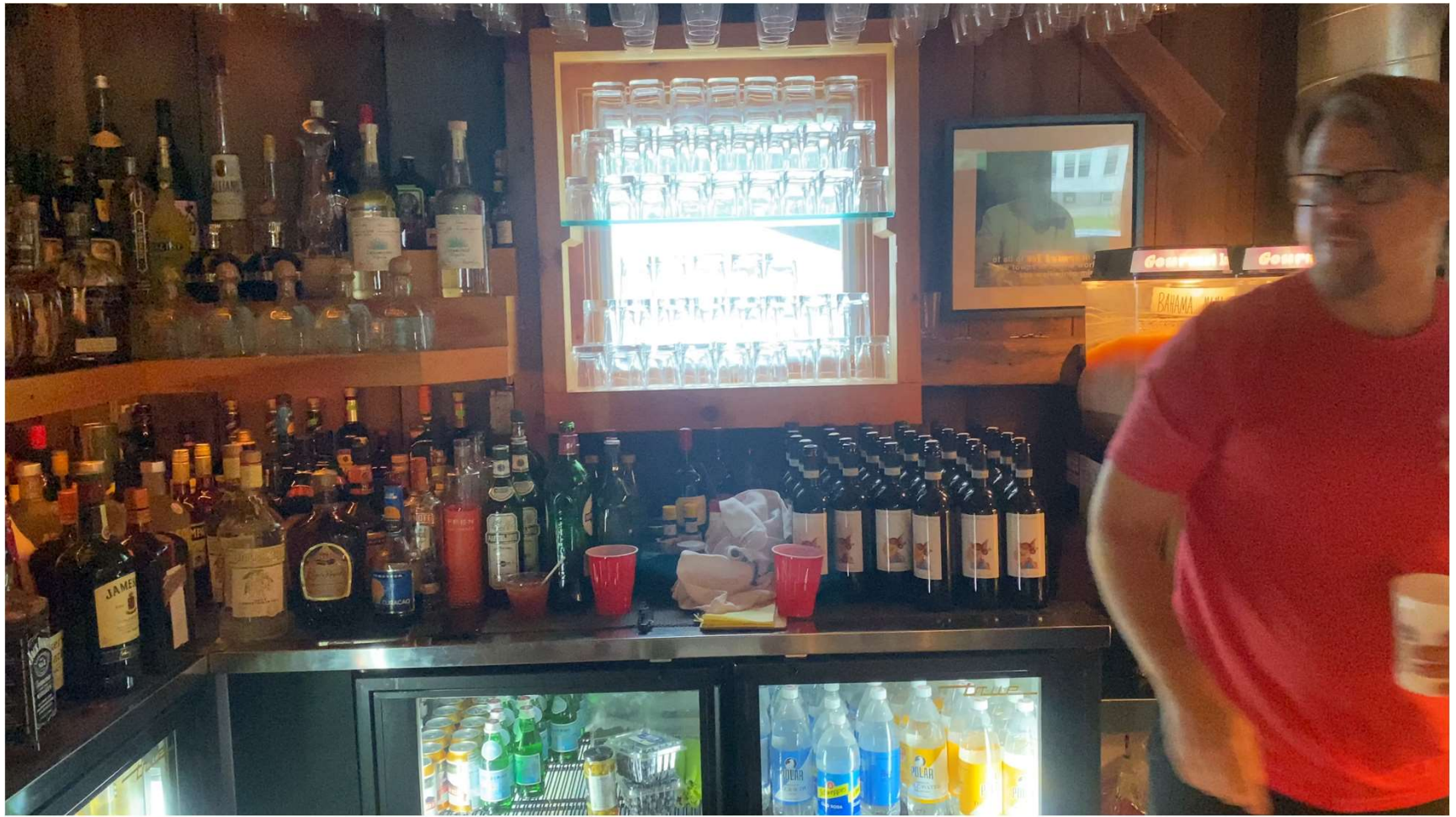
- Must be coated over, but may not provide the movement needed

## Butyls

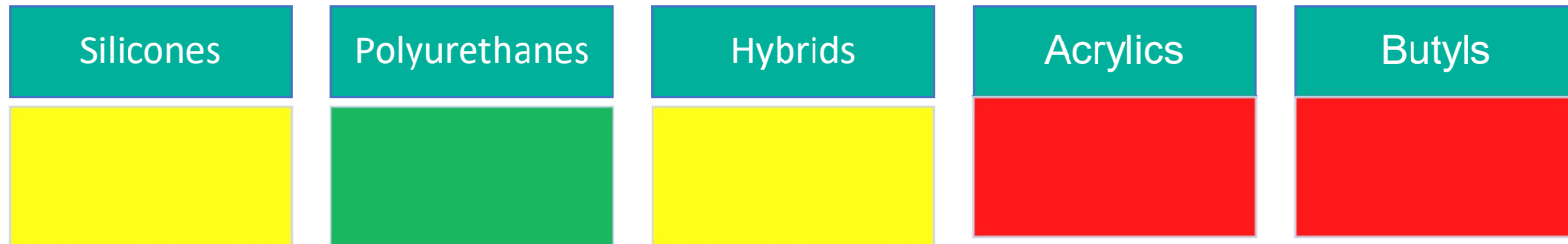
- Non-skinning, no movement, should not be exposed







# Chemistry & Technology - Immersion





Jobsite  
Conditions








# Chemistry & Technology – Temperature (HOT)



Silicones	Polyurethanes	Hybrids	Acrylics	Butyls

# Chemistry & Technology – Temperature (COLD)



Silicones	Polyurethanes	Hybrids	Acrylics	Butyls
				





# Chemistry & Technology – Sound Transmission



Silicones	Polyurethanes	Hybrids	Acrylics	Butyls

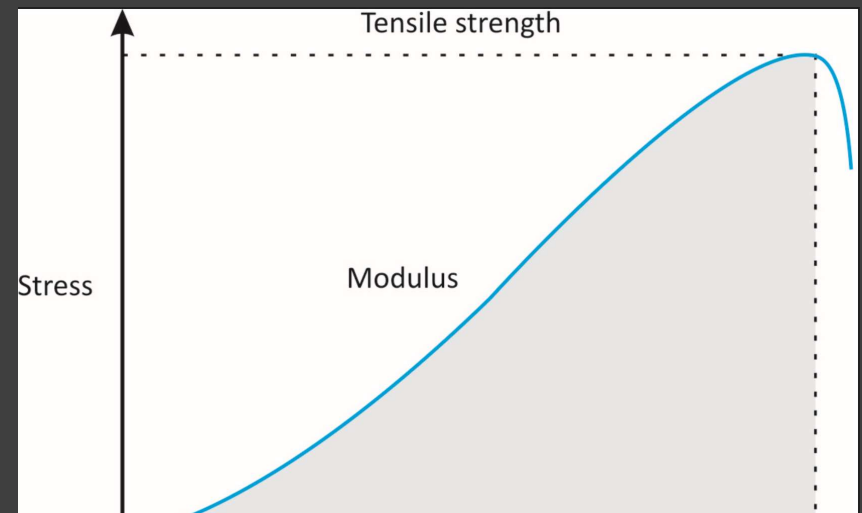
**What about  
movement?**



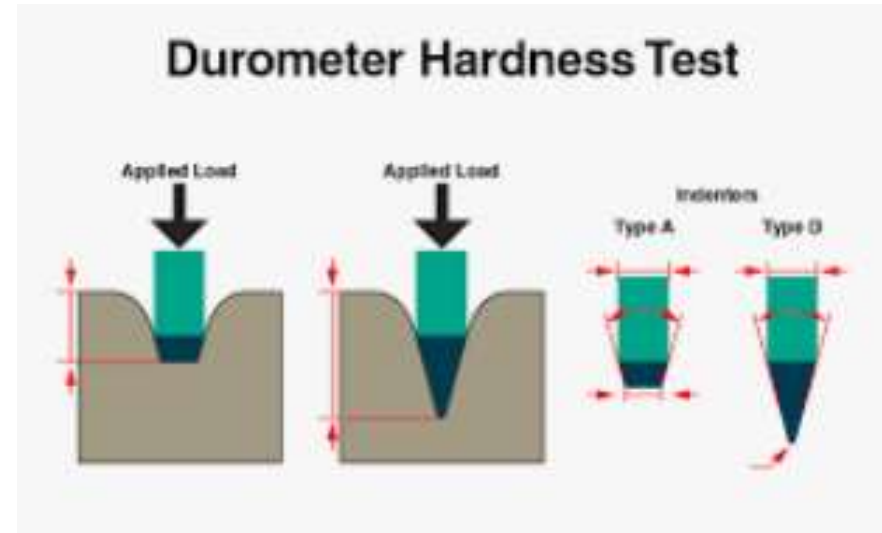
# Modulus of Elasticity

Ratio of stress vs strain (elongation)

- Low modulus: high movement
- Medium modulus: medium movement, two sided structural, metal panels, general purpose
- High modulus: low movement



# Sealant Performance Testing





# Sealant Performance Testing

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# Sealant Performance Testing



# Chemistry & Technology – Movement



Silicones	Polyurethanes	Hybrids	Acrylics	Butyls

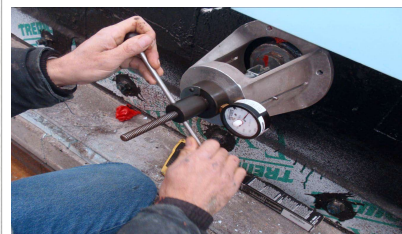
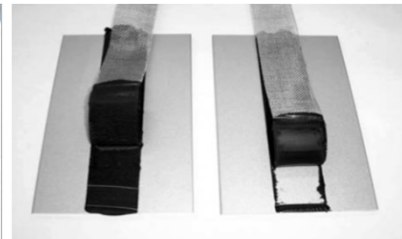
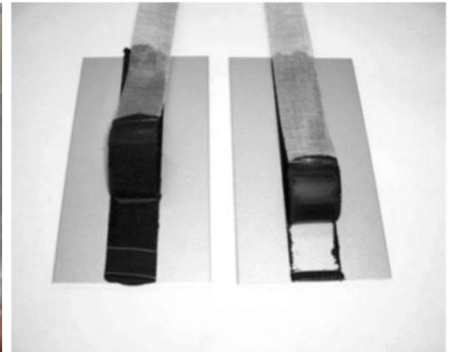




# Adhesion & Compatibility

- Materials are considered compatible when objects that come into contact with each other exhibit neither adverse reactions nor loss of performance properties.
  - Incompatibility can result in staining, streaking, damage to substrate, etc.
- Adhesion is defined as the process of attachment of a substance to the surface of another substance.
- A sealant may be compatible with a specific substrate, but may not adhere to the substrate.

# Adhesion

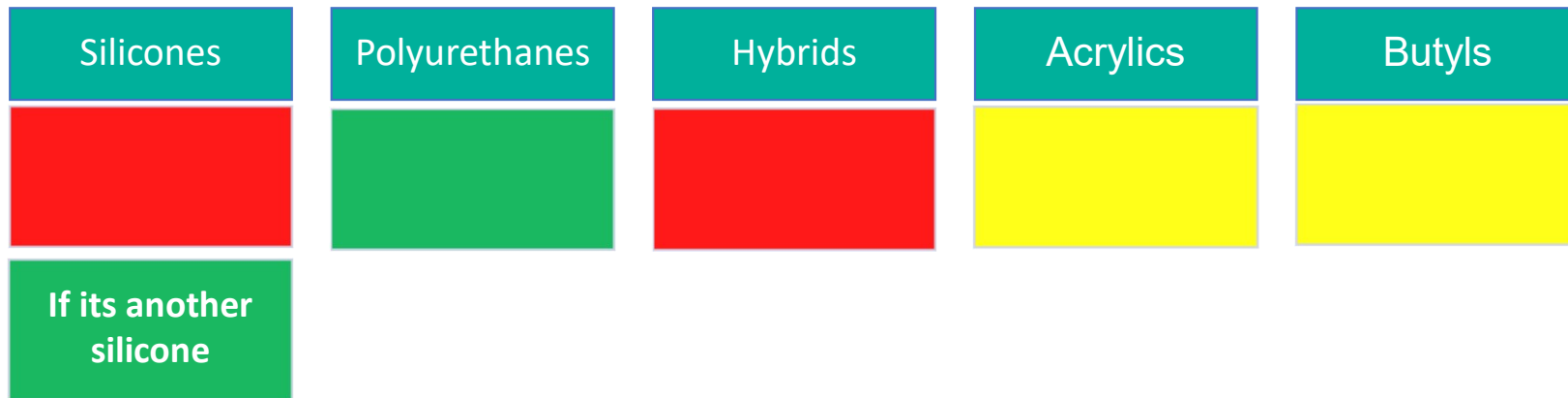


# Chemistry & Technology – Adhesion



Silicones	Polyurethanes	Hybrids	Acrylics	Butyls

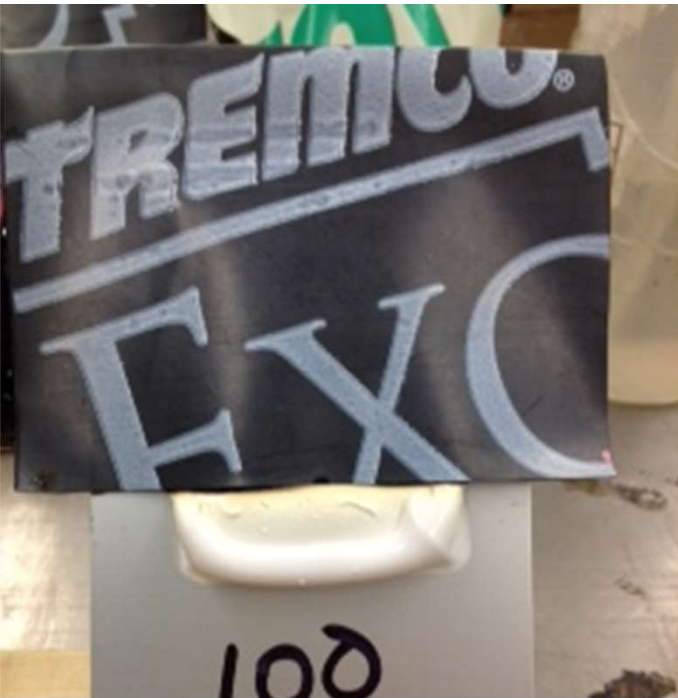
# Chemistry & Technology – Adhesion to Cured Surface





Compatible?





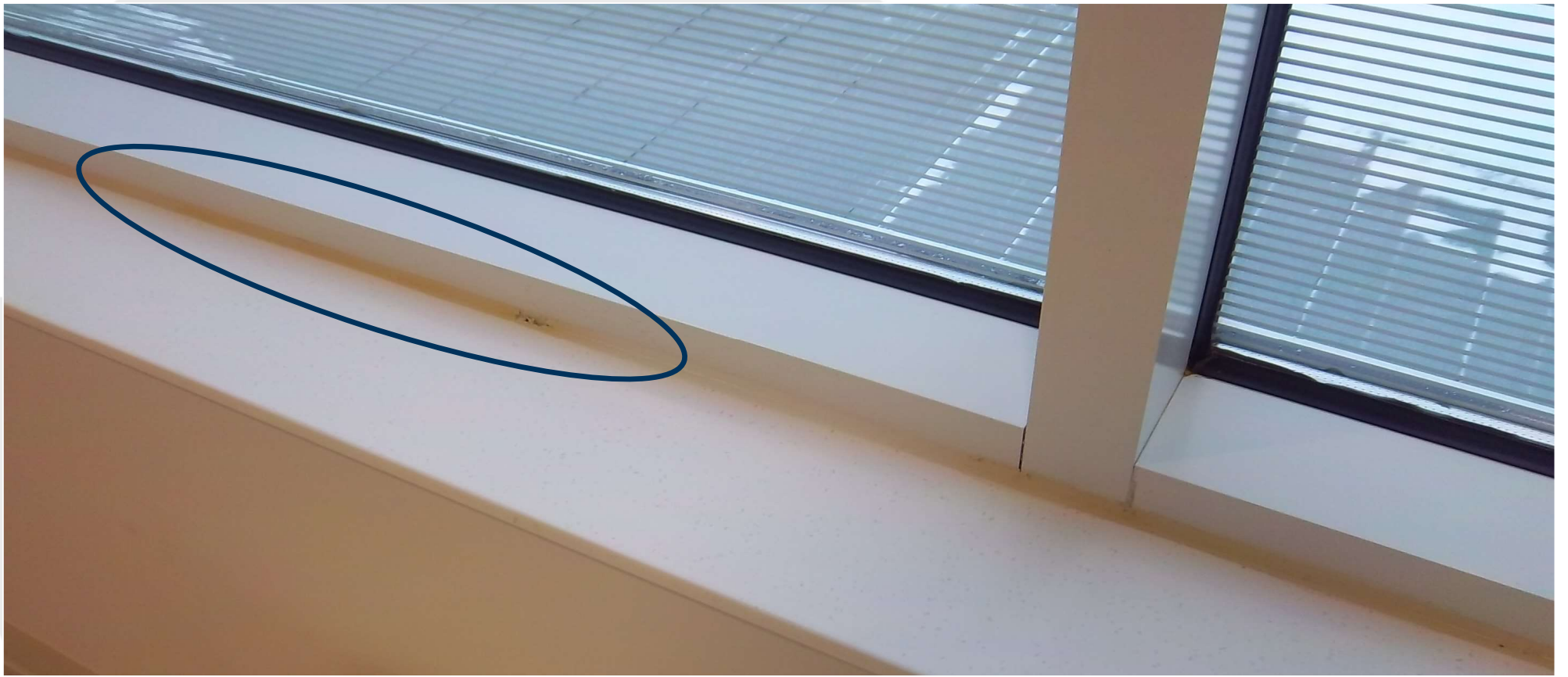
## Compatibility

- The compatibility of two or more compounds or substances to be placed in contact or close proximity to one another without detrimental effects on either
- Compatibility does not guarantee good adhesion



# Compatibility







## Silicone Staining Problems Were Identified in the Late 80's and Early 90's

- Fluid Migration / Streaking
- Plasticizer Migration
- Dirt or Residue
- Hydrophobic Bloom

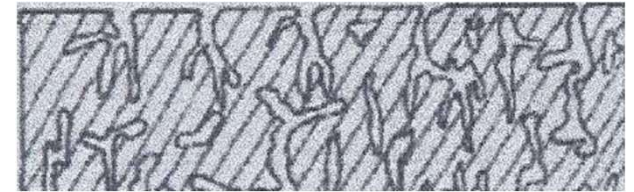


## Stone Characteristics that Impact Stain Potential of a Sealant

- Porosity
- Permeability
- Absorbency
- Chemical (Metal) Content
- Finish – Polished or Flamed Stone

**STONE ABSORBENCY RANGES**

<b>Granite</b>	<b>0.2 – 0.5</b>	<b>Slate</b>	<b>0.1 – 1.7</b>
<b>Marble</b>	<b>0.2 – 0.6</b>	<b>Limestone</b>	<b>0.2 – 9.0</b>
<b>Quartzite</b>	<b>0.1 – 1.4</b>	<b>Sandstone</b>	<b>0.2 – 12.0</b>



**Porosity Ratios %**

<b>Granite</b>	<b>0.4 – 1.5</b>	<b>Slate</b>	<b>0.4 – 5.0</b>
<b>Marble</b>	<b>0.5 – 2.0</b>	<b>Limestone</b>	<b>0.6 – 31.0</b>
<b>Quartzite</b>	<b>0.4 – 3.9</b>	<b>Sandstone</b>	<b>0.5 – 35.0</b>





## Advances in Reducing Staining Potential

- Larger molecular weight fluids and plasticizers
- Larger size molecules do not fit into stone pores as easily
- Formulation changes to improve cure rate and reduce free silicone levels
- Reduced polarity on the sealant surface





## Standard Industry Test Stain Potential of Porous Substrates – ASTM C1248

- Test Duration = Approx. 2 months
- Evaluates effect of heat, UV and compression on the sealant and the substrate
- Compared against standard conditions
- Effects observed include substrate discoloration, and change in surface appearance
- Destructive analysis to determine if staining within substrate
- Measurement is taken of stain width and depth



## ASTM C1248

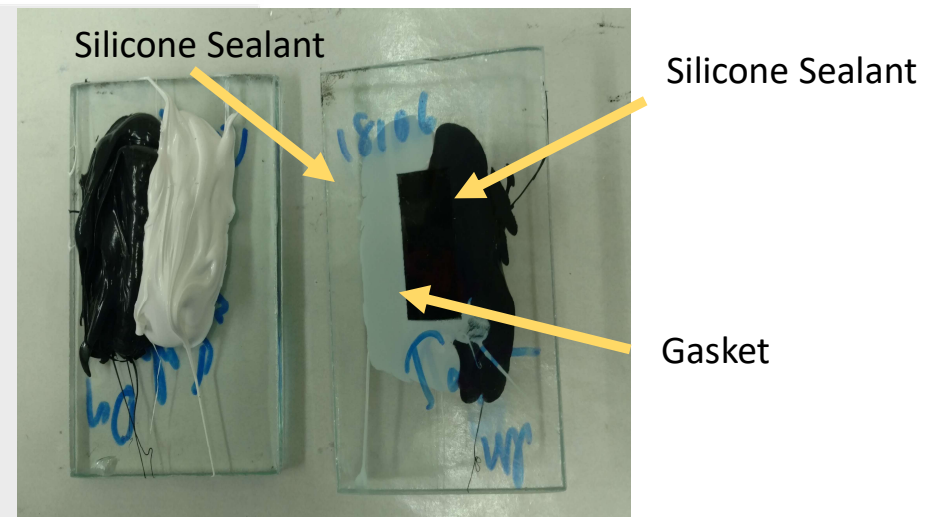
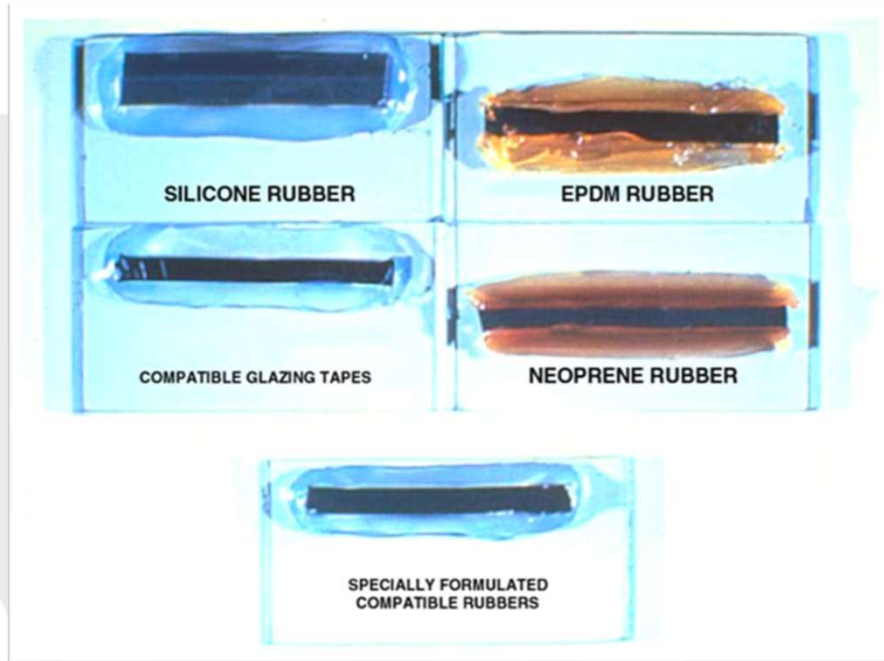
- Assembly samples
- Allow for full cure
- Compress samples
  - Room temperature
  - 158F
  - UV Box
- Evaluate after 14 Days
- Evaluate after an additional 14 Days

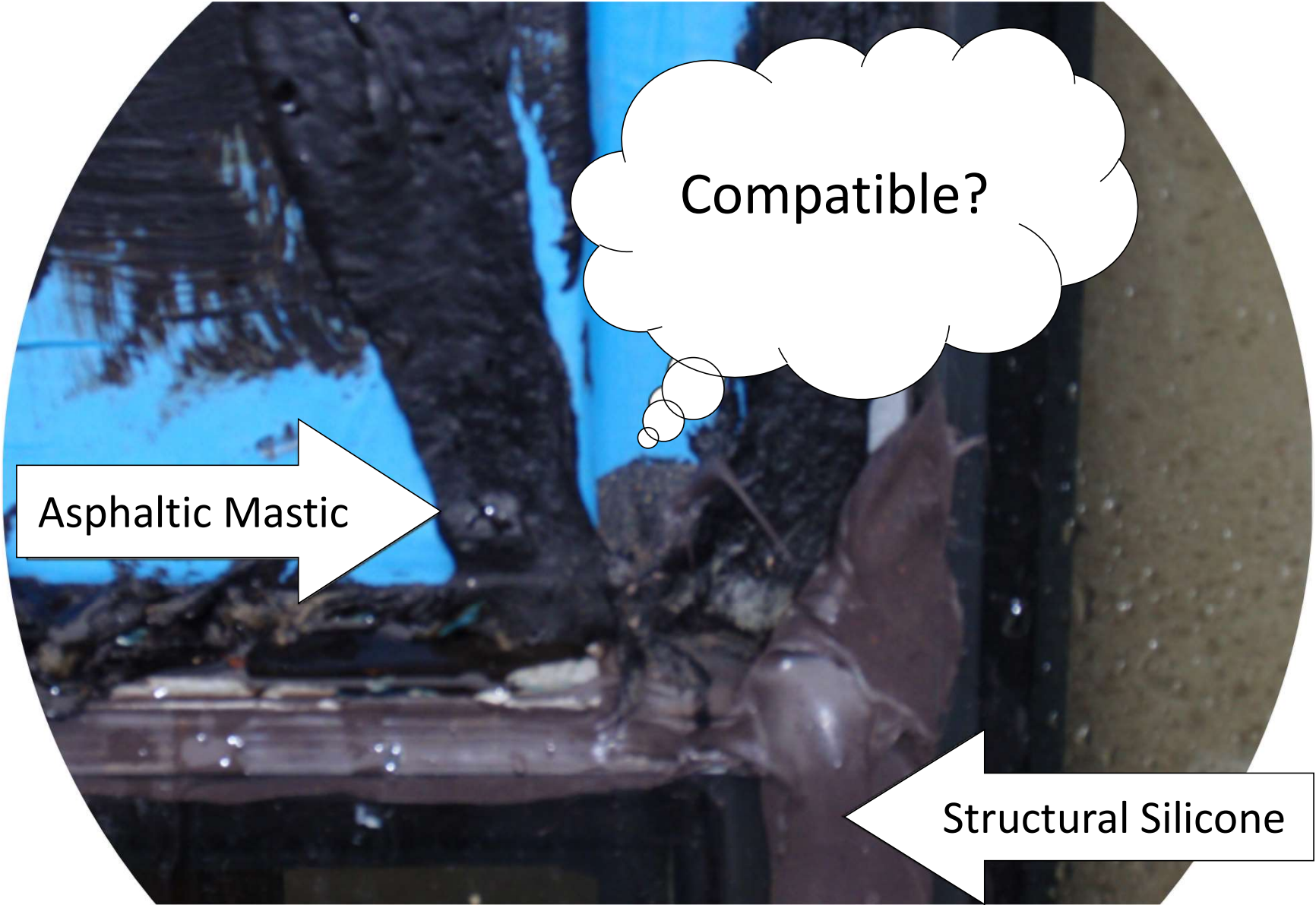


Staining on White Marble

# Sealant Performance Testing

- Standard Test Method For Determining Compatibility of Liquid-Applied Sealants with Accessories Used in Structural Glazing Systems





Asphaltic Mastic

Compatible?

Structural Silicone



A diagram illustrating the layers of sealant applied to a window frame. The background is a photograph of a window frame with a white wall and a blue sky. The window frame is dark, and the sealant is applied in a dark, thick layer. The diagram shows five layers of sealant, each represented by a white arrow pointing to the right. The layers are: SAM Membrane, Polyurethane Sealant Applied, Silicone Sealant, Silicone Gasket, and Polyurethane Sealant Applied. A thought bubble is positioned to the right of the window frame, containing the text "Compatible?".

SAM Membrane

Polyurethane Sealant Applied

Silicone Sealant

Silicone Gasket

Polyurethane Sealant Applied

Compatible?

# Chemistry & Technology – Compatibility

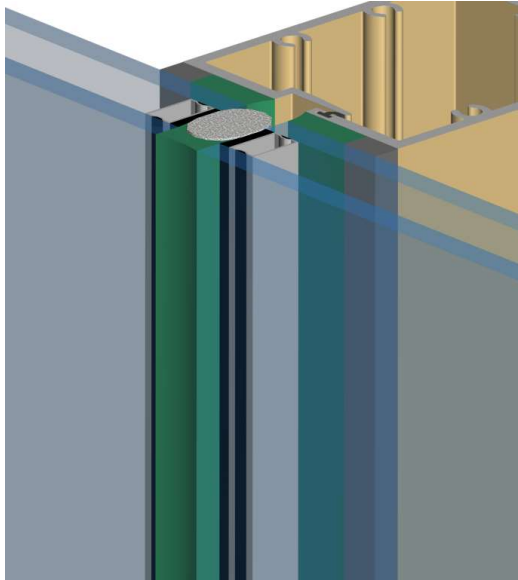


Silicones	Polyurethanes	Hybrids	Acrylics	Butyls

# Silicone Sealant

- Excellent resistance to UV light, ozone and moisture
- Superior color retention
- Heat and weathering capability
- Long term sustainability in vertical applications
- Neutral Cure makes them compatible with most substrates and insulating glass (IG) units
- Evolving technologies – field-tintable, multi-component, increased color selections, matte finishes, non-staining





# Silicone Applications

- Glazing (structural & perimeter)
- Typical construction joint applications
  - Masonry, precast, window perimeters
- Metal panels
- EIFS
- Re-caulking
- Used in conjunction with air & vapor barrier systems



## Low-Modulus Silicones

- +100/-50%
- Suitable for dynamic moving joints
- Lower bond line stress
- Best for EIFS applications
- Primerless adhesion to wide range of substrates





# Medium Modulus Silicones

- Neutral cure: compatibility for glazing applications and general purpose use
- +/- 50% movement capabilities / Class 50
- Type S
- Grade NS
- Use NT
- Applications
  - Weather seals
  - Window Perimeters
  - Approved for structural glazing (2sided)
  - Impact Resistant
  - Blast Mitigation



## Polyurethanes

- Low Modulus
- Excellent movement capability
- Excellent unprimed adhesion
- *Excellent unprimed adhesion to green concrete!*
- Wide range of standard color and custom
- Excellent for dynamic joints
- Paintable
- Robust structure – accepts traffic
- Non-staining
- Tenacious adhesion
- Immersed conditions (sealant-dependent)



## Silicone, Polyurethane, Hybrid Sealants

- Expansion & Control Joints
- Precast panels, natural stone,
- Masonry, concrete, EIFS
- Store Front
- Perimeter joints
- Detail work for waterproofing
- Firestopping for joints





# Silicone, Polyurethane, Hybrid Sealant

- Class 25, Type S
- Grade NS, Use NT
- Applications
  - Window perimeters
  - Control joints



# Multi-Component Polyurethane

- Class 50, Type M
- Grade NS
- Use T, NT and I
- Applications
  - Immersed Conditions



# Polyurethane Sealant

- Class 25, Type M
- Grade P
- Use T
- Concrete Paving
- Parking Structures
- Green Concrete





# Acrylic Sealants

- ASTM C 834
- Movement 12 ½%
- Flame Spread – 10
- Smoke Development -0
- Paintable
- Interior Acoustical Seal
- Detail for air barrier systems



## Butyl Sealants

- Metal Panel Joinery
- Bedding thresholds
- Secondary glazing seal
- Movement - 10%



# Case Study

- Polyurethane sealant
- Installation:
  - Early fall
  - 45-60F
  - Sunny
- Horizontal, vertical, parking lot, stadium, window perimeters, expansion joints
- 153 samples evaluated



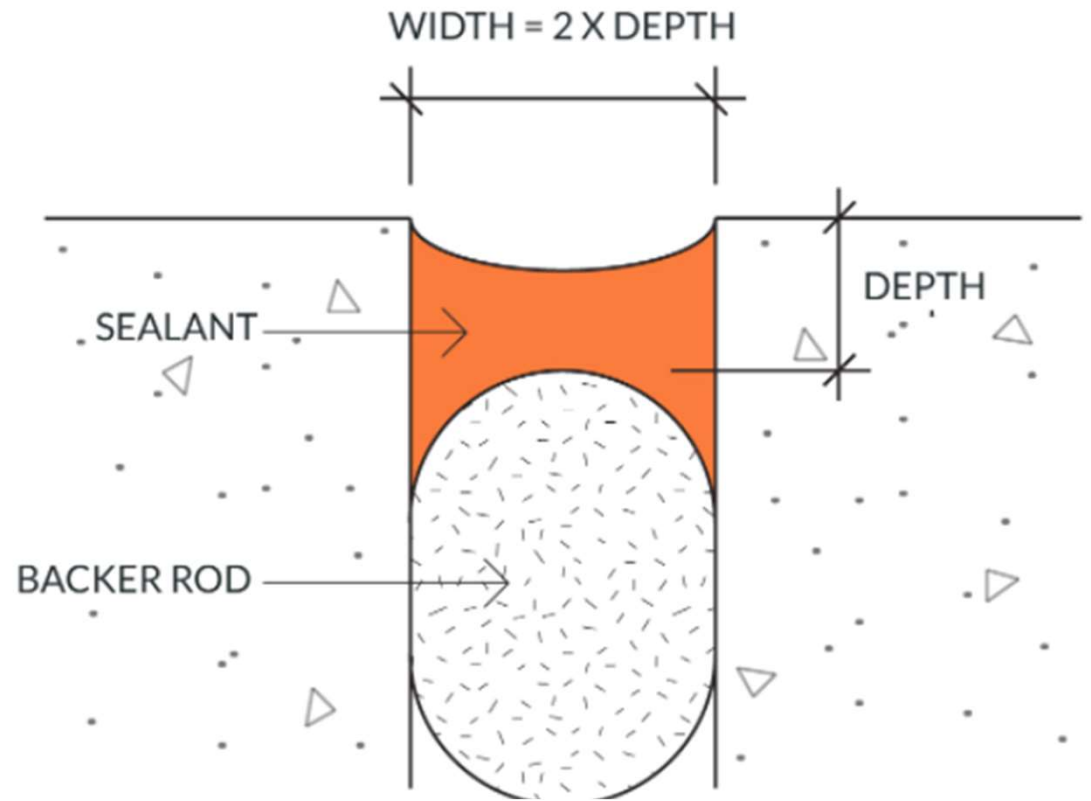
# Case Study

- 63: lack of or improper installation of backer support
- 32: debris on bond line
- 27: width to depth (thin)
- 16: width to depth (deep)
- 8: lack of tooling
- 7: Different chemistry





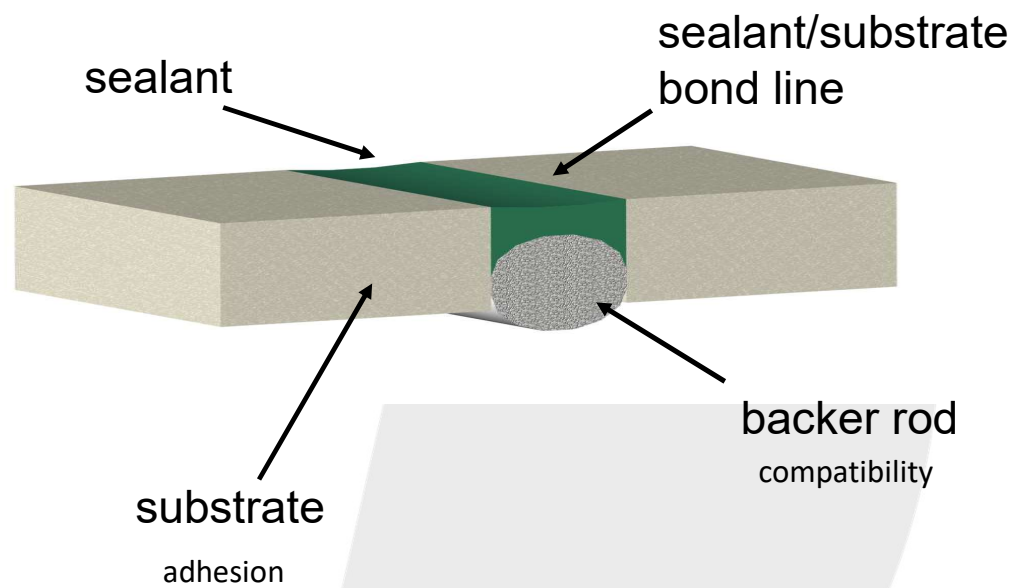
# Sealant Configuration

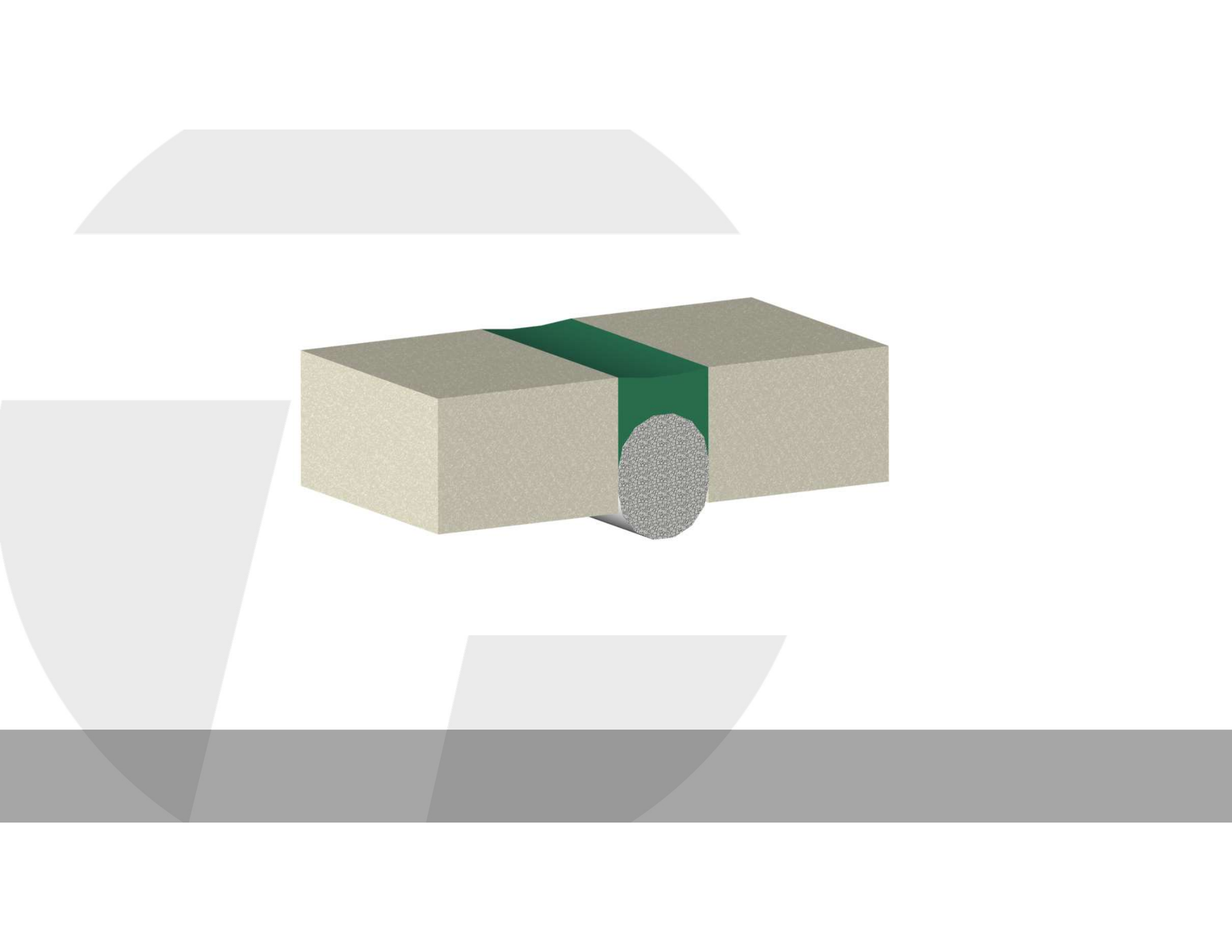


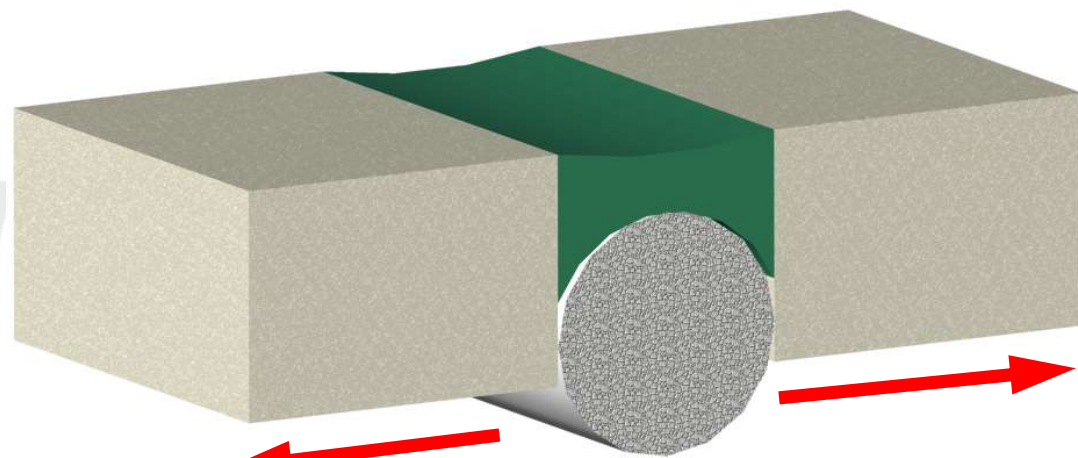
# Sealant Configuration

- Why use a backer rod?
  - Control of joint depth
  - Prevent three-sided adhesion
  - Support tooling
  - Promote hourglass bead shape
- Types of backer rod
  - **Closed cell:** Resists air/moisture permeation
    - Cures from outside (single side)
    - Used in most applications
  - **Open cell:**
    - Allows air/moisture permeation
    - Curing from outside and inside (two sides)
    - Used in encapsulated or dry application

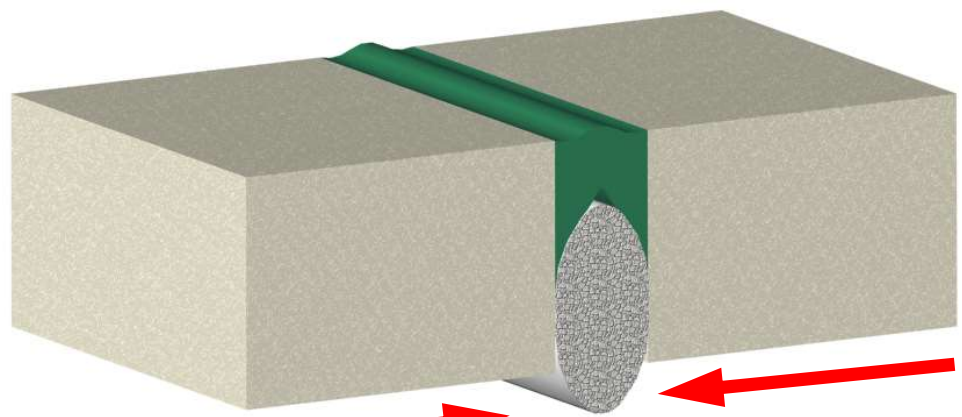






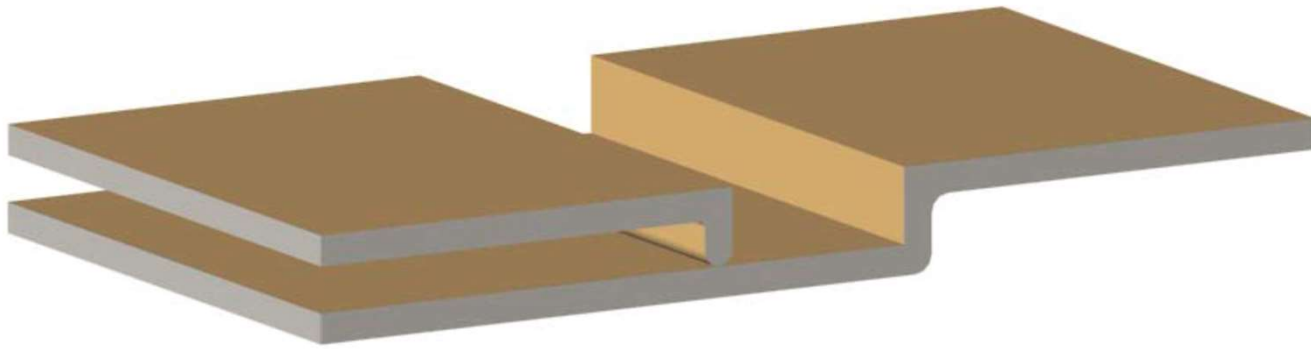


**EXTENSION**



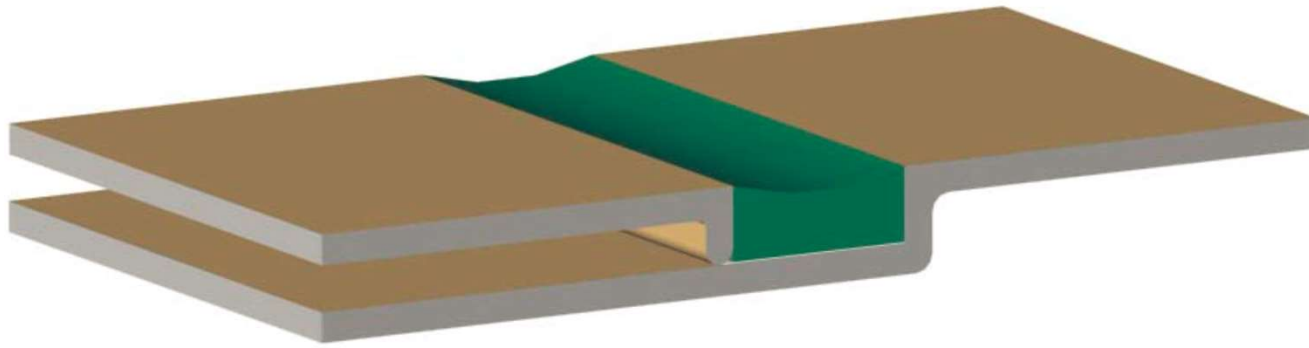
**COMPRESSION**

## Three-Sided Adhesion



Typical metal-to-metal joint

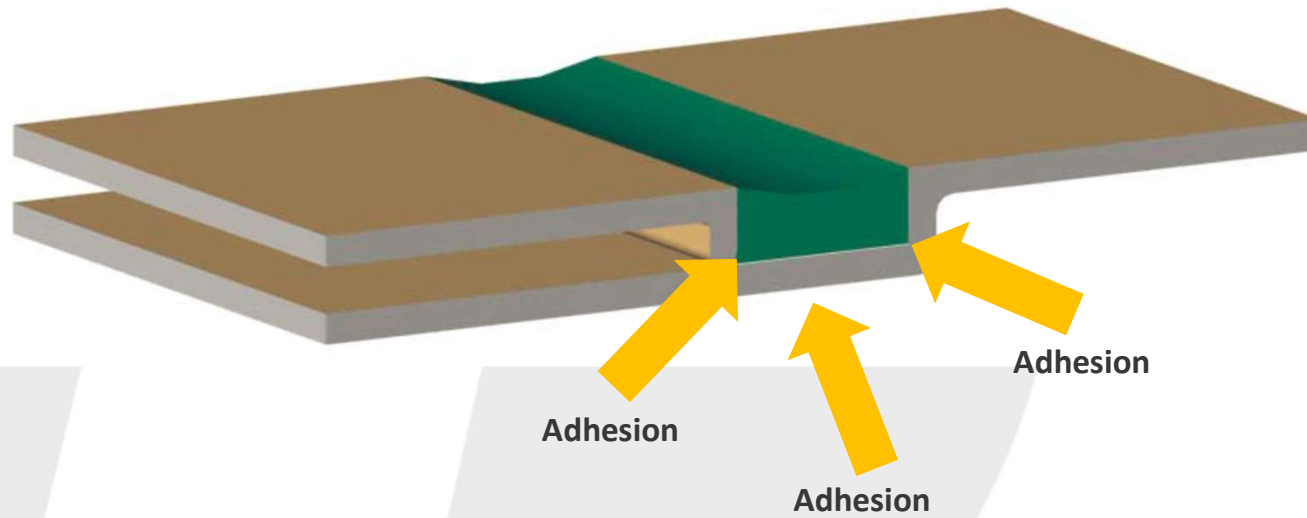
## Three-Sided Adhesion



Sealant applied and tooled

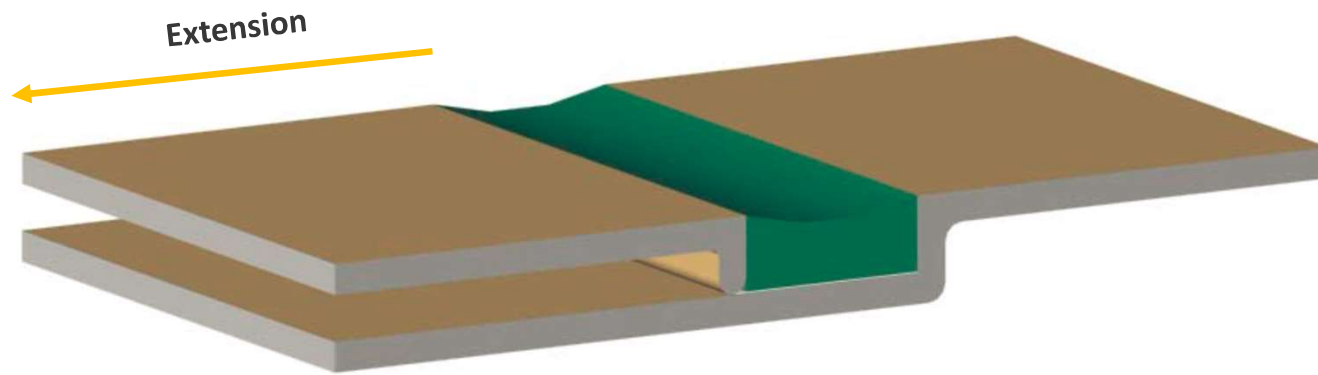


## Three-Sided Adhesion



**Adhesion is developed on three surfaces**

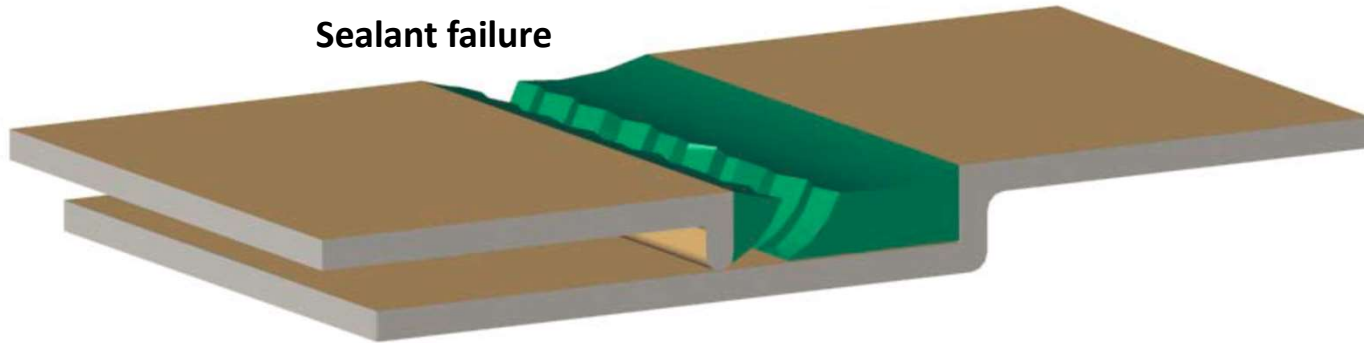
## Three-Sided Adhesion



Joint extension occurs

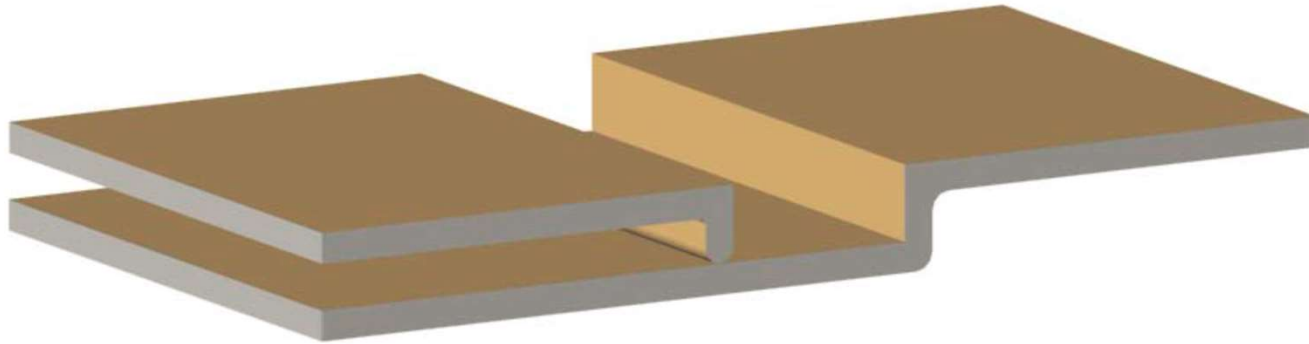
## Three-Sided Adhesion

Sealant failure



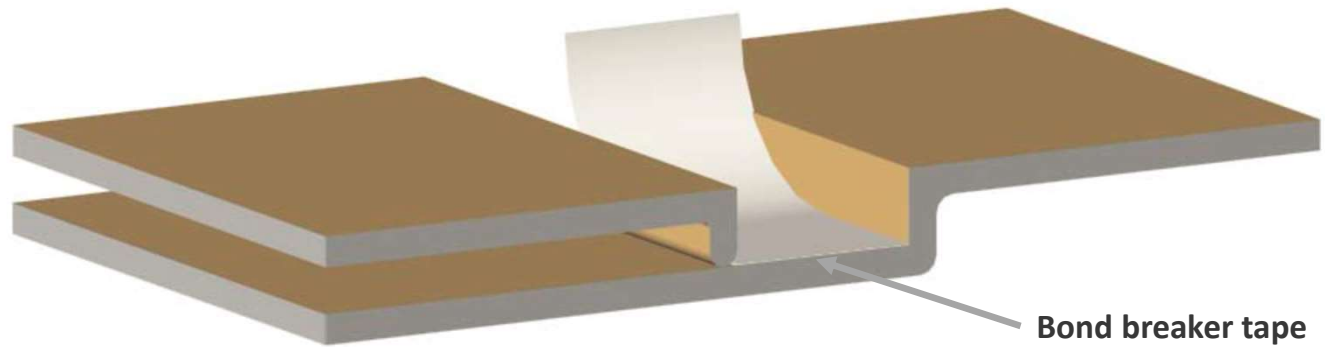
Under extension additional stress tears sealant

## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



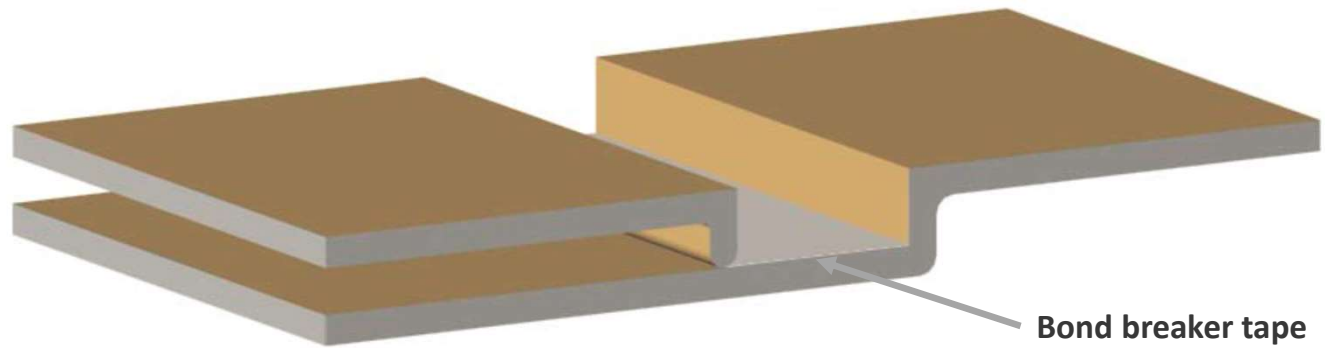
Typical metal-to-metal joint

## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



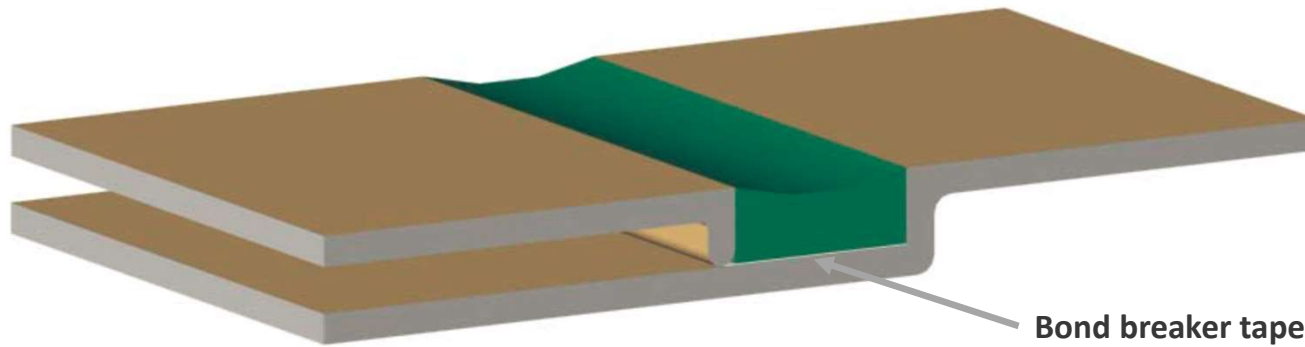
**Bond breaker tape applied in joint (at one surface)**

## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



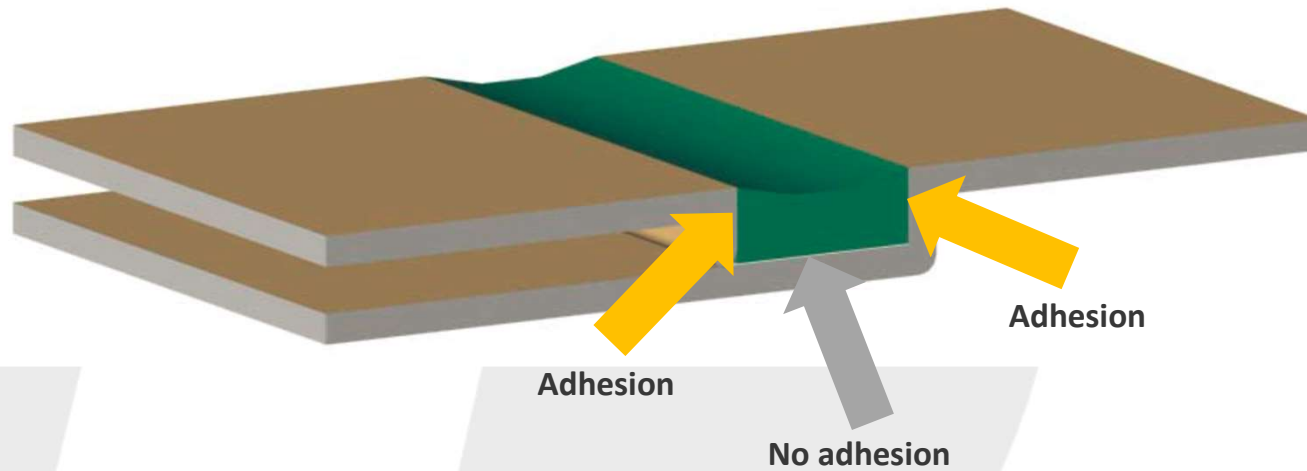
**Bond breaker tape applied in joint (at one surface)**

## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



Sealant applied and tooled

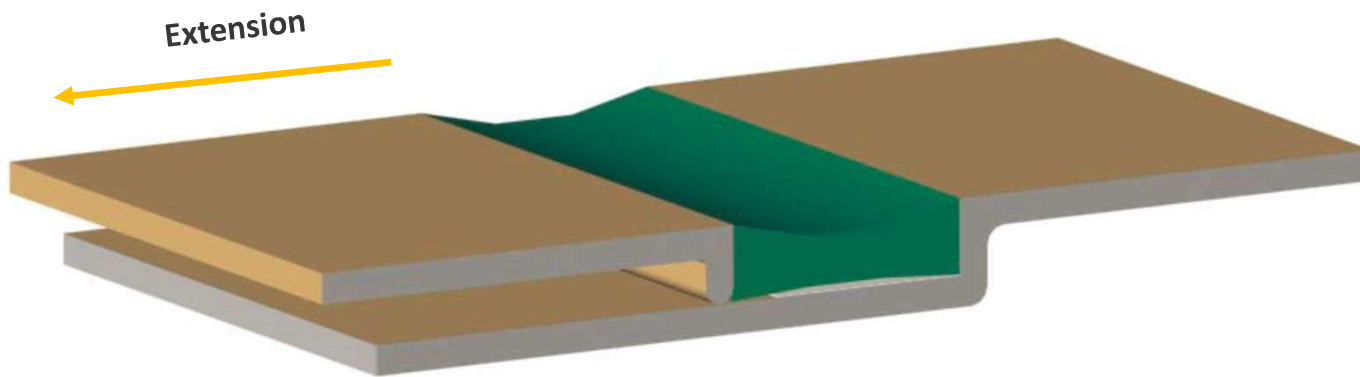
## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



**Adhesion is developed on two surfaces**  
**Adhesion is prevented by bond breaker tape on third surface**

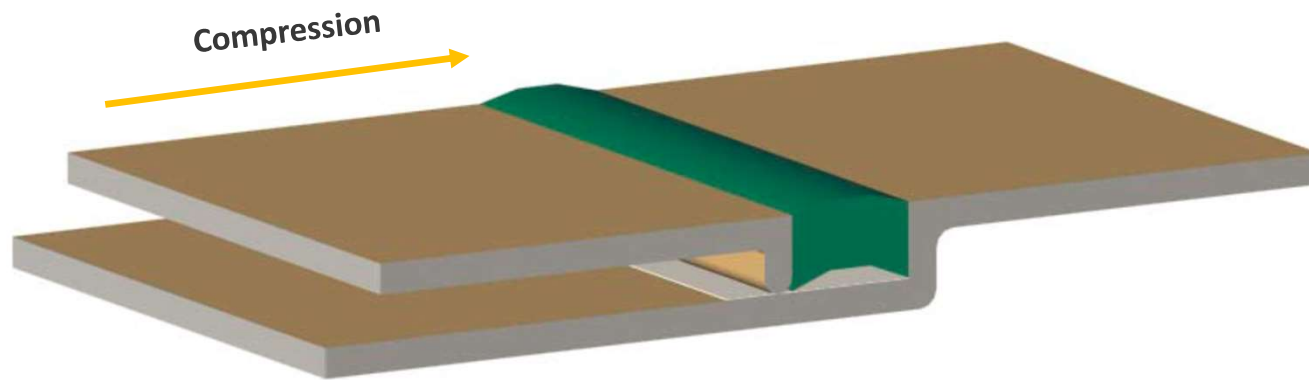


## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



Sealant can now perform under extension

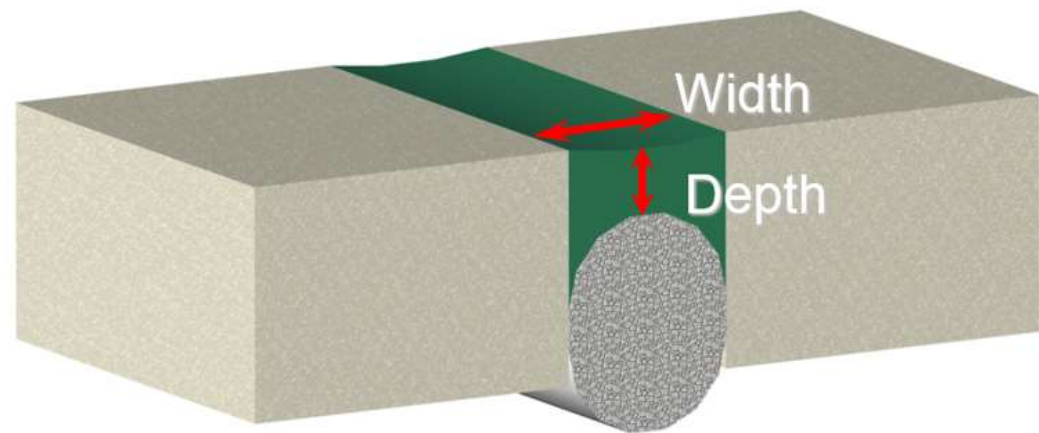
## Three-Sided Adhesion - Prevention



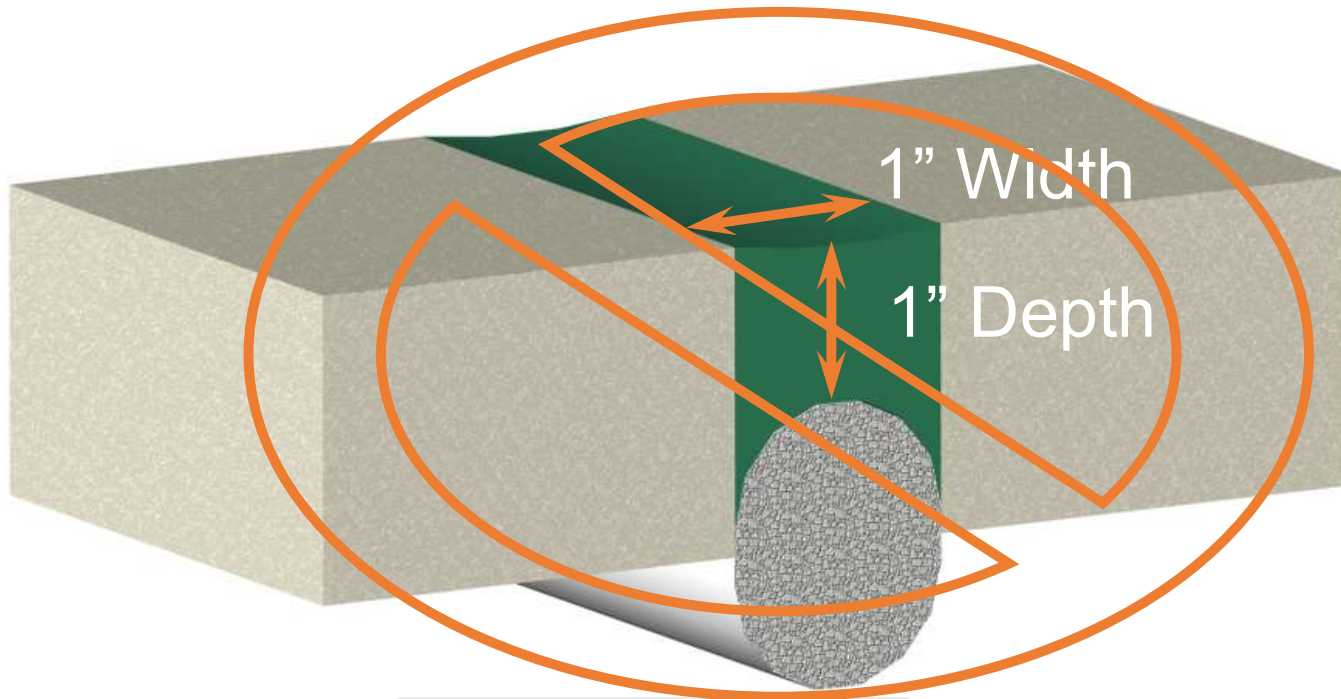
Sealant can now perform under compression

## Typical Sealant Joint

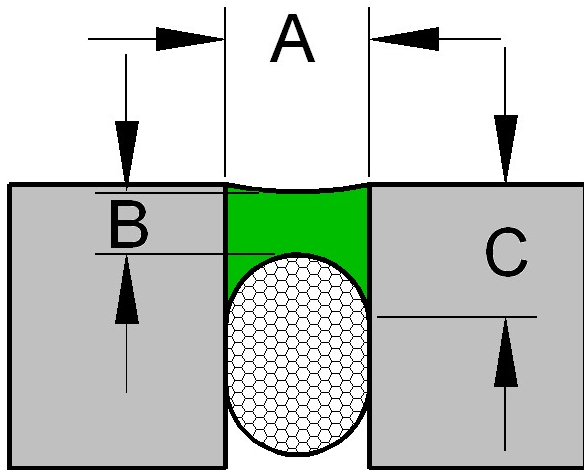
Sealant should have a width and depth ration of 2 to 1



## Width to Depth Ratio



## Sealant Width-to-Depth Recommendations



### Joint width

¼ in. to ½ in. (6.35 mm to 12.7 mm)

½ in. to 1 in. (12.7 mm to 25.4 mm)

1 in. and above (25.4 mm and above)

### Joint depth

Joint depth is equal to joint width

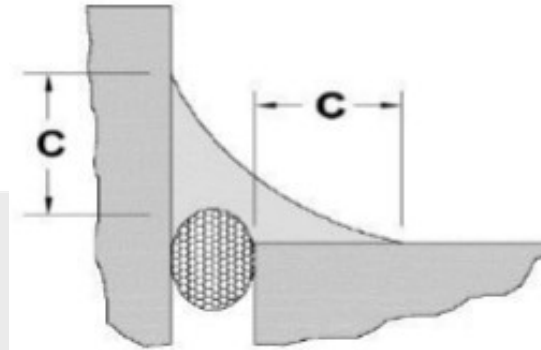
Joint depth is half of joint width

Joint depth is ½ in.

## Sealant Dimensions

### Perimeter Joints

- For fillet beads, or angel beads around windows and doors, the sealant should exhibit a minimum surface contact area (C) of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) onto each substrate,



with provisions for release at the heel of the angle using backer rod or bond breaker tape

## Sealant Installation

- Date and description of the weather conditions, including average air temperature
- Location(s) of the joints that were sealed that day
- Record of the crew(s) and where they worked that day
- Batch numbers of the sealant and primer (if required) used in each Notes of any unusual conditions encountered that day
- A record of checking the previous work completed for quality and performance

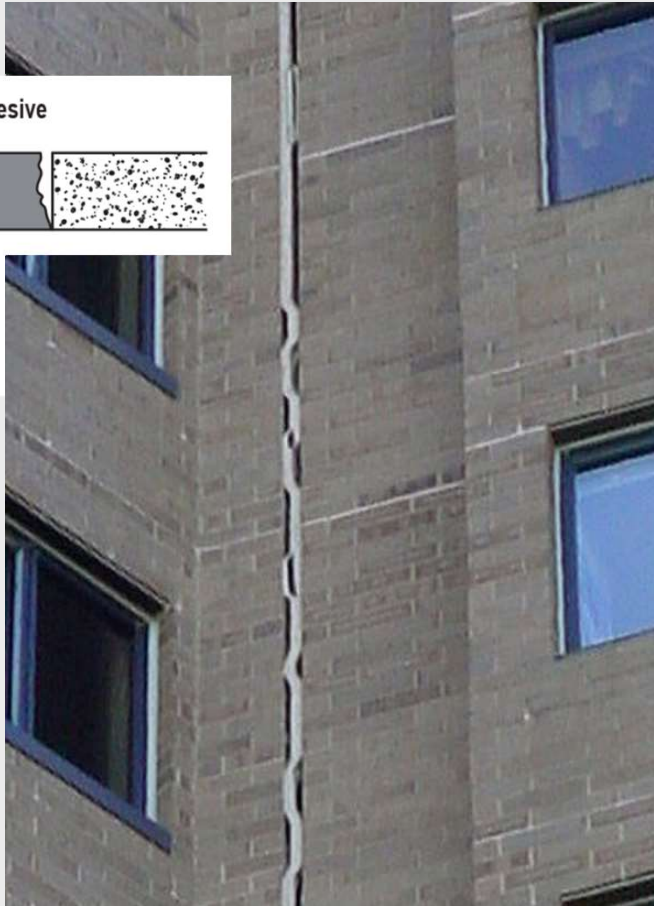


## Sealant Installation

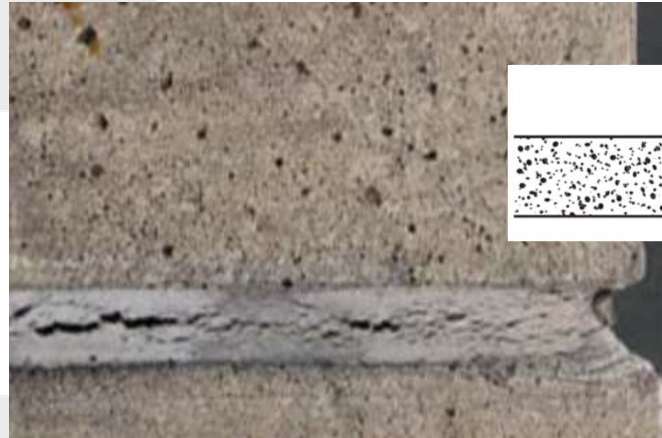


- The field adhesion test is simply a hand pull test of a cut area of joint sealant (Figure 1.1). The testing procedure can be found in Appendix X.I of ASTM C1193, Standard Guide for Use of Joint Sealants.
- Initial adhesion test – every 100 feet over first 1000 ft, every 1000 ft, one per floor , and one test per week per installation crew (Keep logged) thereafter.
- To confirm substrate was cleaned properly
- To confirm the correct amount of primer was used (if primer was used)
- **To confirm appropriate tooling**
- To confirm correct sealant used for the joint movement
- To check for improper joint configuration
- Verify no 3-sided adhesion condition exists
- Check for the presence of bond breaking material(s) at bond
- If poor results are obtained in a field adhesion test, work should be stopped to verify the root cause and magnitude of the problem.
  - Once the cause of the problem is identified, corrective measures can be implemented.
- Field adhesion tests should be repaired immediately to maintain the weatherproofing integrity.





Adhesive



Cohesive

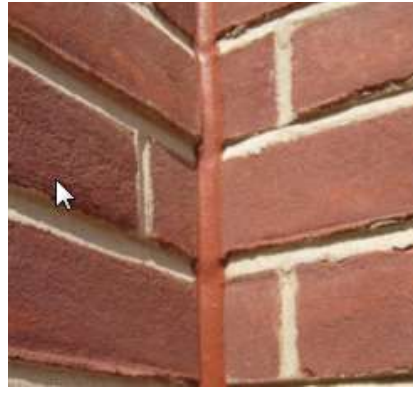


Substrate



# Sealant Installation

- What type of sealant?
- Will it adhere to the substrates?
- What is the joint size and shape?
- Is it continuous or do the anchors get in the way?
- Can it be installed as detailed?
- Is it part of the Manufacturers system or by another manufacturer? (accountability)
- Is it warranted?
- **Is it going to be a high stress joint?**



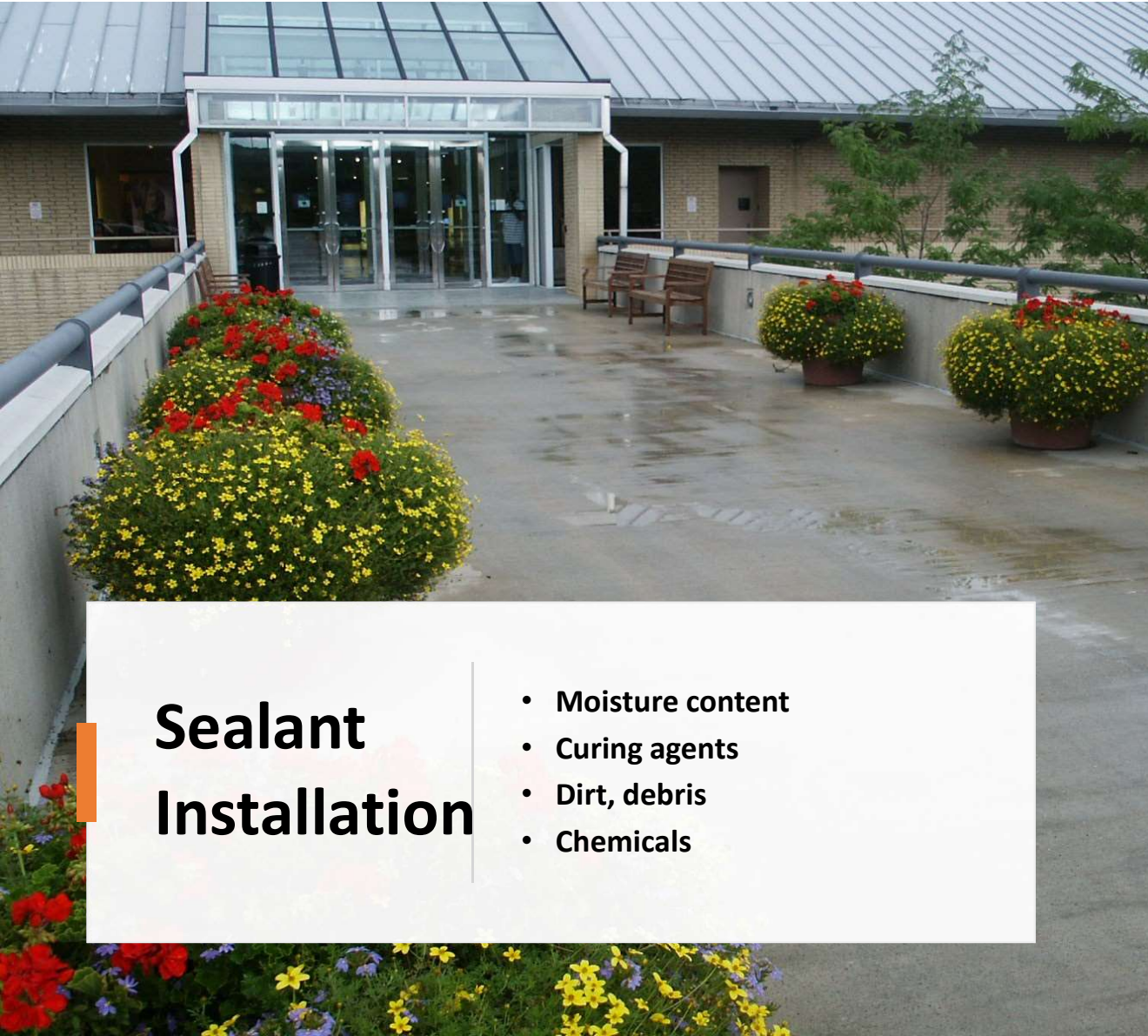
# Sealant Selection

- Precast & Tilt-up
- Stone façade
- Brick
- EIFS
- Glazing
  - Curtain Wall
- Parking Deck & Sidewalks
- Plaza and Pool Decks
- Below Grade
- Coating Details
- Air Barrier Details





# Jobsite Conditions

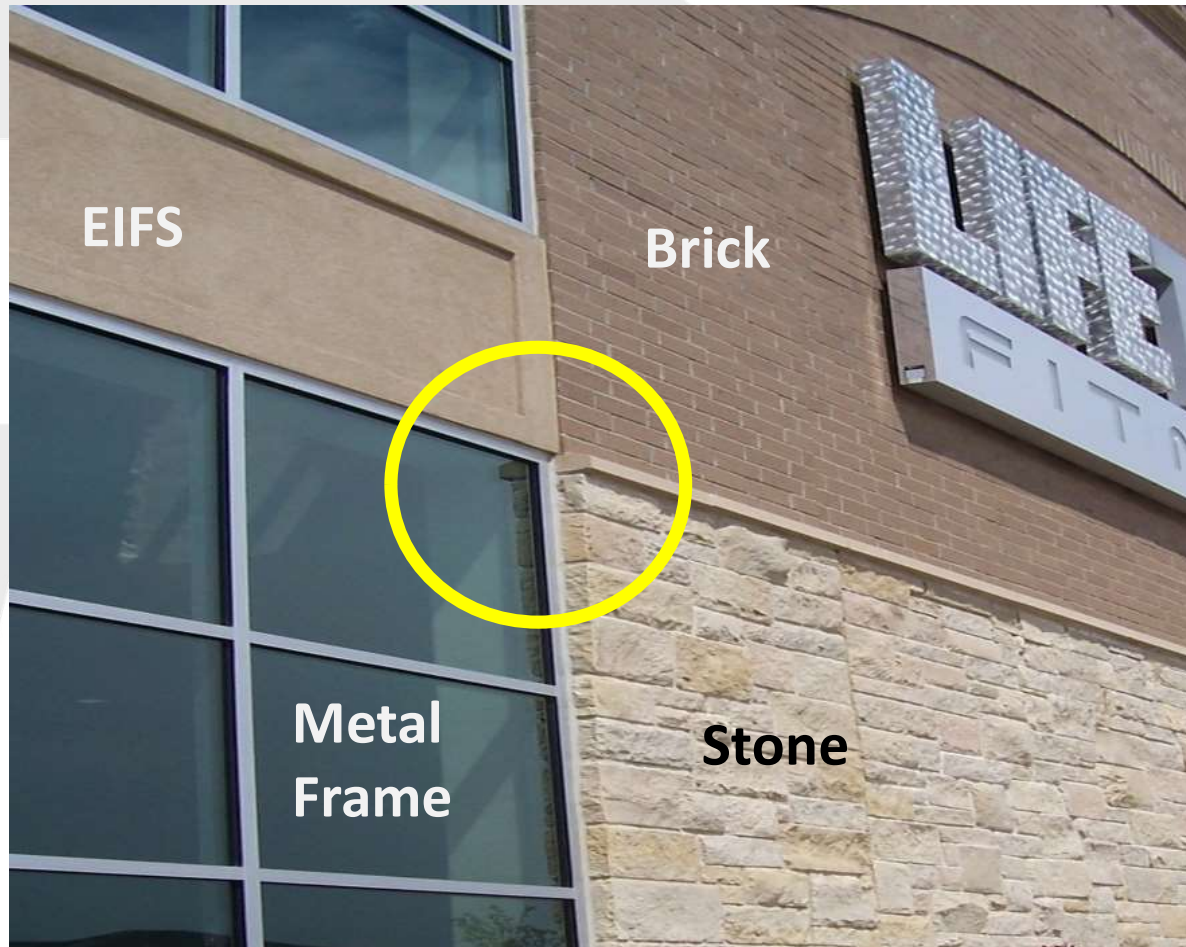


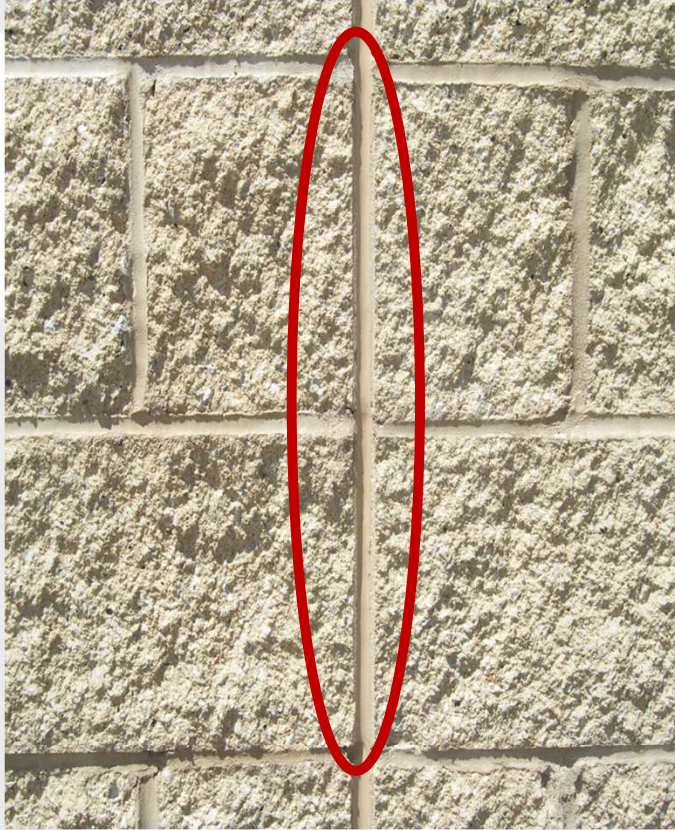
# Sealant Installation

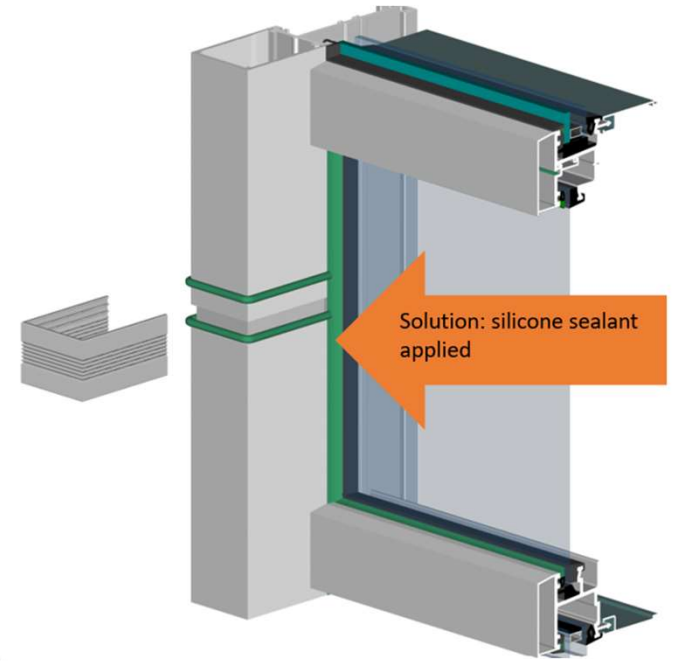
- Moisture content
- Curing agents
- Dirt, debris
- Chemicals



# Sealant Installation









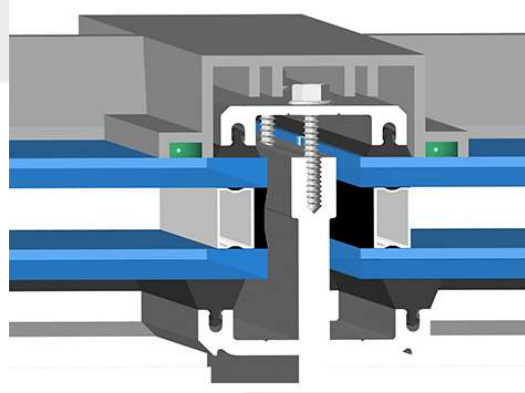
# Glazing Restoration





# Why Glazing Restoration

- **Improvement of energy efficiency**
  - Upgrading glass to double- or triple-glazed units
  - Wet sealing to reduce air leakage
- **Remedy of water intrusion**
- **Correction of improper installation**
- **Restoring performance lost due to aging of components**
- **Renewal of aesthetic**
- **Historic renovation**



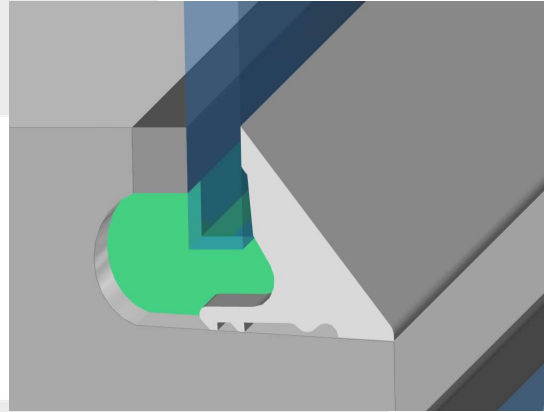


After





**After**





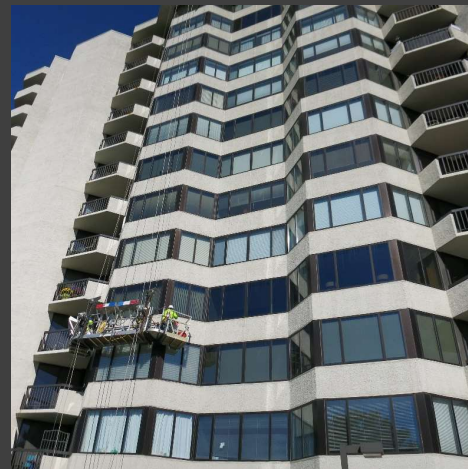
## Preformed Options

- UV Stable, pre-compressed polyurethane foam.
- Interior or exterior joints
- Primary or secondary seal
- Vertical expansion joints
- Precast, masonry, or brick facades
- EIFS
- Primary seal in starter track for windows

# Chemistry & Technology

- Pre-cured Silicone Extrusions
- Pre-cured Polyurethane Extrusions
- Pre-compressed Foam Tapes





## Sealant Selection

### What substrates are involved?

- Priming, adhesion, condition, staining concerns, moisture content, weather, temperature, firestopping

### What level of expansion and contraction?

- Movement capabilities, hardness, modulus

### Is cure time of sealant an issue?

- Single vs multi-component

### Life expectancy

- Technology comparison

### Color

- Color selection and matching

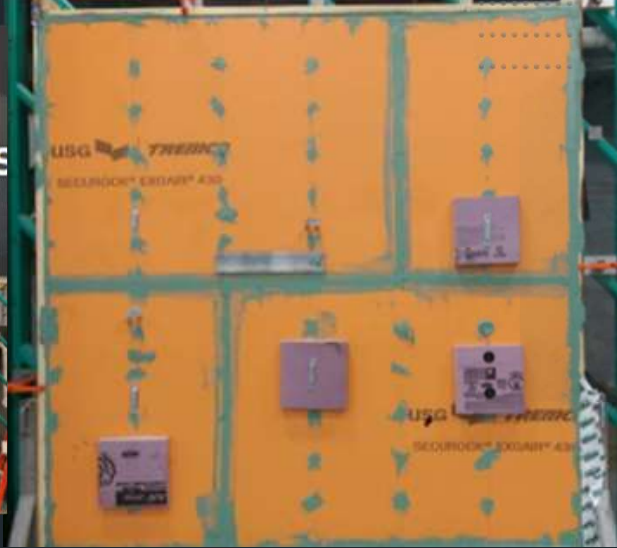
### Cost



**Bringing It All Together**

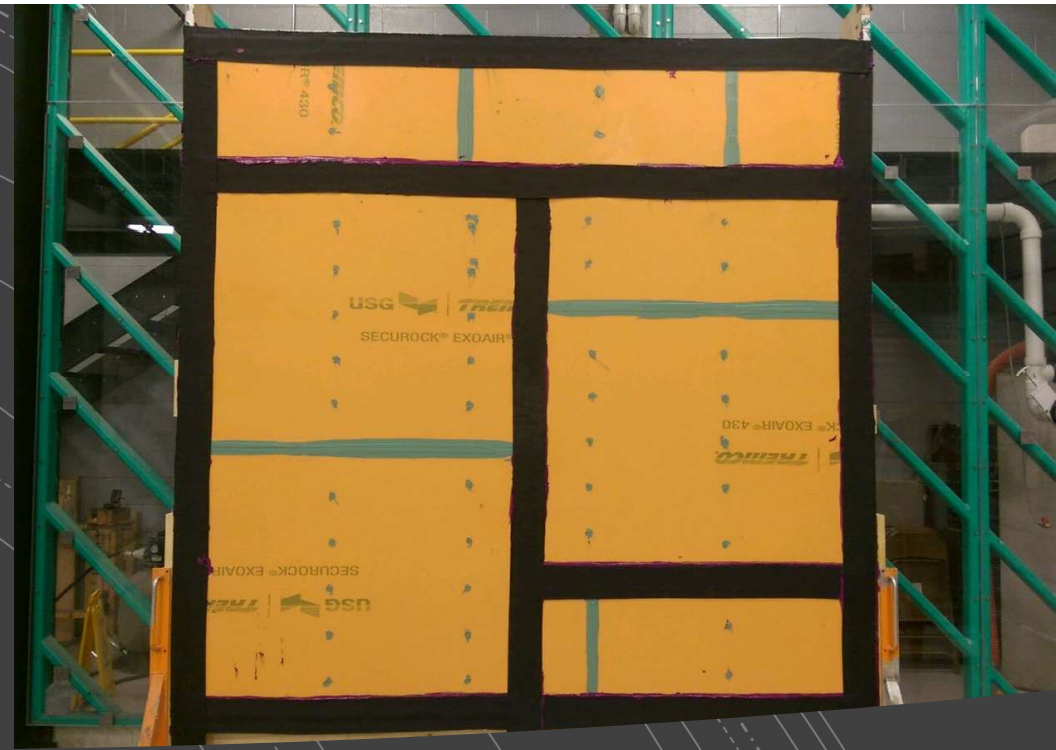


**SUSTAINABLE  
BUILDING SOLUTIONS  
TEST FACILITY**



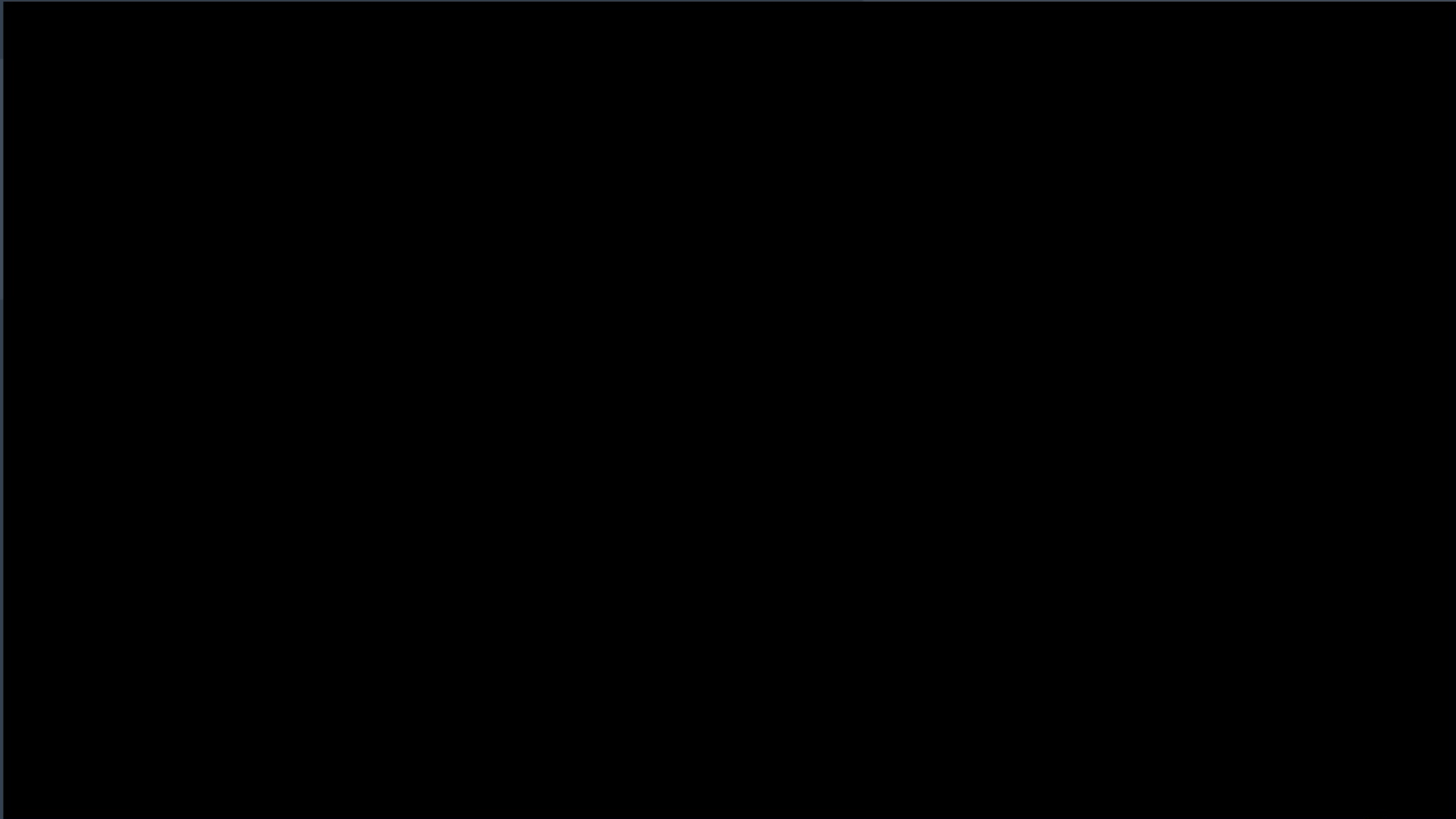
# System Performance Testing

The Test Wall is made available as a tool to replicate the exact design intent and evaluate installation practices.



# Mission Bay Block 33, San Francisco, CA

- UCSF Wayne and Gladys Valley Center for Vision
- Consultant did not want to use Tremco Expansion Joint Materials.
- Designed project specific mock-up to validate performance during earthquake.





# Blog & Broadcast Opportunity



## Net-zero energy schools are old news in Kentucky





## Want to join the conversation?

Interested in being a part of Build Meets World with your design challenge or solution, please feel free to reach out to me. We would be happy to host you on our broadcast.

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