READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Joint sealants and caulking rough-in inspection checklist

Joint sealants and caulking rough-in is the last time the work is fully visible. Once the cover inspection passes and the walls, ceilings and slabs close, every defect left behind becomes a demolition bill. This checklist walks the rough-in in the order the work goes in, with the photo each item needs before it gets buried. Work is commonly verified against manufacturer's published instructions, ASTM C1193 guidance. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The caulking foreman checking joints ahead of the gun, or the GC's superintendent releasing runs for sealant. When: After joints are formed and cleaned, before backer rod is set and the first bead is pulled, when the prep can still be corrected.

Product and schedule

- [ ] Cartridge or sausage labels match the approved submittal
  Product name, grade and color on the cartridges or sausages at the work area photographed and matched to the approved sealant submittal before the first run.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Material within shelf life and stored per the label
  Expiration or manufacture date on each lot checked, cases kept out of direct sun and freezing within the storage range printed on the label.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Joint schedule walked with the crew for each joint type
  Product, primer and color for each condition (exterior movement joints, wet areas, traffic joints, interior paintable joints) reviewed against the contract documents before gunning starts.
  No photo required

Joint dimension

- [ ] Joint width and depth within the required ratio
  Joint gauged for width and depth so the cured bead meets the specified width-to-depth ratio, not just filled to the top.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Narrowest joint on each run gauged against the product minimum
  Tightest point of each run measured and compared with the minimum joint width in the manufacturer's instructions; joints too tight to seal reported to the super, not skimmed over.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Joints free of mortar, grout or foam left by other trades
  Joint cavity open its full depth, no mortar bridges, grout fins or spray foam blocking the rod, with any blockage reported for cleanout before sealing.
  1 photo required

Backing and bond break

- [ ] Backer rod or bond breaker set correctly
  Backer rod sized to the joint and set to the right depth, or bond-breaker tape at the joint bottom so the bead bonds on two faces only.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Backer rod bag label matches the type the sealant calls for
  Rod type on the bag (closed-cell, open-cell or bi-cellular) checked against the sealant manufacturer's recommendation for that joint and substrate.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Backer rod butted tight at splices and intersections
  No gaps where rod lengths meet or joints cross; rod not stretched thin, twisted or punctured during insertion.
  1 photo required

Substrate prep

- [ ] Substrate clean and dry at the joint faces
  Joint faces free of dust, old sealant, form release and moisture, wiped and dried before anything is applied. 1 photo required
- [ ] Primer applied where the substrate requires it
  Primer applied per the sealant's instructions on substrates that call for it, allowed to flash before the bead. 1 photo required
- [ ] Joint faces sound, spalls and loose material dressed back
  Spalled concrete edges, crumbling mortar and loose laitance at the faces repaired or ground back to sound material so the bead bonds to something that stays put. 1 photo required
- [ ] Joint faces checked for sealers or repellents that block adhesion
  Water repellent, curing compound, paint or other coatings at the faces identified and handled as the sealant manufacturer directs, removed or primed and tested. No photo required

Test and conditions

- [ ] Field adhesion pull on the first joints of each substrate
  Pulled per the manufacturer's field adhesion method on the first joints of each substrate once cured, before the bulk of the run is signed off; failure mode and bead thickness recorded. 1 photo required
- [ ] Surface and air temperature within the product's application range
  Thermometer or infrared reading at the joint face photographed and compared with the range on the product data, with the face above the dew point. 1 photo required