

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.

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**

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**

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**