

Procedure for Checking Sandblast Cleaning of Contraction Joints

1. Scope:

This test is for checking the cleanliness of contraction joints prior to sealing with silicone.

2. Apparatus:

2.1 Orange or other colored water based spray paint.

3. Procedure:

3.1 Prior to sealing the contraction joints with silicone, discuss the importance of a clean contraction joint with the Contractor and advise that his cleaning (Sandblasting) operation will be checked.

3.2 Spray a light coat of paint approximately 1 foot in length on both vertical faces of a contraction joint. This test site can be located anywhere in the contraction joint.

3.3 Have the Contractor perform his normal cleaning operation.

3.4 Visually and physically examine the joint for cleanliness. For 3/8" contraction joints, the top 3/4" to 1" should not have any paint on it. For contraction joints wider than 3/8", more than 1" from the top down will need to be clean depending on the width of the contraction joint. The silicone adheres to the top portion of the vertical faces of the joint and they need to be clean. Some minute traces of paint remaining in the pores of the concrete will be acceptable. That portion of the joint below the top 3/4" to 1" need not be clean.

3.5 Repeat steps 3.2 through 3.4 until an acceptable cleaning method is established. The Contractor may have to vary the location and/or the angle of the sandblasting nozzle. Each variation of the contraction joint width and/or depth will probably require different nozzle location and/or angle settings.

3.6 Check the cleaning operation on a daily basis or as needed, following the above procedures to assure the joints are clean.

4. Report:

4.1 Report the observations in the project diary.

5. References:

SD 421