

P&T Products

Manufacturer of Hot Pour Crack & Joint Sealants

All You Need to Know About Tracking

Overview: If overheated during application, crack sealant can be compromised and cause tracking issues. Whenever I hear about it, the image that pops into my head is discarded chewing gum sitting the sun. Yuck!

Challenge: Tracking can result when a sealant designed for oil jacketed equipment is heated in a direct fire kettle. Specifically, if the material contains crumb rubber. It can also happen with products designed for direct fired kettles when the temperature in the kettle climbs too high.

Prevention: On every box made by P&T Products, the application temperature is listed. As a general rule of thumb, 400°F is hot enough. Overheating crack sealant chemically alters the polymers in the crack sealant. They turn to an oily residue which means the crack sealant cannot "set up." Cranking up the flame on a direct-fire kettle to a loud, roaring blue flame is not necessary. And it does not heat the crack sealant any faster. Instead, it creates a hot spot in the corner of the kettle that jeopardizes the integrity of the material. A steady, amber flame will get the job done in the same amount of time, save money on propane, and protect the material. Monitoring the temperature periodically is important to make sure you are in the zone. Using the gauge on the equipment is fine, but I also recommend using an infrared thermometer. This provides added insurance since temperature gauges can quit operating and need to be replaced.

Solution: So it happened. The temperatures got away from you on a jobsite or maybe it just happened on area of the jobsite. The property owner has noticed and wants the area fixed. What do you do? For any remediation effort, I suggest testing your method in a small, obscure location before continuing your efforts throughout. Option one is a blotting agent. For jobs with less severe problems, a blotting agent like black beauty, clay, or limestone applied on top of the sealant is enough to stop the tracking. But more often, this is just a temporary solution; once the blotting agent is worked into the sealant, the tracking reoccurs. The best solution is a lot of elbow grease. The compromised crack sealant needs to be removed from the job. Start by heating a spade or flat-edge shovel and scrape the sealant off the surface of the pavement. Identify whether you need to go further than the surface. If more removal is needed, a flathead screwdriver may do the trick.



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