

P&T Products' Troubleshooting Guide

Diagnosing and Correcting Problems That May Occur

Tips:

- Oil jacketed sealants cannot be heated in direct fired equipment
- Always follow manufacturer's application temperatures
- Check sealant temperature periodically throughout the job
- Keep heating unit at least 1/3 full of material
- Apply 10 feet of crack sealant, allow to cool, and check for adhesion before continuing
- If a crack is over 1" deep, fill the bottom using inexpensive materials such as backer rod, stone dust, or sand. Otherwise the crack sealant may sag and therefore pull away from the crack walls.

Troubleshooting:

Adhesion Failure - When the sealant does not stick to the crack side walls.

CAUSE	SOLUTION
Crack was not clean	Use a compressed air heat lance, clean all vegetation and incompressibles from the crack.
Surface was wet	Allow to dry or use a heat lance.
Low Sealant Application Temperature	Heat sealant to manufacturers recommendations, verify temperature gauges on melter are operational.
Cold Ambient Temperature	Allow temperature to rise, use a heat lance. Not only do you risk adhesion failure in cold temperature application but often too much sealant is used because cracks are opened all the way and when the climate warms, the sealant is pushed out of the crack as they close and "snakes" appear on the pavement.

Cohesion Failure - Sealant itself is cracking while adhering to the sides of the crack. This primarily happens during the winter. However, it can happen in warmer temperatures as well.

CAUSE	SOLUTION
Sealant choice is too stiff	Use softer grade sealant, look for a sealant whose low temperature flexibility is compatible with the location.
Excessive pavement distress	Pavement may not be a candidate for successful crack sealing.
Reservoir not large enough	Sealant may have been applied in hot ambient temperatures when cracks are not open enough to allow an adequate amount of sealant. Route to open reservoir.
Sealant installed too deep in crack	Use correct width to depth ratio, backer rod, stone dust or sand if crack's depth is excessive

Tracking - Sealant picks up when opened to traffic. Often times the use of a blotting agent can be a simple fix. A blotting agent may include a commercial liquid spray, sand, clay, cement or lime.

CAUSE	SOLUTION
Opened to traffic too soon after application	Delay opening to traffic, use a blotting agent.
Cracks were not clean and/or dry	Use compressed air or heat lance.
High ambient temperature	Delay application until temperature is lower.
Sealant choice too soft for climate/application	Use a stiffer sealant.
Oil jacketed sealant used in a direct fire kettle	Work to remove as much of the damaged sealant as possible then reapply fresh material.
Overheated sealant	
Sealant contaminated with solvent or transfer oil	