

# P&T Products

Manufacturer of Hot Pour Crack & Joint Sealants

## Size Matters...Only Use What You Need!

**Overview:** This year I have had an influx of calls about re-heating a kettle that is full of cold, previously melted crack sealant. Callers ask me "why is it taking so long to re-heat?" The first issue is that the sealant has become on solid block. But the bigger problem is re-heating in general. If you peek around on line, you will see that manufacturers of crack sealant agree that it is best practice to melt only the amount of sealant you expect to use in a day.

**Challenge:** However, callers tell me they prefer to fill the unit with sealant blocks after they are done sealing for the day. Their reasoning is that, once the blocks are melted and held over until the next day, the material will still be warm and take less time to heat up on the job site. Unfortunately, this is not what callers are experiencing. Instead, they wonder why the material is taking so long to reheat and what can be done about it. Simply put, the answer is to avoid this practice.

**Solution:** Crack sealant manufacturers recommend only melting the amount of material you intend to use for the day for two reasons. First, because you cannot control the weather. It might unexpectedly pour down rain the next day and you will not be able to apply the material you previously melted. And, second, because it takes exponentially longer to re-heat a solid block of crack sealant the size of your kettle than it does to heat many separate blocks. The surface area of many blocks is far greater than the surface area of a single unit. The more surface area, the quicker the material can heat up.

The same principal is used in baking. Ever look at the back of a cake mix box and notice the varying heat times depending on the size of your cake pan? Cupcakes, the smallest size of all, take the least amount of time to heat. The blocks of crack sealant are like the cupcakes in this analogy.

