



TECHNICAL BULLETIN CP-13

JOINT FILLER BUBBLING

Because Euclid Chemical's QWIKjoint joint fillers are fast-setting materials, care should be taken during installation of to prevent entrapment of air in the cured product. However, although air bubbles in the surface of cured QWIKjoint can be visually unappealing, please note that they will typically not affect the performance of the product in service. The tips below will help prevent bubbling of QWIKjoint and unsightly joint filler profile.

When separately pre-mixing the Part A and Part B, do not whip air into the material by mixing at extremely fast speeds or by pulling the mixing blade up and down.

As QWIKjoint flows into a joint, the concrete will outgas as the material displaces air in the pores of the concrete. This air will not be able to "float" up through the material and exit the surface of the QWIKjoint if it is installed in one pass. So, it is best to fill the joint in two lifts. The first lift should be done with the intent to seal the bottom of the control joint by partially filling the joint to within 3/8" - 1/2" (0.95 – 1.3 cm) of concrete floor surface. The second lift must overfill the control joint so that when the joint is shaved any trapped air voids will be discarded within the ribbon of shaved material. The time in between lifts should be 3 – 30 minutes.

Care should also be taken to ensure that the joint filler is placed in a continuous bead, as multiple stops and starts of the pump or cartridge installation can cause air voids in the joint filler. By continuously flowing material through the static mixer the contractor will have maximized the flow and leveling properties of the QWIKjoint before it begins to harden. If material is allowed to dwell in the static mixing nozzle it will begin to gel, so discharging the nozzle in a cup or small bucket before initiating a subsequent placement bead is a very good work practice.

Additionally, it is important to dial in the proper dispensing speed on the installation pump. Contact the pump manufacturer for specific instructions. Best results are achieved when the static mixer nozzle is held as vertical as possible during dispensing.

If QWIKjoint is pumped off ratio, or if the Part A of these products has been exposed to moisture before use, bubbling of the product can occur. Premature moisture curing of the Part A is caused by using product past its shelf life, or by exposing the Part A to air before use. Some applicators like to "stage" their materials on site by opening the lids on pails of QWIKjoint products for a length of time before use. This exposure to air can cause premature moisture curing of the Part A, product bubbling, and other problems with curing and performance.

If pinholes or air bubbles in the surface of QWIKjoint occurs and is unacceptable, the recommended method for repair is to remove the top 1/4" (0.64 cm) of material and re-fill using the procedures above.