STONE·PLY
real stone real strong real thin

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Technical Bulletin

Joints and Sealants

All materials experience some dimensional changes from expansion or contraction due to temperature variations. In building materials, there is also normally some movement due to creep, moisture and the movement of adjacent materials. While StonePly is somewhat able to flex, joints should be used to allow for movement.

Expansion and contraction

StonePly is generally designed using a coefficient of thermal movement of 0.0000045 in/in/degree Fahrenheit (0.0000081 mm/mm/degrees Celsius). The actual temperature change that the StonePly may be exposed to depends on the location of the project, the color of the Stone (dark colors absorbing more heat from the sun) and the direction of the wall exposure.

Sealants

The most common sealant used with StonePly joints is silicone. Silicones provide excellent weather resistance, are easy to apply, have a low shrinkage rate, and can accommodate a large amount of movement. Sealants are generally specified under section 07920. Foam backer rod should be used.

Points to remember

- Joints in StonePly serve an aesthetic and functional purpose.
- Normally, StonePly joints are sealed with an elastomeric sealant such as silicone or ure thanes. Sealants should be able to withstand dimensional changes, both within the prod uct, and due to building movement.
- Good joint design should direct water away from the joints.
- For seismic reasons, some StonePly corner conditions may require larger joints.
- Preparation of joints, including primers, backer rods and application of sealant should follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- For smaller StonePly panels, a 3/8" to ½" joint width is typical. Larger StonePly wall panels should be designed to have minimum 1/2" wide joints.