

# DOWSIL™ Silicone Pavement Sealants

## Frequently Asked Questions

The following FAQs address some of the most common requests for information. For more detailed information on these topics, please refer to other Dow literature sources or contact Dow.

**Q: How do I estimate sealant and primer usage?**

A: Dow has an online usage calculator on its website at <https://www.dow.com/en-us/market/mkt-building-construction/construction-calculators.html>

**Q: How do I find product data sheets and safety data sheets?**

A: Go to [www.dow.com/constructionsubmittals](http://www.dow.com/constructionsubmittals)

- Scroll to find the product you are looking for and select the needed document.
- If the document you need is not listed, please contact Dow for assistance.

**Q: Where can I get independent test reports and certification letters?**

A: Go to [www.dow.com/constructionsubmittals](http://www.dow.com/constructionsubmittals)

- Scroll to find the product you are looking for and select the needed document.
- Please contact Dow if the document you are looking for is not listed.

**Q: What is the maximum joint width for DOWSIL™ 888 Silicone Joint Sealant and DOWSIL™ 890-SL Silicone Joint Sealant?**

A: The maximum suggested joint width for DOWSIL™ 888 Silicone Joint Sealant and DOWSIL™ 890-SL Silicone Joint Sealant is two inches. Contact your Dow or distributor representative to discuss joint widths greater than two inches.

**Q: What is the maximum joint width for DOWSIL™ 902 RCS Joint Sealant?**

A: The maximum suggested joint width for DOWSIL™ 902 RCS Joint Sealant is four inches.

**Q: What are the suggested minimum and maximum sealant thicknesses?**

A: Minimum sealant thickness is 1/4" and maximum should not exceed 1/2".

**Q: Why does the sealant have to be recessed below the surface of the pavement?**

A: The recess helps to minimize sealant damage from abrasion such as tire contact. The recess must be deep enough to ensure the sealant does not rise above the pavement surface during joint movement. Dow recommends a minimum 3/8" recess for DOWSIL™ 888 and DOWSIL™ 890-SL. One half inch minimum recess is recommended for DOWSIL™ 902 RCS.

**Q: How long should concrete cure before installing DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants?**

A: Standard concrete mix should be allowed to cure for a minimum of seven days in good curing weather before installing DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants. Cold or inclement weather will extend this time. High early or other faster curing mixes may be able to be sealed in less than seven days, but a test section or mockup is suggested.

**Q: What is the minimum temperature DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants can be installed?**

A: Dow recommends installing DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants when ambient temperatures are 40°F and rising to help ensure substrates are dry at the time of sealant application, and the sealant should not be installed at or near the dew point. The sealant can be extruded and installed at lower temperatures, but joints must be clean, dry, and frost free regardless of temperature.

**Q: Are DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants fuel resistant?**

A: Yes. DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants are fuel resistant for short-term exposure, however they should not be used in spill containment areas.

**Q: What type of backer rod should be used with DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants?**

A: Either a closed cell or a soft type rod with a skin to prevent water absorption. Open cell backer rod should not be used.

**Q: Is it acceptable to twist or braid two smaller pieces of backer rod if the proper size backer rod is not available?**

A: No, this is not an acceptable practice. The proper size backer rod should be installed.

**Q: What is the recommended joint preparation procedure if abrasive blasting is not permitted?**

A: In lieu of abrasive blasting, high pressure water blasting may be used, according to the following steps.

1. Cut joints with a wet saw operation.
2. Rinse joints to remove slurry.
3. High pressure water blast in lieu of abrasive blasting. Typically, 3,000 to 5,000 psi is acceptable.
4. Rinse joints again and remove additional water and slurry. Vacuuming may be beneficial. Ensure water containing slurry and debris does not flow back into already cleaned joints.
5. Allow joints to dry for at least 24 hours.
6. Blow out joints with high pressure air.
7. Install appropriate backer rod.
8. Install sealant.

**Q: What is the procedure for preparing joints that includes abrasive blasting?**

A: Please reference the DOWSIL™ Brand Silicone Pavement Sealants Installation Guide.

**Q: How long should joints be allowed to dry after rain?**

A: Dow typically suggests 24 hours. More or less may be appropriate in certain circumstances depending on the amount of rain and local conditions.

**Q: How do I determine what size backer rod should be used?**

A: Backer rod should be 25% larger than the joint width.

**Q: Do I need to prime when using DOWSIL™ 888 Silicone Joint Sealant and DOWSIL™ 890-SL Silicone Joint Sealant?**

A: Primer is not typically required on porous substrates, however DOWSIL™ 1200 OS Primer is generally needed on non-porous substrates. Examples of non-porous substrates include, but are not limited to, metal, painted surfaces, and glass.

**Q: Can uncured DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants contact other uncured sealants?**

A: DOWSIL™ 888 Silicone Joint Sealant, DOWSIL™ 890-SL Silicone Joint Sealant, and DOWSIL™ 902 RCS Joint Sealant are all compatible with one another in an uncured state. Contact with any other uncured sealants should be discussed with Dow.

**Q: How can I tell if the joint is clean?**

A: Joints should be visually inspected for residue or debris remaining on the joint wall. Also run a finger along the joint walls. There should be no dust or residue on the finger after running along the joint walls.

**Q: There are gaps between the backer rod and joint wall. How do I prevent DOWSIL™ 890-SL Silicone Joint Sealant and DOWSIL™ 902 RCS Joint Sealant from flowing out of the joint?**

A: DOWSIL™ 888 Silicone Joint Sealant may be used to fill gaps. Filling the gaps with any other sealant should be discussed with Dow. The gaps can also be plugged with pieces of soft type backer rod that has a skin

**Q: Should a solvent wipe cleaning method be used with DOWSIL™ silicone pavement sealants?**

A: Cleaning with solvents is typically not suggested for porous substrates, while some non-porous substrates may require cleaning with solvent. Contact Dow if additional information is needed.

**Q: How long after sealing can the road be opened to traffic?**

A: Generally the road may be reopened in approximately one hour.

**Q: Does Dow have installation videos available for viewing?**

A: Yes.

Installation of DOWSIL™ 888 Silicone Joint Sealant:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_rNaBt88Hg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_rNaBt88Hg)

Installation of DOWSIL™ 890-SL Self-Leveling Silicone Joint Sealant:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUnCAKWvmfw>

DOWSIL™ 902 RCS Joint Sealant and the X.J.S. Expansion Joint System:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDQ1JCr5350&feature=youtu.be>



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