

Masonry Movement Joint Sealing JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A sealant crew will finish released exterior masonry movement joints at ground level using the specified backing material, primer where required and elastomeric sealant. Joint openings are already formed and cleared by the masonry crew. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- Joint geometry, substrate condition, sealant compatibility and product application limits are established in the project detail and actual product instructions.
- The chemical review covers the selected primer, sealant and approved cleanup method with ventilation, washing and spill arrangements.
- This excludes mortar-bed tuckpointing, grinding, structural crack repair, pressure washing, elevated access and firestop joint systems.

Questions before work

- What released geometry and backing detail permit the intended joint movement?
- Which sealant, primer and substrate compatibility evidence apply here?
- How will actual surface readiness, application conditions and cure protection be recorded?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release the joint and product system

Hazard: A sealed-over obstruction or incompatible product can prevent intended movement or lose adhesion.

Control: Sealant lead confirms the designated joints, current geometry, substrate release and identified product system. Resolve mortar bridges, damage and unknown coatings with the responsible masonry or design lead; do not grind or reshape the joint under this analysis.

Verification: Lead checks the joint schedule and product documentation before opening containers.

Reasoning: An open-looking slot does not establish the designed movement space.

2 Prepare safe access and surfaces

Hazard: Loose debris, sharp edges or unsuitable cleaning chemicals can injure workers or contaminate the joint.

Control: Separate the ground-level work bay and protect adjacent surfaces. Use the approved nonabrasive cleaning method with the required chemical controls and drying stage; keep the joint free of residue. Pause if preparation requires powered removal or a different material assessment.

Verification: Lead verifies surface readiness and safe chemical handling before backing placement.

Reasoning: Preparation must match both the sealant and the actual masonry substrate.

3 Install backing and bond separation

Hazard: Damaged backing or an incorrect depth can cause poor sealant shape or unwanted bonding.

Control: Place the specified compatible backer or bond-break material at the released depth using suitable blunt tools. Preserve its condition and intended bond separation; check the continuous joint before sealing rather than hiding an uncertain backing arrangement.

Verification: Lead checks backing identity, depth and condition against the current detail.

Reasoning: The concealed backing controls how the finished sealant can move.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Apply primer where required

Hazard: Primer vapors, skin contact or premature sealing can expose workers and compromise adhesion.

Control: Follow the actual primer and substrate requirements, SDS precautions and application window. Use assessed ventilation and contact protection, control ignition where applicable and keep containers closed. Omit or substitute primer only with the system's technical approval.

Verification: Applicator records product identity and the required preparation and timing conditions.

Reasoning: Neither always prime nor never prime is a universal joint rule.

5 Place and tool the sealant

Hazard: Poor contact, overfilled geometry or unsuitable tooling can create a joint that fails in movement.

Control: Apply and tool the specified sealant within its documented conditions and geometry, using the approved method to achieve the intended sidewall contact without defeating the backing arrangement. Use required contact protection; do not add an unapproved solvent or wetting agent.

Verification: Lead checks actual application conditions and the agreed sample or inspection criteria.

Reasoning: A smooth surface alone does not demonstrate adhesion or movement capability.

6 Protect cure and record handover

Hazard: Early contact, weather or cleanup can damage fresh sealant and conceal unresolved defects.

Control: Maintain the product's cure and weather protection and isolate the fresh joints from nearby work. Collect containers and waste under the SDS and site arrangements. Record actual locations, product lots, conditions and required test or acceptance findings before handover.

Verification: Receiving lead confirms cure restrictions and outstanding inspection or test actions.

Reasoning: The teaching example supplies no adhesion test or completed acceptance record.

Pause and reassess

- Joint geometry, hidden obstruction or substrate differs from the released condition.
- The specified product, primer window or application conditions cannot be verified.
- Chemical protection, cure protection or the acceptance method changes.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Work carefully and wear PPE.

More useful: Place the specified compatible backer or bond-break material at the released depth using suitable blunt tools. Preserve its condition and intended bond separation; check the continuous joint before sealing rather than hiding an uncertain backing arrangement.

Needs improvement: Check that everything is ready.

More useful: Sealant lead confirms the designated joints, current geometry, substrate release and identified product system. Resolve mortar bridges, damage and unknown coatings with the responsible masonry or design lead; do not grind or reshape the joint under this analysis.

Decisions that change the analysis

Is this the same task as masonry tuckpointing?

No. Tuckpointing replaces mortar in masonry bed or head joints. This task preserves a designed movement space and installs a compatible flexible sealant system; mortar filling or grinding would change its purpose and scope.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Identify the actual equipment and work boundaries, responsible people, applicable criteria, inspection findings and open actions. Resolve changes with affected crews and obtain required project authorization before work.

Training needs

- The actual movement-joint backing, primer, application and cure requirements, including verification hold points.
- Hazard communication, contact protection and spill-response limits for the identified primer, sealant and cleanup products.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

BIA Technical Note 18A: Accommodating expansion of brickwork
<https://www.gobrick.com/media/file/18a-tn18a.pdf>

Sika Sikaflex + Construction sealant product data and application guidance
<https://usa.sika.com/retail/en/products-catalog/sealants/non-sag/sikaflex-plus-construction-sealant.html>

OSHA 1910.1200 Hazard communication
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.