



**Developmental Technical Data Guide**

**CHEM LINK Products LLC**

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**Product Description**

CHEM LINK **SOF<sup>®</sup>-Rod** is a cylindrical, flexible foam rod for use as a sealant backing. **SOF<sup>®</sup>-Rod** is composed of a bi-cellular material, TYPE B, as defined in ASTM C 1330. **SOF<sup>®</sup>-Rod** may also be used as a gasket or sealing material as per ASTM C 717.

**Application Instructions**

Common applications include, but are not limited to, expansion and contraction joints, window glazing, curtain wall construction partitions, parking decks, bridge construction, modular home gasketing, and log home chinking.

**Benefits**

Use of **SOF<sup>®</sup>-Rod** limits the depth of the sealant and prevents excessive sealant use. It also acts as a barrier to the flow of sealant through the joint, helps prevent 3 point bonding, and forces the sealant to take a more optimum shape prolonging sealant service life.

**Joint Preparation / Installation**

Just prior to placing **SOF<sup>®</sup>-Rod**, clean all joints per the sealant manufacturer's recommendations. Thoroughly remove any concrete form-release agents, curing compound residue, laitance, or any foreign materials. To ensure a good sealant bond, joints must be clean, dry, and free of contamination prior to sealant application. Air compressors used for this purpose must be equipped with traps for removal of oil and moisture. Install the backer rod at the depth recommended on the corresponding sealant data guide.

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**Advantages**

- Easy to apply
- No outgassing
- Chemically inert
- Virtually dust-free
- Non-absorbent

**Compatibility**

**SOF<sup>®</sup>-Rod** is composed of a bi-cellular polyolefin foam. Bi-cellular polyolefin foam is compatible, both physically and chemically, with most cold applied sealants. Compatibility of sealants in contact with backings can be evaluated according to ASTM 1087 test Method C.

**Size Selection**

Proper size selection is important as it controls the depth of the sealant bead and helps prevent three point bonding. CHEM LINK recommends the backer rod be oversized (25-50%) and fit tightly into the joint to function as a bond breaker.

**Precautions:**

Do not puncture, over compress or stretch backer rod during insertion. Do not use with hot applied sealants. Test for outgassing of cold applied sealants in accordance with ASTM Test Method C 1253. Sealant compatibility should be confirmed by the sealant manufacturer.

TEMPERATURE LIMITS: -45°F (-42°C) to +160°F (71°C.)

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