# TYPICAL QUESTIONS



## Which of your fillers is best for freezer and cooler rooms?

Our Spal-Pro 2000 can be used in both freezers and coolers, for both joint filling and floor repairs. Our MM-80 and Edge-Pro XL can be used in refrigerated areas above 32˚F (0˚C)

## Will your fillers flow into narrow joints?

Spal-Pro 2000, Edge-Pro XL and MM-80 are all formulated at a viscosity that will allow them to flow readily into any 1/8" wide saw cut.

## What does "Shore hardness" mean, and why is it important?

Shore hardness is a measurement taken with a shore gauge. The gauge has a numbered dial on top and a needle on the bottom. When the needle is pressed against a cured filler, it provides a relative hardness reading.

There are two types of Shore gauges; A scale and D scale. The A gauge has a blunt needle, the D a pointed needle. The A gauge is more meaningful with a joint filler because it more accurately represents the filler's ability to support a load without deflecting. There is no direct correlation between A and D readings.

The primary function of a semi-rigid joint filler is to support material handling equipment without deflecting, thus providing joint edge protection and support. ACI (American Concrete Institute) and PCA (Portland Cement Association) have set A80 hardness as the minimum required for vehicle support. (A80 is similar in hardness to a semi-truck tire's rubber). MM-80 originally had an A80 hardness in the 60's when most vehicles had large diameter, softer wheels. Over the years we have increased the hardness of our fillers to A90-95. This is in response to the trend in material handling equipment towards smaller diameter, harder wheels.

At some point floor joint fillers will be rated on their compression resistance strength (load carrying capacity) rather than a shore reading. Until standards are set, the shore A hardness is still your best indicator of load support.

## What does elongation mean? Is it important?

Filler elongation is a measure of its ability to stretch lengthwise. This property, when measured in percentages, can be misleading when comparing fillers because installed fillers do not elongate; they are subject to only lateral (side to side) expansion. In a typical 3/16" wide saw cut a filler with 200% elongation generally will have only 5-10% lateral expansion capability. Do not be mislead by the alleged advantages of high elongation. It is not a valid criteria when it comes to spall-preventative floor joint fillers. If anything, it could be a disadvantage.

## Why must fillers be installed so deep?

The primary function of a filler is to support loads that cross the joint. Since the filler-to-concrete bond surface significantly affects the filler's support capability, deeper is always better. Maximum support is provided when the filler obtains additional support from the bottom of the saw cut.

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## Your products all bear a "food area warning." Why?

Since 1994 USDA does not issue blanket approvals for products used in food-related facilities. Product manufacturers must now self-certify on a project-by-project basis. But USDA rules state that precautions must be taken if any chemical is used in proximity to food or food packaging supplies. This means the user will bear ultimate responsibility for determining the potential for contamination. Our warning is designed to alert the user to the potential risks. Bear in mind that so-called odorless products can still cause contamination.

## Can your fillers be used in shrinkage compensating concrete?

Yes. Shrinkage compensating concrete is still concrete, and thus there is no difference in the filler adhesion. But if shrinkage comp is used to widen joint spacing, it must be recognized that each joint will eventually open wider. Accordingly, the eventual filler-to-concrete separation due to shrinkage may be wider. Call our technical staff for a more detailed explanation and our recommendations.

## Can your fillers be used in shake-hardened and trap rock floors?

Yes. In fact, a shake hardened floor indicates that severe, heavy traffic is expected. Metzger/McGuire is the industry leader in heavy duty fillers.

## Will your fillers change color once installed?

Because our fillers are meant for interior applications, they do not have built-in UV resistance. In recent years, certain types of industrial lighting have been found to emit UV rays which may cause both the epoxy and polyurea fillers to turn colors to a yellowish or greenish gray. While this color change may not be aesthetically pleasing, it will not affect the filler durability or longevity.

## Can your fillers be provided in various colors?

MM-80, Spal-Pro 2000 and Edge-Pro XL can be made in certain colors (white, blue, green, orange, red, etc.). There will be a surcharge for custom colors. Various pigments can be added at the job site to the "A" sides when small amounts are needed. Contact our technical staff for further information. Note: be aware that even custom colors are subject to possible color changes under UV exposure.

## Can we use your fillers under VCT or Floor Coatings?

Yes, but you need to be aware of a phenomena called "filler protrusion" that can occur in some floors. Please refer to our technical sheet T-4 on this subject or call our technical staff for information.

## Which filler should we use at column diamonds and slab-to-wall joints?

Since these joints are not generally subject to hard wheel traffic, a flexible elastomeric sealant like a polyurethane is more appropriate due to their greater expansive capabilities. A semi-rigid should be used, despite its limited expansion, if the joint will be exposed to wheel traffic.

## HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please contact our technical assistance department at (800)223-6680 for prompt, expert attention to all of your filler or industrial floor related needs.

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