


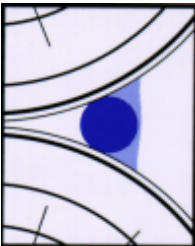




## Properties and Performance Comparison of Backing Materials

The choice of backing material is a primary consideration in an elastomeric log joint sealing system. The backing material performs five key functions in the joint design:

1. It limits the depth and amount of applied sealant.
2. It assists the sealant in forming the proper shape for optimum adhesion and depth/width ratio.
3. It acts as a bond breaker to prevent three point (bottom side) adhesion.
4. It provides insulation to the joint.
5. It strongly affects the aesthetic appearance of the finished joint.

Backing Material	R-Value Typical 1-1/2" per side	Repels Moisture	Bond Breaker	Typical Joint Design	(+)Strengths (-) Weaknesses
TRI-ROD®	> 12	yes	yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Triangular shape design provides flat even chinking surface</li> <li>+ Rounded edges provide strong adhesive "footprint" for sealant</li> <li>+ Does not distort or bulge</li> <li>+ Highest R-value</li> <li>- May add slight initial cost to chinking system</li> </ul>
Trapezoid Rod	> 5	yes	yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ May have slightly lower initial cost</li> <li>- Splayed edges do not fit well &amp; reduce chinking footprint area</li> <li>- Design configuration can fold and bulge at edges</li> <li>- Does not provide strong adhesive "footprint" at edges of joint</li> <li>- Significantly lowers R-value</li> </ul>
Grip Strip	> 5	yes	no		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ May have slightly lower initial cost</li> <li>- Does not provide strong adhesive "footprint" at edges of joint</li> <li>- Open cut cell surface does not meet ASTM bond breaker joint design requirements</li> <li>- Open cells may contribute to blistering of slow-curing sealants</li> <li>- Significantly lowers R-value</li> </ul>
HBR Round Rod	> 12	yes	yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ May have slightly lower initial cost</li> <li>+ Highest R-value</li> <li>- Greater quantity of chinking material is needed to cover round backing</li> <li>- Joint often tears due to too thin center and too thick edges</li> <li>- Round configuration creates bulging chink joint</li> </ul>
HBR - Split	> 6	yes	no		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ May have slightly lower initial cost</li> <li>- Does not provide strong adhesive "footprint" at edges of joint</li> <li>- Half round configuration can tip and bulge in joint</li> <li>- Open cut cell surface does not meet ASTM bond breaker joint design requirements</li> <li>- Open cells may contribute to blistering of slow-curing sealant</li> <li>- Significantly lowers R-value</li> </ul>
Foam Pak	> 6	no	no		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ May have slightly lower initial cost</li> <li>- Round configuration creates bulging chink joint</li> <li>- Joint often tears due to too thin center and too thick edges</li> <li>- Open cut cell surface does not meet ASTM bond breaker joint design requirements</li> <li>- Greater quantity of chinking material is needed to cover round backing</li> <li>- Does not provide firm, durable joint</li> </ul>

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