

Backer Rod Types

Open Cell Backer Rods

Made of polyurethane foam, Open Cell backer rods will absorb water but may be helpful when highly varying joint widths are encountered or if extra compressibility is needed. These types do not “out-gas” and aide in faster through-cure of the sealant by allowing access to atmospheric moisture from the backside of the joint. The Open Cell backer rod products tabulated below are compatible with GE sealants.

Closed Cell Backer Rods

Closed Cell backer rods are made of polyethylene foam, do not absorb water, and provide a more rigid backup than other types. Caution must be taken during installation not to puncture this type of rod or over-compress it into a joint cavity as out-gassing could occur which can lead to bubble formations in the sealant. The Closed Cell backer rod products tabulated below are compatible with GE sealants.

Hybrid Backer Rods

Commonly referred to as “hybrid” backer rods, this type combines some performance features of both the Open Cell and Closed Cell, namely being non-absorbing and non- “out-gassing”. The hybrid type backer rod products tabulated below are compatible with GE sealants.

Manufacturer	Website	Open Cell	Closed Cell	Hybrid
Nomaco, Inc.	www.nomacoefs.com	OCFoam™	HBR®	SOF®Rod
Armacell Canada	www.tundrafoam.com	Tundra Foam	Standard Backer Rod	Soft-Type
BASF	www.chemrex.com		MasterSeal 920	MasterSeal 921
Alcot Plastics Ltd.	www.alcotplastics.com		Backer Rod	Soft Backer Rod
Bay Foam Products Inc.	www.bayindustries.com		Mile High Foam®	