

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET	DESCRIPTION	DATE
TDS08	EXPANSION JOINTS	OCTOBER 2025

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Movement/expansion joints are spaces commonly and deliberately incorporated into a building's structure, including its floors, to allow it to accommodate stresses and strains exerted by movements because of heat, moisture, and environmental forces.

Movement joints are usually filled with a flexible material, such as a polysulphide filler, which absorbs compressive forces without damage and prevents ingress of dust and debris, which could render the joint ineffective.

Where movement joints are situated, a flooring installation should be terminated either side of the joint and a suitable proprietor treatment joint should be installed – **subfloor preparation products and floorcoverings should not be installed over the top**, otherwise the floor may rupture. Not only will this look unsightly, potentially produce a trip hazard, it will lead to a installation failure.

Correct treatment at expansion joints is also essential if the floor is going to last and perform in a safe and hygienic manner. We recommend that expansion joints are covered using either a PVC expansion joint cover, or a cover with a PVC insert, so that the flooring can be thermally welded to the cover.

It is recommended that a flooring contractor consult a structural engineer, the self-leveller supplier, the flooring trims supplier or site plans to find out the location of joints, especially where they are not visible, because they may be hidden by previous work, and to determine the best solution for the expansion joints.

The solution

It is advised that flooring contractors begin by installing sections of floorcoverings and terminate either side of the joint. Following guidance, the smoothing compound must be assessed at both sides of the joints to expose some of the waterproof surface membrane, which must be assessed to be intact, well-bonded, clean, and dust-free.

Subsequently, it is recommended that subfloor preparation products should be reapplied up to the edges of either side of the joint, this involves first the application of a high performance smoothing compound up to the level of the waterproof surface membrane. The movement joint should be cleaned out, ensuring its dust- and debris-free, then a polysulphide filler should be applied.

Final steps

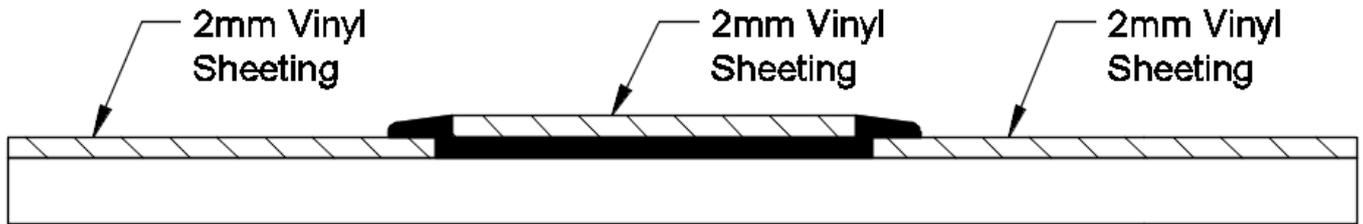
The surface must then be primed using an acrylic primer before another layer of high performance smoothing compound is applied to bring the areas that are being prepared/repared to the same level as the rest of the floor and create a base for the receipt of new floorcoverings.

When the smoothing compound is dry, new flooring can be installed over the repaired areas, either side of the expansion joints, using Polysales approved solvent-free acrylic emulsion adhesive. The seams between the new and/or previously installed vinyl sheet floorcoverings must be welded to maintain a watertight seal required for a seamless finish.



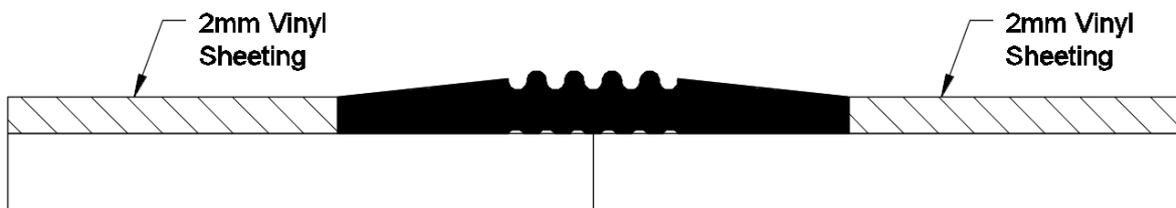
Lastly, a suitable expansion joint cover/repair trim can be installed to provide an aesthetically pleasing finish.

AVR5020 Floor Repair Trim



AVR5020 FLOOR REPAIR TRIM

EJC65 Expansion Joint Cover



EJC65 EXPANSION JOINT COVER

EJC125 Expansion Joint Cover

