



TRIDENT[™]

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

STRIVING FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Joint Stabilizing Sealer vs Polymeric Sand

What's the best option?

TB 7

There are many things to consider when determining the best option for joint stabilization.

After cleaning the surface and removing the old sand in a segmental pavement project, the next step is to install new joint sand or polymeric sand that meets the ASTM C144 standard. This is a specific gradation of fractured angular sand particles of different sizes. This sand will create the structure in the joint which will help to interlock the system together.

The combination of ASTM C144 joint sand and a Trident joint stabilizing sealer will harden joint sand, provide stain resistance and UV protection. Some joint stabilizing sealers will enhance the surface and provide a level of sheen/gloss. The combination of using joint sand and a joint stabilizing sealer can be used on most applications and is a great time saver. Typically the sand and sealer can be installed all in one day - once the surface has dried for 24 hours after cleaning (and/or rain). Below is a quick overview of some applications that we do make a specific recommendation of using joint sand with a joint stabilizing sealer or polymeric sand.

An application where joint sand and a joint stabilizing sealer will work best is an area that is prone to wet conditions such as a patio with a deck over it or areas that are shady, slow to dry and/or subject to a large amount of drainage. In these applications the surface may look dry but the system remains wet or takes longer to dry. A polymeric sand would potentially not work as well because it needs to completely dry in order to fully cure.

If the customer wants to have stabilized joints but their goals are not met by a joint stabilizing sealer, polymeric sand and a specialty sealer would be the best option. PolySweep polymeric sand offered by Trident will stabilize joints and when used in combination with a Trident sealer such as Barrier will also provide extreme stain protection. If the customer wants a higher level of water and salt protection, Trident's Sea Wall with PolySweep would be a great choice. The specialty sealer can be applied on a clean dry surface 24 hours after PolySweep has been installed per instructions.

Polymeric sand and a sealer combination may perform better on surfaces that are subject to heavier loading or vehicular traffic, like streets and some driveways. Any Trident sealer that meets the needs of the customer can be used and applied according to directions for sealer application after PolySweep has cured.

Trident sealers have been tested and proven to be compatible with PolySweep when following instructions and applied properly. No need to wait 30 days to apply a Trident sealer on a surface with PolySweep installed as some other polymeric sand manufacturers require.

For more helpful tips, be sure to read Trident's other technical bulletins found in the [Resource Library](#) at www.tridentprotects.com.