

We've Got It Covered

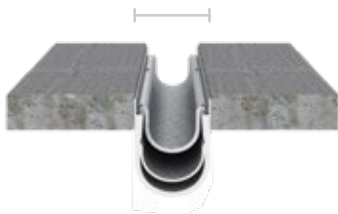
AN EXPANSION JOINT COVER EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Joint Sizing—Simplified

A critical element of proper joint sizing is to keep movement type and movement range in mind. It's essential to understand the measurements the engineer specifies for movement. The simplest way to do this is to request the nominal joint size and the movement range. The movement range is simply expressed as a dimension of how far the joint is anticipated to open and close. Asking for the movement described as a dimension will help the architect write a more precise specification for the finished assembly. Below, we've simplified the terminology used for sizing expansion joints.

Nominal joint width

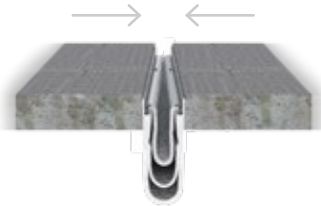
The specified size of the joint opening.



Width of the joint without movement

Minimum joint width

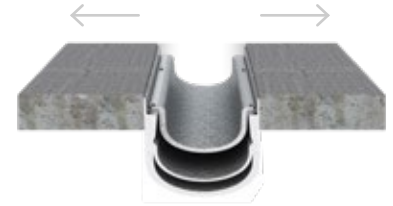
The narrowest linear gap that the joint is expected to close to. Avoid 0"



$$\begin{array}{r} 2'' \text{ nominal width} \\ - \\ 1'' \text{ close width} \\ = \\ 1'' \text{ min joint width} \end{array}$$

Maximum joint width

The widest linear gap that the joint is expected to open to.



$$\begin{array}{r} 2'' \text{ nominal width} \\ + \\ 1'' \text{ open width} \\ = \\ 3'' \text{ max joint width} \end{array}$$



Avoiding 0" is important when material such as joint cover retainers or a fire barrier will be present inside the joint opening. Any such element should be reviewed and confirmed, as it will affect the joint's sizing and could be compromised if a joint closes to 0". The available space for the material should be outlined during the planning phase.

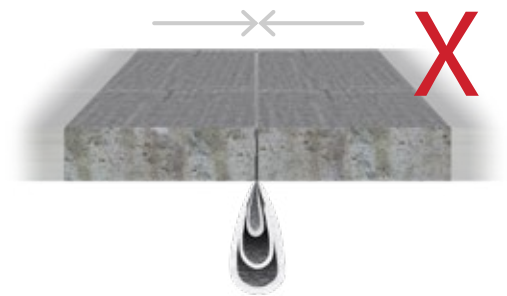
It is important to keep the following in mind:

- Joints smaller than 4" can usually close to half of the nominal joint size.
- Joints larger than 4" should allow for 4 inches for the fire barrier.
- Turnbars and retainers are two integral pieces that also affect the joint's sizing.

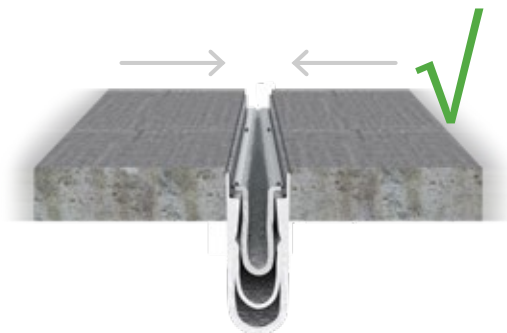
Always review movement data to ensure that the model selection meets your requirements.

Minimum joint width

The narrowest linear gap that the joint is expected to close to.



0" min joint width



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