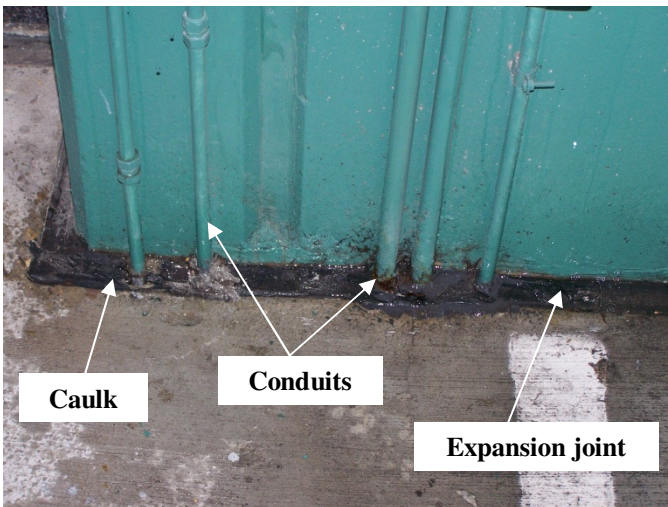




Now What Do I Do?

Expansion joints around stair wells and elevators are a common occurrence in multi-level parking structures. The free standing stairs towers are isolated from the structure by a void along the walls and/or around the perimeter of the towers depending on the location of the stair/elevator on the deck.



Floor-to-wall expansion joint isolating stair towers with conduit running through expansion joint opening.

It is not unusual to find conduit and communication lines running up the side walls of the stair towers where the expansion joint is expected to be placed. It is also expected that the people installing the expansion joints will somehow be able to seal the areas around the conduits and make them waterproof. This is a very challenging (although not uncommon) situation.

Conventional thermal rubber or neoprene seal expansion joint systems cannot be adapted well to seal out the water runoff. However, the pre-compressed contour foam type seals with their silicone top coat are designed to remain watertight for difficult to seal conditions, similar to this application (*see related article "Seismic Seals Work Hard..."*). The pre-compressed feature of the foam makes it an ideal selection because as the foam expands it closes tight around the conduit. Silicone material that matches the top coat of the foam is then used to complete the seal around the conduits.

In this application, the following steps were taken to complete the installation of the foam seal:

- Layout the foam seal next to the joint opening and mark the conduit locations
- Drill holes through the foam before removing the packaging shrink wrap packaging
- Relief cut the foam seal at each mark to correspond to the centerline of each conduit
- Insert the seal into joint opening around the conduits; a snug fit is desired
- After seal is in place, use tubes of caulk to seal around the pipes to the depth of the foam seal
- Apply a bead of caulk along the edge where the foam seal meets the concrete substrate and also where the foam seal meets the conduit
- Smooth the top to match the contour of the silicone surface
- Repeat process as needed

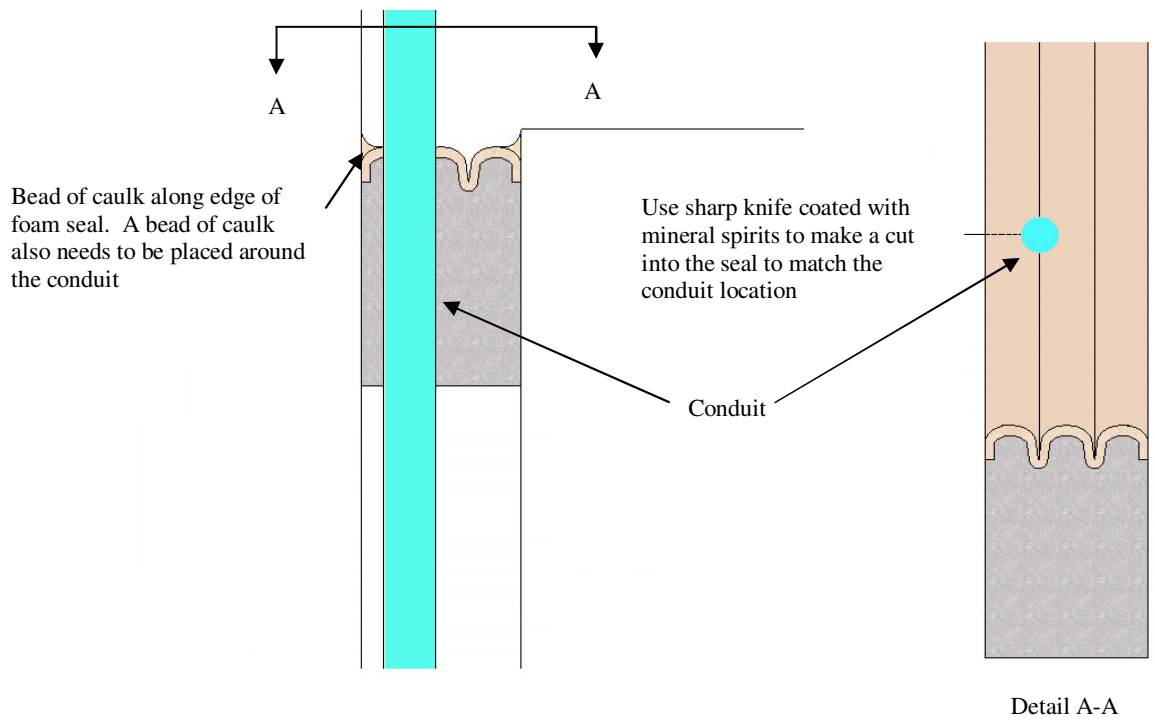


Illustration of method used to install foam seal around conduit

When you have a “What do I do now?” situation, we can help. With over 40 years experience in the expansion joint industry, we have seen (and helped solve) just about everything. Call us at 716-542-3991 or send an e-mail to techsupport@eriemetal.com.