

“Firestopping” of Penetrations in Fire Walls and/or Floors

Fire walls can spread through small openings!

Experience has shown that fire can spread from one building fire area to another, when electrical cable, conduit pipe and/or plumbing lines are not properly “firestopped”, where they penetrate fire walls and/or floors.

Penetration holes must be protected!

Model building codes and National Fire Codes now require that penetration openings in fire walls and/or floors be “firestopped” ensuring the integrity of the fire-rated walls and/or floors.

Protective devices and systems are available for sealing penetrations in fire walls and/or floors. Construction systems, based on a foamed-in-place fire resistant silicone elastomer, can be used for cable tray, cable conduit and pipe penetrations. It expands as it cures and forms a tight but resilient seal.

Putty-style firestopping, recommended for use in small penetrations, has the ability to swell or expand when exposed to sufficient heat and form a tight seal.

Selecting the proper “Firestops”

Firestop products should be carefully selected for each application:

- They should be tested, listed and classified by Underwriter’s Laboratories with respect to:
 - a) Installation in a wall only
 - b) Installation in a floor only
 - c) Installation in either a wall or floor
- Products of this type should have Fire Rating Classifications ranging from one to three hours.
- The Hourly Fire Rating of the firestop should match that of the fire wall or floor being penetrated.

Firestop products can be obtained through building material dealers, and/or electrical equipment suppliers.

For additional information, contact your local Great American Loss Prevention Specialist.

A fire door inspection program will help to maintain the integrity of fire doors by identifying and expediting repairs.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.
301 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 F13486B-LP (01/13)