

FIRESTOP – “TOP TEN” LIST

This list is not intended to be inclusive of all factors relating to firestop but addresses common questions/concerns in the industry

1. What is it? The product is designed to be used in a system to seal open penetrations and joints in fire rated walls and floor assemblies
2. Where is it necessary? Anytime a rated wall or floor assembly is penetrated with a penetrating item or joint and anytime there is a gap between the rated floor assembly and the exterior wall.
3. Why is it necessary?
 - **SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY ASSETS**
 - **LIMIT LIABILITY**
 - **REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUILDING CODES**
4. How to find firestop systems? UL directory or Firestop Manufacturer's technical literature
5. What is an Engineering Judgment? “EJ's” are for applications that do not have a recognized laboratory tested system; generated by a manufacturer's Fire Protection Engineer
6. Common incorrect products used for firestop:
 - **DRYWALL MUD & TAPE OR “FIRE TAPE”**
 - **FILLER FOAM** (E.G. “GREAT STUFF”)
 - **ANY COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS** (NEWSPAPER, INSULATION, TISSUES)
 - **ACOUSTICAL SEALANT**
 - **MIXED PRODUCTS**
 - **NOTHING AT ALL**
7. Products do not have ratings, only systems have ratings!
8. A tested system (or EJ) must match the field condition(s). It is 100% right or 100% wrong.
9. What information is necessary in order to find a tested system for through penetrations?
 - **TYPE & THICKNESS OF WALL/FLOOR**
 - **SIZE & SHAPE OF OPENING**
 - **FIRE RATING**
 - **ANNULAR SPACE**
 - **TYPE & SIZE OF THE PENETRATING ITEM(S)**
 - **TYPE & SIZE OF INSULATION (IF APPLICABLE)**
 - **TYPE & SIZE OF SLEEVE (IF APPLICABLE)**
 -
10. Who can help? Firestop Manufacturer or Technical Representative

FIRESTOP – QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

WEB RESOURCES

- <http://database.ul.com/cgi-bin/XYV/template/LISEXT/1FRAME/fireessrch.html> (UL's website)

LIMITING LIABILITY

- **Stringent project coordination and procedures**
 - Detailed specifications & documents
 - Establish standard operating procedures
 - Require firestop installation training by manufacturer
- **Firestop Specialty Contractors with Credentials**
 - FM 4991 Contractors
 - UL Qualified Contractors
 - Manufacturer Accredited Firestop Specialty Contractors
- **On-site assistance from Manufacturer**
- **Inspection - In-house or 3rd party**

BEST PRACTICES

- Installation Stickers - aid in identification, inspection and tracking
- Wall Stencil (mandatory as of 2009 IBC) or Color Code wall types in field
- Mock Up Walls for various applications (prior to installation)
- Pre-Construction Meetings:
 - Key firestop details
 - Review Contract Document Requirements
 - Review applications for Engineering Judgments
 - Obtain approvals
 - Discuss constructability issues
- Compile Complete Firestop Submittal, Review in the Office & in the Field
- Coordination of Trades (if no single Firestop Specialty Contractor)
- Review applications for Engineering Judgments
 - Obtain approvals
 - Discuss constructability issues
- Establish Inspection Guidelines & Expectations
 - Mock-up of each application for reference
 - Submittal with UL Details available for every inspection
- Schedule installer training (if no single FSC)