

Fire Stopping Checklist

Fire stopping is an important factor that has to be considered carefully when constructing a new building, or remediating an existing one. There are many standard fire stop solutions available but sometimes there are more complex issues to be considered which can mean a more specialist solution is required to deliver effective fire protection.

This checklist provides 15 crucial points you should consider when deciding on your fire stopping system.

Consider the building environment and situation

1. What types of substrate require sealing? Different types of substrate can require different solutions.
2. Are there spatial issues? For example, are there multiple pipes that are in close proximity to one another? In this scenario, some products may not be suitable and others may be difficult to install.
3. How easy (or difficult) is it to access all of the penetrations that require sealing? If they are at height or in confined spaces, this may affect the type of product you choose to install.

What are the firestop system requirements?

Are there any specific requirements of the fire protection system for this individual building?
For example:

4. What period of fire resistance is required from the system?
5. Will there be significant building movement that needs to be taken into account?
6. Will the pipework itself be expanding and contracting? Expansion and contraction of pipework can affect the performance of firestops – it is important to select a firestop that allows the pipe to move.
7. Do you need to ensure a cold smoke seal as well as a hot smoke seal? If smoke sealing is overlooked, this could be just as dangerous as allowing fire to pass through.
8. Does the product need to be effective under building vibration?
9. Is there a requirement to minimise noise conduction? This can be important on buildings such as theatres, music venues, sports venues, and some commercial buildings.

How is the firestop going to be installed?

10. If you are pre-installation of the pipework, there is often more flexibility in being able to find a solution. If the walls are up and pipework already installed, then the firestop options can be more limited. Ensure the solution you are using can be easily installed in your situation.

What to consider when selecting a manufacturer for your fire system

11. Does the manufacturer have experience and expertise in firestop systems?
12. Is the manufacturer a member of any industry bodies such as the ASFP or IFSA?
13. What kind of sales and technical support does the manufacturer offer? For products that are potentially lifesaving – it is important to ensure you have support from the manufacturer regarding recommending appropriate products, training for installation, post installation inspections and so on.
14. Have the manufacturer's solutions been adequately tested and certified as fit for purpose? Not only is it important for the solution to have the proper certifications, it is also crucial that the firestop is tested in different, real life, situations, to see how it reacts in different environments.
15. Does the manufacturer offer guarantees for the lifespan of the firestop? Guarantees can offer peace of mind for yourself and the building owners that the solution will remain effective over time.

Walraven's fire stopping solutions

Walraven manufacture a range of fire stopping solutions that are suitable for most circumstances, even when more complex issues are present. We are members of ASFP and IFSA supporting our focus on driving industry standards for fire protection. Our products are tested and approved by various independent authorities and many of our products have ETA certification. We also pride ourselves on going beyond standard testing procedures. We often test our products in bespoke situations to ensure they are fit for purpose in as many situations as possible.

Find out more about fire stopping by reading our fire stopping guide online at www.walraven.com/en/fire-stopping-guide

This checklist is intended as a guide only and should not be interpreted as a definitive list of considerations.

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