

User Guide

Introduction

The Trak Joint method uses a durable tool, called the TRAKER®. The TRAKER is straight forward in design and operation, yet a few tips will assist with proper use.

Trak Joint Tape Width

When the contraction joint depth is specified as 1/4th of the slab thickness, use this table to select the correct width of Trak Joint Tape. See www.trakjoint.com for a short video on preparing the TRAKER for use.

Thickness of Slab	Trak Joint Tape Width
4.0"	1.75"
5.0"	2.25"
6.0"	2.75"
7.0"	2.75"
8.0"	3.0"

For use with 7" and 8" slabs, an adjustment needs to be made to the tool. See below under Maximum Contraction Joint Depth for this adjustment.

Timing for Trak Joint Tape Installation

For the TRAKER to successfully embed Trak Joint Tape into fresh concrete, the concrete needs to be highly workable. During hot weather, concrete can lose its workability quickly. Experience has shown that it is necessary to use the TRAKER within one-half hour after placement of concrete. The top surface of fresh concrete may appear highly workable, but at depths below $\frac{3}{4}$ ", the aggregate particles can be firmly established in position. If that occurs, the insertion blade may ride over the coarse aggregate particles as opposed to pushing the particles aside. During cool weather, concrete remains workable for considerably longer. If the window of installation is missed, then the joints need to be saw cut a few hours later by early-entry saws.

Initial Use of TRAKER®

Two steps are necessary in preparing the TRAKER for use: **1)** the roll of Trak Joint Tape needs to be mounted properly and **2)** the insertion disc needs to be set to the proper depth.

- Proper mounting of the roll of Trak Joint Tape is shown on a diagram on the side of the TRAKER. If the tape is mounted incorrectly, then the roll of Trak Joint Tape will jamb as the TRAKER is pushed forward, and the tape will break. If the tape breaks, pull it out of the concrete and start over after mounting the tape roll properly.
- The insertion disc embeds the Trak Joint Tape to the proper contraction joint depth. There is a diagram on the side of the TRAKER (next to a wingnut which will loosen the axle to the insertion disc), that shows the depth setting for the width of Trak Joint Tape being used. It is recommended that the top of the tape be level with, or slightly below, the surface of the concrete slab. Upon initial use of the TRAKER, if the tape sits slightly above the surface of the concrete, then a small adjustment needs to be made to lower the insertion disc so that the Trak Joint Tape is embedded just below the surface. It works best not to have the tape embedded more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " below the surface of the concrete because the joint-crack, which forms above the tape, can be jagged and contain small "islands".

Folding Trak Joint Tape

The insertion disc folds the Trak Joint Tape as the tape is embedded. It is recommended that after being embedded in concrete, that the top ¼" of tape is a single ply. The TRAKER is factory set to accomplish this by having the insertion disc fold the tape 1/8" off-center. If the operator wants the insertion disc at the center of the tape, that adjustment is made by moving the collars on each side of the insertion disc. A 3/16" Allen wrench is needed to adjust the collars.

Maximum Contraction Joint Depth

The contraction joint depth can be set for slabs 7 and 8" thick by making an adjustment to the tool. The insertion disc needs to be moved so that the Trak Joint Tape is folded off-center by ½". (The factory setting folds the Trak Joint Tape off-center by 1/8".) The adjustment is to loosen the collars holding the insertion disc on the axle, and then move the insertion disc to the left or right as far as possible. For slabs 7" thick, use 2.75" wide Trak Joint Tape. For slabs 8" thick, use 3.0" wide Trak Joint Tape.

Remove Trak Joint Tape Above the Slab Surface

Some Trak Joint Tape might be exposed above the surface of the slab. This occurs when reinforcing bars are placed high in the slab. The TRAKER is designed to ride over the high bars, or other inserts in the slab, and a consequence is that the Trak Joint Tape will extend above the surface of the slab. To remove the tape above the surface of the slab, wait until the concrete is at least one day old, and then use a handheld propane torch to melt the plastic. This procedure goes quickly.

Variation in Concrete Mixtures

Most ready-mixed concrete contains well-graded aggregate. The workability of the concrete with 4" slumps and greater allows easy installation of the Trak Joint Tape. Some concrete mixtures do not contain well-graded aggregate, which can result in harsh, or stony, consistency of the concrete. For these mixes, the coarse aggregate particles can settle and become "locked" in place, and the TRAKER insertion disc cannot push through the aggregate, but instead will ride over the aggregate. In this situation, the TRAKER needs to be used before or immediately after bullfloating.

Trouble Shooting

Trak Joint Tape breaks: If the Trak Joint Tape breaks, a likely cause is that the roll of tape was mounted backward. See the diagram on the side of the TRAKER to mount the tape properly.

Trak Joint Tape not fully embedded:

- a) The insertion disc needs to be lowered.
- b) Reinforcing bars are located high in the slab. The TRAKER rides over high bars and the Trak Joint Tape will be exposed at those locations.
- c) Concrete has lost workability at depths below ¾", so the insertion disc cannot push aside the coarse aggregate particles. Too much time has passed after the concrete was placed. Use the TRAKER before bullfloating or immediately after bullfloating.

QUESTIONS?

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