WATERPROOFING
SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT
FOR WATERTIGHT CONCRETE STRUCTURES
SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT – AN INTEGRAL WATERPROOFING SYSTEM

BASEMENTS AND OTHER BELOW GROUND STRUCTURES usually need to be watertight. The Sika White Box Concept is one of Sika’s waterproofing solutions to improve the internal living environment with increased comfort and options for use. It is a rigid and integral waterproofing system with a high durability of the entire life period of the project. The Sika White Box Concept consists of several different components including the overall design and a complete waterproof concrete mix design for integral watertight construction, plus appropriate joint waterproofing solutions. It also provides recommendations and guidance on the best methods to construct a watertight structure and to prevent the entry of water from the surrounding ground for the long-term. The concept also fully considers and evaluates the ground water, exposure stress and different environmental conditions.

To meet the requirements of the owners, architects, engineers and contractors on site, Sika has compiled the most complete and comprehensive range of products and systems for the use in the Sika White Box Concept.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

RESERVOIRS AND WATER TANKS | DAM CONSTRUCTIONS | SWIMMING POOLS | INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS | COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDINGS | RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS | UNDERGROUND PARKING AREAS
The Sika White Box Concept has the additional advantage of relatively simple and fast installation without additional protection of the waterproofing materials being required. This is therefore also an extremely cost efficient solution. The watertight joint systems are mainly installed parallel to the reinforcement and shuttering work. No additional time window for their installation is required. Therefore working procedures on site reduce and the building time and costs for the basement decrease.

Additionally, in the event of any damage or leaks, this is easy to locate and can be repaired by injection of limited areas. This includes the injection of cracks in the waterproof concrete and in all different kind of joints. A range of injection materials are available from Sika for these applications and requirements.

Performance Characteristics:
- Rigid waterproofing system
- Use for rising capillary, seepage and pressure water (As BS Grades 1–3)
- Watertight but not water vapour-tight
- Use for non-moving ground conditions where the groundwater is not aggressive to concrete (without additional surface protection).
- Very high durability
- Reduced working procedures
- No additional protection needed
- Limited chemical resistance – as concrete

Use:
- For non-moving structures and less aggressive environments (without additional concrete protection)
SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT: SYSTEM COMPONENTS

The Sika White Box Concept can be used for different methods of construction including open-cut construction, precast and construction with diaphragm walls.

A | In-Situ Concrete
B | Diaphragm Wall
C | Precast elements

1 2 3

1. Waterproof concrete
2. Connection joint between of precast elements
3. Movement and construction joint
Connection joint with a diaphragm wall

Sealing of penetrations

Connection joint for diaphragm wall to floor slabs
SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT: USE AND LIMITS

IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESS of any watertight project to consider all of the requirements in service and the advantages and limitations of the whole waterproofing concept from the earliest point in the design process.

Dependent on the surrounding ground water conditions, the specific structure, its exposure and the construction process a full range of alternative materials and systems are available. These include the waterproof concrete which needs to meet our high quality standards, but also all details such as joints, connections and penetrations. A building is only as watertight as its weakest point.

DEGREE OF WATERTIGHTNESS REQUIRED (AS DESCRIBED IN BS 8102)

Can be achieved/reached with the Sika White Box Concept

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1</th>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Grade 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic utility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Better utility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Habitable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seepages and damp areas tolerable</td>
<td>No water penetration, damp areas tolerable</td>
<td>No water penetration acceptable, ventilation and dehumidification required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements

As Grade 3 plus
- No water vapour penetration
- Complete dry environment
- Thermal insulation
- Gas barrier
- Protection against chemical attacks

The Sika White Box Concept can be used for limited exposure and only for non-moving and environments not aggressive to concrete.

- Underground car parks
- Plant rooms
- Workshops
- Storage areas
- Plant rooms
- Workshops
- Residential areas
- Underground car parks
- Service Areas
- Workshops
- Storage rooms
- Archival rooms
- Living rooms
- Leisure centres
# ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS

## OWNERS

### ADVANTAGES FOR OWNERS

**SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT:**
- Long term experience
- Long service life
- No architectural effects

### BENEFITS FOR OWNERS:

**PERFORMANCE:**
- Resistant to percolating water and water under pressure
- Time and material cost savings
- Delivers maximum footprint and useable space
- Long term durability

### CONSULTANTS

### ADVANTAGES FOR CONSULTANTS

**SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT ALLOWS:**
- Standard structural concrete and sealing functions
- Freedom of design
- High security with the possibility of back-up systems
- Tested and approved system for many years
- Different performance levels available for different requirements

### BENEFITS FOR CONSULTANTS:

**COST EFFECTIVE:**
- Larger concreting steps
- No additional time for the waterproofing materials application
- Easy refurbishment if necessary
- Simplified structural design and construction methods

### CONTRACTORS

### ADVANTAGES FOR CONTRACTORS

**SIKA WHITE BOX CONCEPT:**
- Easy and fast installation of all components
- Easy to control and test the quality of application
- Easy to repair
- Easy detailing
- Different products available to meet different requirements

### BENEFITS FOR CONTRACTORS:

**QUALITY:**
- Easy and reliable systems
- Easy to repair and maintain
- Time saving
- Eliminates additional materials and operations on site
THE IMPERMEABILITY OF CONCRETE AGAINST water penetration is determined by the impermeability of the binder matrix, i.e. the capillary porosity. The pores are the potential migratory paths for water through the concrete. Therefore normal concrete can be described as a porous material that allows the passage of water.

The impermeability of concrete can be improved by adding special components. Active components will form non-soluble materials throughout the pores and capillary structure of the concrete and effectively seal the concrete permanently against the penetration of water and other liquids. In addition there are other special ingredients which can enhance the self-healing properties of concrete and which improve the concrete’s ability to heal any cracks that form. The water impermeability of a structure is defined by the limitation of water permeability through the concrete. The volume of water that penetrates into the concrete structure on one side has to be lower than the volume of water that can evaporate at the opposite side. The water conductivity test is a measurement of this performance.

Different requirements regarding the limitation of water permeability through the concrete must be fulfilled to achieve a waterproof concrete.

The most important performance criteria of the concrete are:
- Water penetration depth <30 mm
- Water conductivity <6 g/m²/h
- Drying shrinkage <0.05%
- Water absorption
- Self healing properties

With the use of Sika products this performance can be positively enhanced.

WATER PENETRATION DEPTH
- Max. penetration depth has to be agreed by the involved parties (Sika recommendation <30 mm)
- Requirement: Good concrete quality and the right solutions for joint design and sealing!

SIKA WATERPROOF CONCRETE MIX DESIGN AND PROPERTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example formula</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggregates</td>
<td>Any quality aggregates possible</td>
<td>All aggregate sizes are possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>Any cement meeting local standards</td>
<td>350 kg/m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powder additives</td>
<td>Fly ash or ground granulated blast furnace slag (max. 40%)</td>
<td>Sufficient fines content by adjustment of the binder content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water content</td>
<td>Fresh water and recycling water with requirements regarding fines content (max. 40%)</td>
<td>Water/cement ratio according to standards with regard to exposition &lt;0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete admixtures</td>
<td>Superplasticizer Type dependent on placement and workability method, requirements and time</td>
<td>Sika® ViscoCrete® or SikaPlast® or Sikament® Sika®-WT 0.60 – 1.50% 1.00 – 2.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation requirements</td>
<td>Curing compound</td>
<td>Subsequent curing to ensure high quality (compactness) of surfaces Sika® Antisol®</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRODUCTS USED IN MIX DESIGNS FOR SIKA WATERPROOF CONCRETE

SUPERPLASTICIZER

Sika® ViscoCrete®
- Substantial water reduction
- Increased strength and impermeability
- Reduction in capillary porosity

SHRINKAGE REDUCING ADMIXTURE

Sika® WT-100
- Reduced water conductivity
- Improved water impermeability

WATER RESISTANT ADMIXTURE

Sika® Control 40
- Reduced drying shrinkage and cracking
- Reducing permeability
- Increasing concrete durability

WATER RESISTING AND CRYSTALLINE ADMIXTURE

Sika® WT-200
- Reduced water conductivity
- Improved water impermeability
- Enhances the self-healing properties of the concrete

MOLD RELEASE AGENT

Sika® Separol®
- Easier striking and cleaning
- No adverse effect on concrete surface
- Visually perfect surfaces

CURING AGENT

Sika® Antisol®
- Protection from premature drying
- Increasing concrete durability
Waterstops should be used to stop the water transmission at joints and therefore must be installed in all joints to produce a closed joint sealing system.

Due to the nature of concrete and reinforced concrete, structures must always be built divided into sections by forming joints. Construction joints are necessary-products used for the sealing of construction joints because of these concreting steps (construction or day-work joints).

There are a range of waterstops for different requirements, tested and approved to meet local regulations and specifications.
- Hydrophilic Gaskets (profiles and sealants)
- Thermoplastic Waterbars
- Adhesive Tapes
- Injection Hose systems

The positioning of the waterstop should be appropriate for the method of construction and the risk level.
PRODUCTS USED FOR THE SEALING OF CONSTRUCTION JOINTS

**HYDROPHILIC GASKET INTERNAL**

SikaSwell®
- Highly economical
- No influence on formwork or reinforcement
- Can be used as a back-up system
- Tested and approved system
- Alternative profiles available for different requirements

**ADHESIVE TAPE EXTERNAL**

Sikadur-Combiflex® SG
- Approved for the use in contact with drinking water
- Easy adaptable to the construction method
- Excellent adhesion to different substrates

**THERMOPLASTIC WATERBAR INTERNAL/EXTERNAL**

Sika® Waterbar
- Easy design of closed systems for construction and expansion joints
- Easy connections by welding
- Pre-fabricated waterstop systems are possible
- Internal and external waterstops available

**INJECTION HOSE SYSTEM INTERNAL**

SikaFuko®
- Suitable for high requirements
- No influence on formwork or reinforcement
- Stand alone or back-up systems
- A good injection fills the complete joint and prevents any entry of water
- Re-injectable systems
SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE given to the use of waterstops at movement joints. Movement joints are necessary because of movement in the structure as a result of settlement, traffic loads, shrinkage or other causes. In addition to the function of the waterstops to act as a waterproofing seal in the joint, the waterstop should allow the sections to move independently of each other – without restriction (free from tension).

Construction and movement (expansion) waterstops must create a closed waterproofing system. For sealing and waterproofing of the concrete structure, waterstops are installed in all of these types of joints.

Where internal waterstops are used, correct fixing is essential to keep the waterstops in place during the concreting operations. Good compaction of the concrete around the waterstops is also necessary to avoid paths for water ingress.
PRODUCTS USED FOR THE SEALING OF MOVEMENT JOINTS

THERMOPLASTIC WATERBARS INTERNAL/EXTERNAL

Sika® Waterbars
- Easy design of closed systems for construction and expansion joints
- Different products, shapes and sizes for diverse requirements (load and exposure)
- Customized sealing system solutions for different technical, practical and economic requirements
- Resistant to many aggressive media
- Pre-fabrication of waterstop system possible
- Long term experience
- Long service life

BONDED TAPES – EXTERNAL (POSITIVE SIDE)

Sikadur-Combflex® SG
- Approved use in contact with drinking water
- Easy adaptable to the construction program
- Excellent adhesion to different substrates
- Highly flexible
- Easily maintained

PRODUCTS USED FOR THE SEALING OF MOVEMENT JOINTS
BESIDE THE STANDARD APPLICATION of sealing products in construction and movement joints the sealing of any other connections and joints is also necessary, such as connections between precast concrete elements, different materials and different parts of diaphragm walls and the connections between diaphragm walls and floor slabs.

PRECAST ELEMENTS
These are supplied directly to site and the joints between them need to be sealed after installation. Post applied systems such as Bonded Tape systems can ensure their watertightness.

DIAPHRAGM WALL (DW)
Diaphragm walls are made in many single segments in different building methods and systems. The connections between these components need to be sealed to keep the excavation dry and to then use the wall as part of the watertight building envelope. Technologies used to seal DW are thermoplastic waterbars and injection hose systems.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DIAPHRAGM WALLS AND THE BASE / FLOOR SLABS
To create a whole watertight structure and system, the joint between the sealed diaphragm wall and the base / floor slabs also needs to be sealed. This can be achieved by using a combination of technologies (e.g. hydrophilic gaskets plus injection hose systems).
PRODUCTS USED FOR THE SEALING OF CONNECTION JOINTS

**BONDED TAPES**

Sikadur-Combiflex® SG
- Flexible post-applied sealing system
- Excellent adhesion to different substrates
- Highly flexible
- Easily maintained

**THERMOPLASTIC WATERBAR**

Special Sika® Waterbars
- Different products designed to fit mostly formwork systems
- Durable sealing of the connections between segments
- Systems can be adapted to meet site requirements

**INJECTION HOSES AND HYDROPHILIC GASKETS**

Combination of different products to reach best results:

SikaFuko®
- SikaFuko® injection hose systems to seal all remaining gaps between the different sealing layers

SikaSwell®
- Double function of SikaSwell® as a sealing system and to control the limits of the injection
ENGINEERED WATERPROOFING is all about the details. Therefore, details such as sealing around formwork spacers, service entries, isolation joints between different material and pipe penetrations also have to be considered.

Very effective solutions to seal such details are SikaSwell® swellable profiles and sealants. The SikaSwell® products develop an expansive swelling pressure between the expanding SikaSwell® and the surrounding concrete structure. This blocks the penetration of water through the joint and provides a durable waterproofing solution.

SikaSwell® PRODUCTS USED FOR WATERPROOFING DETAILS

**FORMWORK SPACERS**

SikaSwell® Plug and Rings are an easy and secure way of sealing around all types of formwork spacers. Different sizes are available for most common spacers. The SikaSwell® Ring seals around the outside of the spacer while the SikaSwell® Plug seals the inner side.

**ISOLATION JOINTS**

SikaSwell® can seal the isolation joints between different materials very easily. It can be applied or bonded to many different substrates as well as concrete, including stone, metals and many plastics.

**PENETRATIONS**

Waterproofing details are required at all types of penetrations. The SikaSwell® system using sealants and different shaped profiles can meet many different requirements.
There are different materials, products and methods used to seal the waterproofing details. Besides the swellable products the post-applied bonded tape Sikadur-Combiflex® SG system is a reliable and easy to apply sealing solution for such details and creates a closed waterproofing system. The Sikadur-Combiflex® SG system is adjustable to different detailing, and highly flexible; therefore it can be used here as well as for sealing construction and movement joints, especially for waterproofing details such as penetrations and connection joints between precast concrete elements. This system is also useful for the repair of damage to concrete arrises and surfaces, plus their subsequent sealing during maintenance.

Sikadur Combiflex® SG SYSTEM USED FOR WATERPROOFING DETAILS

**PENETRATIONS**

All penetrations such as service entries or pipe penetrations must be sealed to create a closed sealing system. Sikadur-Combiflex® SG can be used as post applied system to secure such areas and seal them durably.

**CONNECTION JOINTS**

Connection joints between precast concrete elements need to be sealed after installation of the individual segments. In addition all transitions / connections to in-situ concrete must be sealed - typically using the Sikadur-Combiflex® SG System.
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

An optimized design of a basement with a simple shape and few or no offsets and inside corners reduces the stress within the structure. Additional measures to reduce stress in the structure e.g. additional reinforcement and joints can be reduced or eliminated and the construction sequences will be easier and more efficient.

- Simplify design and construction methods
- Buildings have to be designed and built free of excess water and separation cracks
- Any necessary joints have to be sealed in every situation
- The structure, the shuttering system and the reinforcement have to allow good and easy concrete placing
- Consider any aggressive water and the ground conditions

Relevant Standards:
- UK: National Structural Concrete Specification for Building Construction
- German Standard: DAFStb-Richtlinie – Watertight Concrete Structures

REQUIREMENTS FOR WATERPROOF CONCRETES

An optimized granulometry and w/c ratio: the selection of appropriate type of cement, an improved rheology and the use of admixtures such as shrinkage reducers, pore blockers, superplasticizers, etc. result in limited crack formation within the concrete. A homogenous concrete, without any changes of thickness reduces or eliminates any local stress points.

- Restrained shrinkage and thermal movement to maximum of 0.2 mm (Local specification/standards take precedence if lower than 0.2 mm)
- Aspect ratio should not exceed 3:1
- Minimum section thickness 200 mm for ground water and percolating water, 240 mm for ground water and percolating water (Minimum cover to joint protection systems can also dictate increases in section thickness)
- Low concrete drop height
- Good flow without segregation and an even distribution
- Good vibration
- Concrete free of voids
- Maximum dimension in horizontal areas of 400 m², in vertical areas the size needs to be adapted according to the height and thickness of the concrete structure.

Relevant Standards:
- EU Standard: EN 206
- EU Standard: EN 12390-8
- German Standard: DAFStb-Richtlinie - Watertight concrete Structures
The selection and definition of construction and movement joints has to be carried out according to the exposures and site conditions. Joints should be positioned in order to split the base slab into regular square areas to reduce stress.

- Design, creation and installation of a closed waterproofing system within the reinforced concrete structure in all joints
- Stay within one system and material quality to simplify connections and details
- Stay internal or external with the selected waterstop system to avoid special transitions and effects on the reinforcement
- Waterstops should be installed in their specified position symmetrical to the joint axis, and be fixed so their position can not change or move during concreting works
- Waterstops must be fully enclosed in concrete and the concrete must be free from voids
- Internal Waterstop systems must be designed with the proper clearance between the profile and the adjacent rebar

**Relevant Standards:**
- German Standard: DIN 18197 – Sealing of joints in concrete with waterstops
- German Standard: DIN 18541 – Thermoplastic sealing strips for sealing joints in in-situ concrete
- German Standard: DIN 7865 – Elastomeric joint sealing strip for sealing joints in concrete
- USA Standard: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CRD-C-972-74 - Specifications for PVC Waterstop

**Requirements for Joint Sealing Systems**

This is the key design element to limit crack formation. The amount of steel reinforcement normally is significantly higher than that needed for the structural integrity only. Calculation of the minimum steel grade and distribution should be carried out by a structural engineer who is familiar with the local standards.

- The selection of structure dimensions and grade of steel reinforcement, maximum diameters and spacing, which allow systematic installation of joint sealing and concrete (including vibration of the fresh concrete for good compaction)
- The amount of steel reinforcement ensures limitation of any cracks in the waterproof concrete to a maximum of 0.2 mm.

**Relevant Standards:**
- German Standard: DIN 1045 -1
SIKA INJECTION SYSTEMS are necessary as post-repair solutions to seal concrete structures. If any leaks occur the Sika injection systems will reliably seal leaking structures so they are subsequently watertight. Due to the possibility of direct detection of any leaks the repair work is focused on the specific area and is therefore highly effective.

TYPICAL PROBLEMS IN WATERTIGHT CONCRETE STRUCTURES

CRACKS IN WATERPROOF CONCRETE

Water bearing cracks in waterproof concrete, as a result of high shrinkage or additional uncalculated external loads e.g. poor concrete quality or loads which cause movement in the structure, such as heavy traffic and high settlement. Packer injection can be used to fill and bridge these cracks durably and to restore structural strength if required.

JOINTS

Movements and construction joints if the joint sealing system is defective, damaged or not properly installed. Construction joints can be sealed using an injection hose system or packer injection in the joint area. Movement joints can also be repaired using packer injection.

AREAS OF WATERPROOF CONCRETE

Leaking areas in waterproof concrete are because of inadequate concrete quality e.g. honeycombing, voids and pores due to poor installation and vibration, or the wrong mix design. Remedial surface sealing by curtain injection of the defects seals the leaks.
SIKA INJECTION TECHNOLOGIES USED AS POST REPAIR SYSTEMS

PACKER INJECTION:

Separation cracks and damaged joints can lead to direct and heavy water ingress. This water ingress must be stopped immediately with a fast reacting and expansive material before proceeding with the final repair.

Typical material:
- Sika® Injection-101 RC (Polyurethane)

After the material which was used to stop the water ingress, the leak must be re-injected to seal the structure durably. For wet areas without heavy water ingress the flexible material can be injected directly into the crack or joint area.

Typical materials:
- Sika® Injection-201 CE (Polyurethane)
- Sika® Injection-306 (Acrylate)

Injection can be used not only to seal a structure but also to improve or restore the structural integrity of the concrete structure. Non-moving cracks and non-homogeneous areas can be bonded, filled and sealed with a rigid material.

Typical materials:
- Sika® InjectoCem-190 (Cementious)
- Sikadur®-52 (Epoxy)

INJECTION HOSE SYSTEMS:

SikaFuko® injection hose systems are installed before concreting and are ready for use after hardening of the concrete. In the event of any leaks the system allows direct and fast access into most areas of a watertight concrete structure.

Typical materials:
- Sika® Injection-306 (Acrylate)
- Sika® Injection-201 CE (Polyurethane)

CURTAIN INJECTION:

Packers are placed in a grid in or all over the concrete structure to inject the material and create a new water-tight sealing layer.

Typical material:
- Sika® Injection-306 (Acrylate)
Sika provides a full and complete range of products and systems based on all available modern technologies for waterproof concrete and joint sealing systems to meet the specific requirements of each project and structure.

Sika provides technical and practical support not only during the design and specification phase to ensure selection of the right materials and technologies, but also during their installation on site with additional training for engineers and contractors.

Sika’s mobile concrete laboratories allow easy and economic quality checks and control of waterproof concrete on site.

Sika provides additional services and support with systems for maintenance and repairs to ensure watertightness of your structures throughout their designed service life, even in times with changing conditions and requirements.
WHO WE ARE
Sika AG, Switzerland, is a globally active specialty chemicals company. Sika supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, façades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting loadbearing structures. Sika’s product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems.

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