



### Silicone chemistry – beneficial in fire retardant designs.

Note: Project specific testing is required when using DOWSIL™ Silicone at the connection between floor and curtainwall.



# **Building and fire safety**

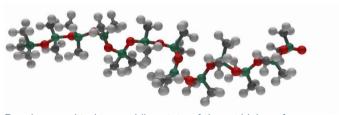
Recent events have reminded us that fire safety of buildings is critically important. In commercial and residential building designs, an acceptable level of fire protection must be installed to minimize the risks associated with flames, heat and smoke. This can be achieved by including passive fire-protection design within the façade and inside the structure according to local standards. Passive fire protection not only helps preventing the incidence of fire but also provides more time for building occupants to escape. Apart from flames, one of the most dangerous side effects of fire is smoke development and toxicity.

## How can we limit the spread of fire when it comes to building design?

Buildings are typically sub-divided into discrete compartments specifically to limit the spread of fire, smoke and gases. These components also give occupants enough time for a safer evacuation.

This is why building materials we select are so vital: the materials' behavior in resisting fire is a key factor in determining how much time will be available to exit a building.

Compartment walls and floors form a complete barrier between each unit and are required to provide a minimum degree of fire resistance. It is crucial to ensure that the fire rating of junctions and openings in walls and floors is equivalent to the fire rating of the walls and floors themselves. Joints and openings between fire-separating elements should be fire retardant to maintain the continuity of resistance and be able to achieve the same fire rating as adjacent building materials.



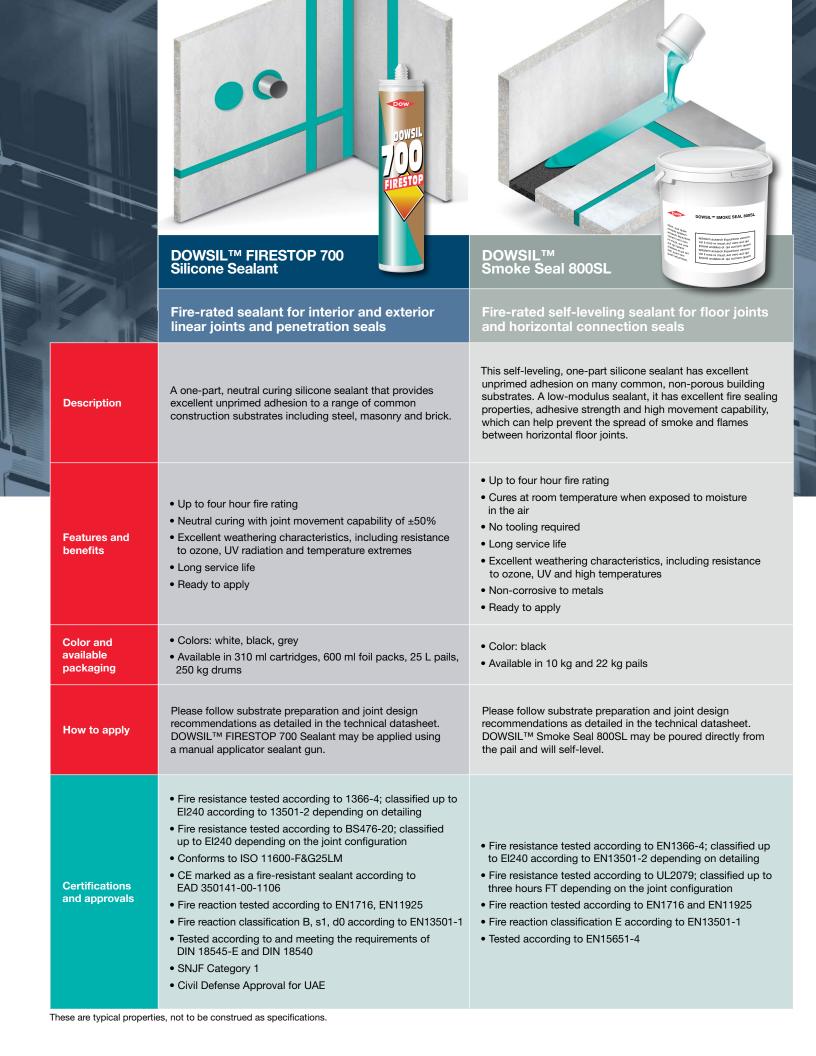
Dow is committed to providing state-of-the-art high performance building technologies for fire safety applications. Safe building solutions that minimize risk and increased safety are our top priority.

#### A unique advantage

Sealants themselves cannot specifically protect from fire, but can play a key role in the system design and help limit the spread of fire and smoke. Silicone technologies are non-flame propagating, do not produce flaming droplets and have a limited non-toxic smoke development. These material properties can be especially beneficial in fire-rated systems and designs. Silicones are particularly renowned for their movement capability, adhesion profile, UV and temperature stability and durability. They help protect against water and air intrusion and provide excellent all-round protection and performance against damaging weather conditions.

When selecting fire retardant technologies, Dow Building Science offers a range of DOWSIL<sup>TM</sup> brand solutions for vertical and horizontal applications as well as cable penetrations, fenestrations and building element connections. Our technologies have been certified by external test institutes in a wide range of joint configurations. Dow's technical specialists look forward to collaborating on future projects and assisting in the selection of our technologies.







## For more information

Learn more about Dow's full range of High Performance Building solutions, including service and support, at **dow.com/buildingscience**.

Dow has sales offices, manufacturing sites and science and technology laboratories around the globe. Find local contact information at **dow.com/contactus**.





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