

Description

The socket pads are cut from a sheet of intumescent non-setting mastic, in a cross shape. They are commonly known in the drywall and fire protection industry as 'putty pads'. The pads are enclosed in release paper on both sides.

Composition

Intumescent silicone polymer mastic

Appearance

The pads are pink coloured, 4 mm thick, and pliable. They are sized so that they fit inside sockets nominally 38mm deep, single or double. There are two sizes available to fit single and double sockets.

Application

The pads are for fitting either inside, or on the rear, of electrical socket boxes to maintain both the fire and acoustic performance of partitions and drywall linings. They can be used with both plastic and metal sockets, of either the push-in type or the noggin-mounted type. The most common application will be to fire protect plastic sockets designed for use with plasterboard dry lining systems.

Technical Performance

The pads have been extensively tested with Siniat GTEC partitioning systems at independent and UKAS accredited test facilities to BS 476-20 and BS EN 1366-3.

The pads allow sockets to be installed back to back in the same stud module and maintain fire and acoustic performance, within either timber or steel frames for use in both domestic and commercial projects, e.g. separating walls, hospitals, schools, offices and cinemas.

The pads are electrically insulating and will not cause a short circuit hazard or electrocution hazard.

There is no need to use traditional baffles or rock mineral wool packing.

The pads are soft and pliable and easily cut with a retractable blade knife.

They will fire protect service openings for up to 120 minutes and are suitable for domestic separating walls.

During fire, the pads start to intumesce at a temperature of 200°C, about the same time as the plastic face plate of the socket box begins to melt. As the polymer begins to flame inside the box cavity, the GTEC Socket Pad expands to more than 10 times its original thickness and fills the hole previously occupied by the socket. It binds with the screws and lugs previously holding the box and does not collapse into the cavity.

For sound insulation, the GTEC Socket Pad doubles the mass of the plastic or metal boxes and seals air paths made by the electrician when he pulls the wires through. For the best performance, the partition should have a fibreglass quilt hanging behind the box before installation. There is no upper limit as to how many service penetrations are cut into the partition when using GTEC Socket Pads.

Installation

The release paper is peeled from the sides to be fitted into the box. The pad is fitted into the box, moulding it into the corners using fingers and thumbs. Then the outer release paper is peeled away. Any excess pad can be cut away with a retractable blade knife and cut around the cables. Off-cuts can be used to fill additional holes and are used in other boxes to minimise wastage.

Health and Safety

There is no health hazard using this product. It is non-irritant when coming into contact with the skin, but it is recommended that the installer either wears protective safety gloves and/or washes their hands with soap and clean water after fixing. The product is non-toxic and inert.

Disposal

Only the release paper needs to be discarded, which should be into a skip designated for general waste. The GTEC Socket Pad backing paper and any small off-cuts cannot be recycled.

June 2014