Claims

1. An expansion joint for providing a rodent-proof barrier, the expansion joint comprising:

an elongate core formed of a resiliently deformable material, the elongate core comprising an elongate portion and first and second ends; and

a flexible sheath of a barrier material covering at least a part of the elongate portion of the elongate core;

wherein the elongate portion of the elongate core is compressible in a direction perpendicular to a line between the first and second ends of the elongate core, the elongate core being arranged to be compressed and inserted into a gap between first and second building structures, and to expand after insertion into the gap so that the expansion joint is held in place within the gap by friction between the surface of the flexible sheath and the surfaces of the first and second building structures,

and wherein the flexible sheath is formed of woven metal wire.

2. An expansion joint as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate portion of the elongate core has a constant cross-section along its length.

3. An expansion joint as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the woven material is a continuous weave.

4. An expansion joint as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the woven metal wire is a knitted mesh of metal wire.

5. An expansion joint as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the elongate core comprises a prefabricated foam tube.

6. An expansion joint as claimed any preceding claim, wherein the flexible sheath is held in place on the elongate core by friction between the flexible sheath and the surface of the elongate core.

7. A method of bridging a gap between first and second building structures using an expansion joint as claimed in any of claim 1 to 6, wherein a width of the elongate portion of the elongate core of the expansion joint in a direction perpendicular to a line between the first and second ends of the elongate core is greater than the width of the gap, the method comprising the steps of:

compressing the elongate core in the direction perpendicular to a line between the first and second ends of the elongate core;

inserting the expansion joint into the gap; and

allowing the elongate core to expand such that the expansion joint is held in place within the gap by friction between the surface of the flexible sheath of the expansion joint and the surfaces of the first and second building structures.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising, prior to inserting the expansion joint in the gap, the steps of:

selecting an elongate core, the width of the elongate portion of the elongate core of the expansion joint in a direction perpendicular to a line between the first and second ends of the elongate core being greater than the width of the gap; and

covering at least a part of the elongate portion of the elongate core with the flexible sheath.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8, further comprising the step of applying a filler layer and/or a finishing layer to the gap to cover the expansion joint.