

Re: Dummies question – gap filler

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005–08/msg01092.html>

- *From:* "John A. Weeks III" <john@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 04 Aug 2005 08:44:33 –0500
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In article <YsnIe.23214\$bT4.13778@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "John Smith" <johnNOSPAMsmith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

> If you remove something called a 'gap filler' what replaces the gap?

Shuttle techs routinely replace tiles after each mission. When do work on a tile, they put these gap fillers on all 4 sides of the tile to protect the tiles next to the tile that is being fixed. When the repair is done, these gap fillers are supposed to be removed. It looks like two of them were missed. The problem isn't so much the gap or even the filler itself. The issue is that if the filler breaks off due to aerodynamic forces, it could damage the two adjacent tiles. Two missing tiles in a sensitive place could be a real problem.

–john–

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