

Re: Dummies question – gap filler

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005–08/msg01094.html>

- *From:* "John Smith" <johnNOSPAMsmith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 04 Aug 2005 14:05:18 GMT
-

"John A. Weeks III" <john@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:john–0706BF.08443304082005@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> In article <[YsnIe.23214\\$bT4.13778@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:YsnIe.23214$bT4.13778@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>,
> "John Smith" <johnNOSPAMsmith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> 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–
>

Thanks but... the filler was several inches in length and a few milimeters thick which, to me, would leave a gap between the two tiles it was inbetween. Doesn't that now leave a gap in the heat–shield or do the tiles expand when heated? I thought having no gaps, not even minute ones, was vital?

-
- *Follow–Ups:*
 - ◆ **[Re: Dummies question – gap filler](#)**
 ◇ *From:* C.P Kurz
 - ◆ **[Re: Dummies question – gap filler](#)**
 ◇ *From:* Herb Schaltegger

Re: Dummies question – gap filler

- **References:**

- ◆ **Dummies question – gap filler**

- ◇ From: John Smith

- ◆ **Re: Dummies question – gap filler**

- ◇ From: John A. Weeks III

- Prev by Date: **Re: New External Tank**

- Next by Date: **Re: Why is this happening now?**

- Previous by thread: **Re: Dummies question – gap filler**

- Next by thread: **Re: Dummies question – gap filler**

- Index(es):

- ◆ **Date**

- ◆ **Thread**