



**FDS**<sup>TM</sup>  
**FREE DRAINING SEAL**

Prevent vegetation growth between Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) panels.



**BEFORE**  
JANUARY 2013



**AFTER**  
NOVEMBER 2017

*LOCATION: INTERSECTION OF I-4 AND SR 417 IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA.*

## EFFECTIVE PREVENTION

The Free Draining Seal (FDS) seals the joint from sunlight and prevents plant growth and germination of any seeds that may be present. Once compressed into joint, FDS is held into place by friction created between MSE wall panels. The FDS is draining and allows water to filter through while preventing soil particles from passing through the joints.

## EASY INSTALLATION

After removal of vegetation from the wall, the FDS is inserted approximately 1" into the concrete panel joints. The FDS compresses to fit tightly into the MSE wall panels eliminating the need for adhesives.

## PROVEN RESULTS

In cooperation with Florida Department of Transportation Maintenance District 5 personnel, testing was conducted along I-4 for the use of the FDS as a retrofit for a section of an MSE structure. The test focused on sections where plants had been growing in the joints for an extended period of time. The vegetation was removed and a test section was established with MSE wall panel joints with and without the FDS product. The sections were evaluated after more than 5 years, and the non-FDS sections had vegetation growing out of the joints while the wall panel section that had the FDS product installed was free of vegetation.

## PRODUCT SIZES

	MSE JOINT SIZE
MODEL	COVERAGE
FDS058	< 3/8"
FDS100	≥ 3/8" to 3/4"
FDS138	≥ 3/4" to 1"
FDS158	> 1" to 1 3/8"

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