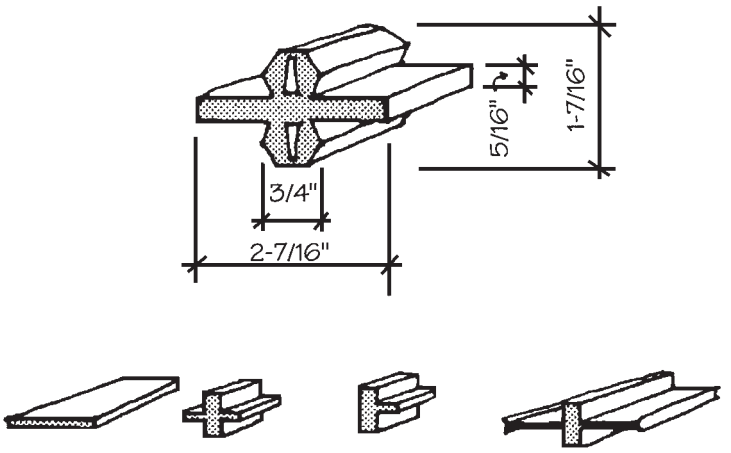

Figure 7-23 Premolded control joint fillers.

7.6 FLASHING MATERIALS

Flashing in masonry may be used as a barrier against the intrusion of water and as a moisture-collection device. All flashing materials must be impervious to moisture and resistant to corrosion, abrasion, and puncture. In addition, they must be able to take and retain an applied shape to ensure proper performance after installation.

Stainless steel flashings are highly resistant to corrosion, and provide the highest long-term durability. *Copper sheet* resists ordinary corrosive action, provides an excellent moisture barrier, and is easily shaped. Copper flashing can stain light-colored masonry, though, unless it is coated with lead or other protective material. Copper sheet or lead-coated copper sheet should be a minimum 16-oz weight. Both stainless steel and copper flashing can be "sawtoothed" or "dovetailed" in section to provide a mechanical bond with the mortar (*see Fig. 7-25*). *Galvanized steel* is used in both residential and commercial construction, but is subject to corrosive attack from wet mortar unless it is covered with a bituminous coating. Exterior exposures require a 26-gauge thickness, and concealed installations require 28 gauge. A minimum 28-gauge (0.015-in.) thickness is recommended. *Aluminum,* of course, is subject to corrosive damage from wet mortar and should not be used.

Copper is commonly used in *combination flashings* of 3-, 5-, or 7-oz copper sheet, and coatings of bitumen, kraft paper, bituminous-saturated cotton fabrics, or glass fiber fabrics. Combination flashings provide adequate protection at lower cost by allowing thinner metal sections. These coated metals are suitable only for concealed installations.

Plastic sheet flashings of *PVC* membrane may also be used in concealed locations, but may deteriorate over time. There is little long-term durability data on plastic flashing, but performance history does indicate that thickness should be at least 30 mil to avoid punctures during installation. The flashing must also be compatible with alkaline mortars and with elastomeric joint sealants. Prefabricated corners and end dams facilitate installation, and are sometimes used in combination with compatible metal flashing (*see Fig. 7-26*).

EPDM (ethylene propylene diene terpolymer) rubber flashing and rubberized asphalt flashing materials have been introduced in the masonry industry. EPDM flashing should be a minimum of 45 mil in thickness, and uncured strips

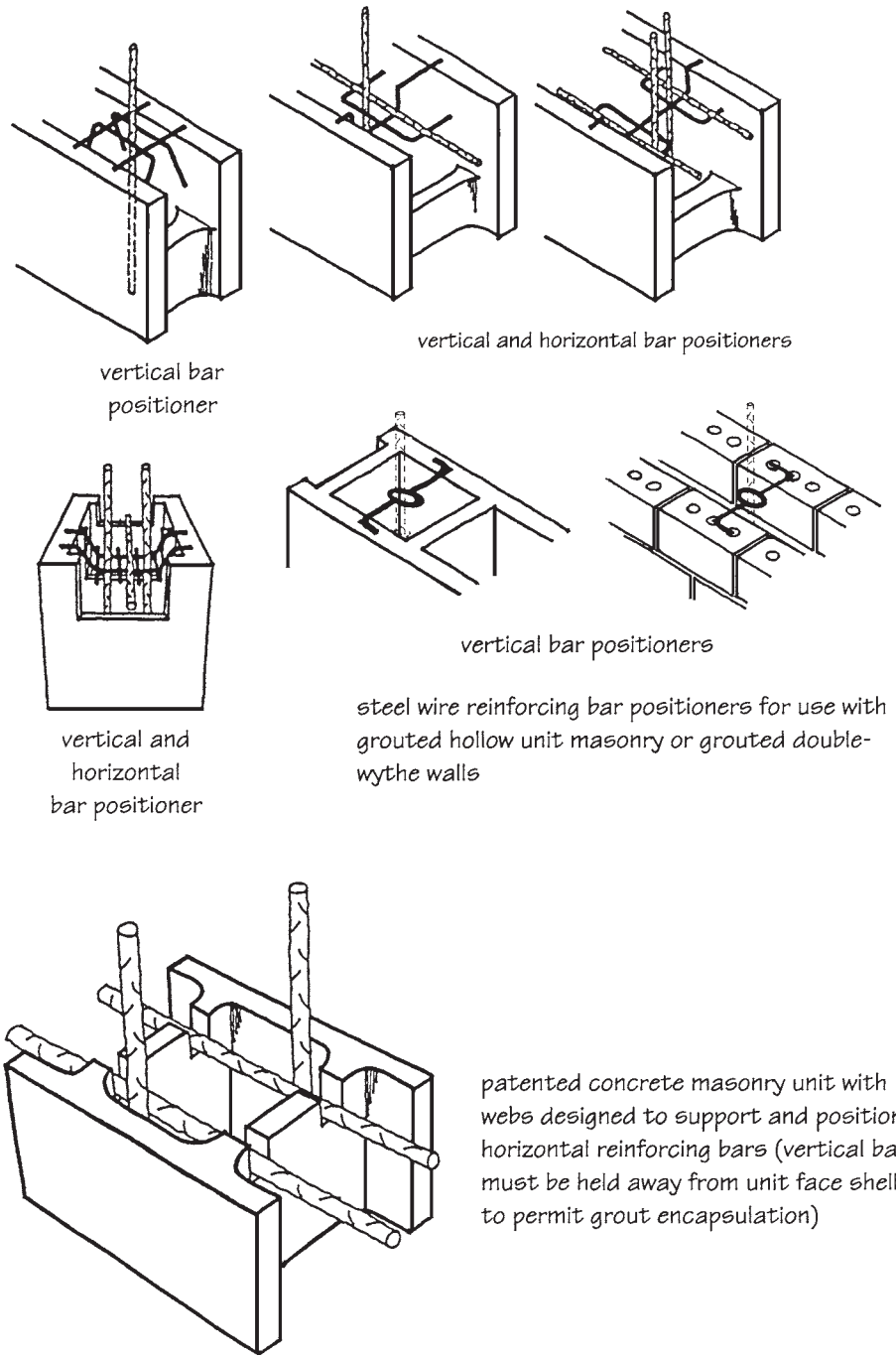

Figure 7-24 Bar positioners for masonry reinforcement.

must be used to form corners. Like EPDM roofing membranes, this rubber flashing material is seamed with a proprietary adhesive which requires careful cleaning and priming of the mating surfaces. *Rubberized asphalt* flashing is self-adhering and self-healing of small punctures. It installs quickly and easily, and is relatively forgiving of uneven substrates. However, good adhesion depends on a clean, dry substrate and temperatures that are relatively warm.