

## Interior Joint Protection

The exposed surfaces of steel joint rings may be protected by metalizing, by other approved coatings, or by pointing with portland cement mortar. In some areas, pipelines carrying potable water are not pointed with cement mortar if the joint rings are protected with zinc metalizing or other protective coatings. For pipe large enough to accommodate a worker, pointing the joint space with cement mortar is normally performed with a hand pointing trowel. Before mortar is applied, the joint space should be clean and the concrete surface should be wetted. The cement-to-sand ratio for the mortar mix should be one part cement to no more than three parts sand, and the mortar consistency should be dry enough so that it will not fall out when placed in the top of the joint. Pointing of the inside joint space in small-diameter pipe can be accomplished by "buttering" the back face of the bell with the mortar just before the spigot is inserted.