The addition of spacer cubes to butyl sealants helps to prevent the sealant from bottoming out during installation.

Butyl sealant tapes and pumpable butyl sealants will migrate out of metal building joints after installation due to the daily thermal expansion and contraction that occurs in all buildings. Adding spacer cubes helps to prevent the sealant from pumping down lower than the cube thickness, helping to maintain a proper seal.

1A. Sealant without spacer cubes  
1B. Sealant with spacer cubes

2A. Sealant after fasteners are applied  
2B. Sealant with spacer cubes after fasteners

3A. Sealant after pumping action from daily thermal expansion/contraction showing sealant pump out and loss of seal in joint  
3B. Sealant after pumping action from daily thermal expansion/contraction. No sealant pump out, no loss of seal.

Other types of spacer designs separate from the butyl sealant during thermal expansion and contraction, leaving the spacer at one thickness and continuing thinning of sealant due to the constant movement of the roof. Spacer cubes remain an integral part of the sealant and help to maintain a proper seal at all times.