



Bathtub Caulking Tips

I've been out 4 times in the last month to fix up bathtub caulking issues. It appears to be a very simple task that many folks take on but somehow it becomes a tenuous task and often a huge mess. In most cases, the failures are due to very simple errors in the preparation and application. Remember, in so many projects, preparation is the key to successful finished results. Here are some tips that may help with your next job.

Steps to a great caulking job:

1. Start by using a razor knife and cut away the old caulk in the wall/tub joints. Next, using a painter's 5-in-1 tool to pull out the old caulk in the joint. You may need to go back the razor knife to help dig deeper. Once the joint is open you now carefully, clean all old caulk, mildew and soap scum from the edge of bathtub with a glass scraper. Be careful not to scratch surface of tub. Typically new silicone will not adhere well to old caulking so it is imperative to remove old silicone caulk.
2. Cleanliness is the next critical step. To ensure the area is clean, I like using Formula 409 or some equivalent cleanser as a cleaning agent to remove soap scum, waxes and residues first. Then as final cleaning pass, wipe all surfaces to be caulked with denatured or methelhydrate alcohol to clean and remove any moisture from each seam. DO NOT use rubbing alcohol as it contains oil.
3. Next either wait a few hours to ensure the joint and completely dry, or use a hair dryer to speed things along.
4. Use caulk specifically approved for bathroom surfaces. There are choices in color and price, but buy the best you can find for a long lasting job. Also, look for a silicone caulk that has a mildew preventer built in

it.

5. A technique that even professionals use to ensure a perfectly even-looking bead with no mess is to apply masking tape to both sides of where you want your new caulk bead. This way the edges of the tape line up exactly where you want the bead of caulk to stop. Keep the bead as small as possible while ensuring it covers both edges of the joint.
6. Load caulk tube in caulk gun and using a sharp knife, cut the application tip so it is just large enough to fill your joint. Some like to cut the tip on a 30-45 degree angle but my preference is to cut straight across.
7. Hold caulk gun over trash and depress trigger to move caulk forward filling the tip. Caulk should flow out, not squirt or drip. Release the trigger lock to relieve the light pressure inside tube. Silicone caulk is very, very sticky so be careful what you touch and where you set your gun down.
8. Point tip in position perpendicular to the seam. Tip should be slightly above surface, nearly touching. As you begin to press trigger, watch flow of caulk and with one steady motion, move caulk gun straight along seam at a steady pace, creating a uniform bead. Before flow stops, quickly release trigger and begin to press again as you continue to create a uniform bead the entire length of seam. Do not stop until you reach corner.
9. Smooth the caulk out between the pieces of masking tape, pressing it into the corner with your finger as you go along, and removing excess caulk. Keep a few paper towels at hand to wipe your finger off if you need to. When smoothing the caulk, start in a corner and go 1/2 to 3/4 across. Then start in the

News Letter

Handy Hints & Tips

Keeping pictures hanging level



Push a straight pin into the bottom two corners of the picture on the backside, and then clip off the heads of the pins with diagonal cutters leaving about 1/4 of an inch sticking out of the frame. Hang the picture using a level, when set in place, gently push the section of the picture frame with the pins behind it into the drywall to secure the positioning of the picture. They'll stay straight and level for-ever now.

Shutting Off Gas and Water

I had a call last week from a client saying there was water pouring out from under their dishwasher and they didn't know how to turn off the water. I tried to guide them to find the shut-off for the washer and the house but neither could be found. When I got there they had water everywhere. I found the main shut-off but not before the damage was done to their hardwood, and basement. Be sure you know where and how to shut off gas and water to your house, and make sure everyone living in the house know as well.



Labeling your cables

Instead of throwing away your old bread clips...why not recycle them and use them to label things such as your power/computer cables and such.



Let me know what else you might use

Continued from page-1

opposite corner and meet in the middle. When meeting the already smoothed section, lightly lift your smoothing device so there isn't a hump.

10. Remove the masking tape before the caulk starts to skin over. The bead should look neat and even, but you may need to clean it up slightly with your finger again for a perfect finish.
11. Typically caulk must cure for 24 hours before exposing to water and moisture but some of the new ones are water safe within 3-hours.

Handy tips:

- Fill the tub three quarters of the way full of water to allow the tub to sag while the silicone dries for 24 hours. Otherwise the tub will sag when you get in and pull on the seam causing possible long-term cracking and breaking.
- The bead must fill seam between wall and bathtub. Bead must contact wall and tub uniformly along entire length or leaks will occur.
- The best smoothing tool is our finger. Use a small paper cup filled halfway with lukewarm water, add 20 drops of dishwashing soap and stir *gently* with your finger to dissolve. You don't want suds. Using this to wet your finger will make cleanup easier and the silicone will not want to stick to your finger.
- After removing the tape, again with a wet finger, smooth the edges that were next to the tape, ensuring that they are feathered to the surface. Otherwise, the edge will gather dirt.
- Do one wall at a time because silicone films over rather quickly.
- To help prevent having the tape remain in place too long, leaving undesirable seams in the silicone, cut the tape into sections - like one section per wall - with a utility knife. That way, you can easily caulk one section and remove its tape for feathering, without disturbing the tape of the next section. Be careful to avoid scoring the tub with that knife, though.
- Persistent mildew stains can be removed in advance by soaking paper

towels with water-diluted chlorine bleach or one of the many mould killing solutions, and laying the soaked paper over the problem areas. Leave the bleached towels in place until the stains have disappeared. After removing the paper, the area should be given ample time to dry before beginning re-caulking. The operation can be done with the old caulk still in place, so it can be done days ahead of time.

Associations

We believe keeping abreast of new technologies, skills and safety practices are necessary in delivering top quality services to our clients. As such we frequently attend manufacturer and association seminars to stay current. This includes maintaining Ministry of Labour safety certification.

My Go-2-Guy is now a Life-Time member of the Association of Certified Handyman Professionals



We are also now a Gold member of Canadian Association of Renovators



My Go-2-Guy

Handyman Services

(W) www.mygo2guy.ca

(E) handyman@mygo2guy.ca

(T) @HandymanRoss

(M) 416-524-9177

Spring Specials

Spring Curb Appeal **\$325**

Front yard clean up includes:

- * Raking & dethatching
- * Aeration
- * Fertilizing (7-7-7-)
- * Digging front flower beds.
- * Power-wash front porch & driveway
- * Clean front door & front main floor windows, front trim and light fixture

Deck Rejuvenation **\$3/sq-ft**

Bring your wood deck back to life with our rejuvenation treatment which includes:

- * Report on deck condition and safety
- * Reset raised nails/screws
- * Pre-treatment with Simple-Green bio-degradable cleanser
- * Power wash
- * Return 5-day later to apply semi-transparent deck stain in one of 4 standard colours
- * Deck repairs are additional cost but performed at preferred rate.

Clothesline Installation **\$399**

Go green and install a clothes line to reduce your carbon footprint. Nothing smells better than clothes dried outside. It also saves on hydro and gas fees.

- * Install 6" x 6" x 16' pressure treated post down to frost line with concrete footing
- * Install 48" clothes line elevator on house.
- * Includes up to 100' of heavy-duty vinyl coated line.
- * Dual line for additional \$175

(prices do not include HST)