

Let's Talk Caulk!

Simple Caulking Techniques Can Turn An Ordinary Bathroom Extraordinary

(NAPSA)—A neat caulking job can be the difference between a nice looking bathroom and an outstanding looking bathroom. Knowing the best products and techniques to do the job right is not always that simple. By following these simple tricks of the trade, you'll be able to achieve professional-looking results for your bathroom project.

Buy the Best Brand

The first step to a great caulking job is to choose the correct product. For high-humidity rooms such as the bathroom, be sure to use a job-specific caulk, such as Polyseamseal Tub & Tile Adhesive Caulk. These job-specific products are specially formulated to contain extra mildewcide to be virtually mildew-proof when cured. Also, for most DIYers, be sure to buy a water-based caulk to provide an easy soap and water clean-up.

To Squeeze or Not to Squeeze...that is the Question

Caulks come in two different types of containers—cartridges and squeeze tubes. Cartridges require the use of a caulk gun and are often better to use for larger projects since they provide more control during application. Smaller sized squeeze tubes do not require a caulking gun and are better suited for touch-ups and very small jobs.

More Sticky Stuff

The trick to keeping a caulking bead looking straight and clean is to use masking tape. Use an easy release tape, such as Duck brand Perfect Release masking tape to tape off the areas around the area where you are caulking, keeping the two pieces of tape at a distance the size of the desired bead. Apply caulk and use your finger to push the excess caulk onto the



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tape. Once cured, remove the masking tape for a straight, clean line of caulk.

Not Just for Squeaks

Even for professionals, beads of caulk often come out uneven or bumpy. Fortunately, by simply using a finger to smooth and reposition the caulk, any DIYer can achieve professional results. The key to this trick is to dip your index finger into mineral spirits to keep the caulk from sticking to your skin. This simple lubrication will leave a smooth surface on the caulk.

Shine Your Shower for a Polished Finish

Once your caulk is completely dry, apply a coat of polish to ceramic tile showers and walls. Just as on your car, polish will create a shiny surface that water will bead and roll off. This will make cleaning easier since soap scum, mildew and mold will not begin to form. To avoid accidents, just be sure not to apply the slippery polish to the bottom of your tub.

For more information on caulking products and tips, visit www.polyseamseal.com.